

ENCOUNTERING
JESUS in the
GOSPEL OF JOHN
PART 5



A PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY FROM



ENCOUNTERING JESUS

in the
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A PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY FROM



Reflection 1

READ and REACT (John 8–9)

INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of this reflection is to give you a quick sense of the passage. Rather than going deep, you'll be skimming the surface. Consider this a top-down overview of the GPS map rather than the turn-by-turn directions.

Begin with prayer.

Read the entire passage, twice. Make every effort to ensure that you won't be interrupted. If possible, read the passage out loud the second time. Hearing, even when it's your own voice, engages another part of your brain.

As you are reading the second time, make a note of at least one verse or phrase that fits into each of the following categories:

ENCOURAGEMENT

What words, phrases, or verses are uplifting or inspiring for me?

CHALLENGE

How is God calling me to think or act differently?

CONFUSION

What words, phrases, or verses don't make sense to me?

Reflection 2

SURVEY and STUDY (John 8:1-59)

INSTRUCTIONS

The goal for this reflection is to apply the “2PROAPT” Bible study method to this passage. This method will help you dig deeper into the biblical text to hear God speak.

PRAY

Write out a prayer to God, asking Him to speak to you clearly.

PREVIEW

Quickly read the passage once. What is one thing that stood out to you?

READ

Slowly read the passage a second time. What is something **new** that stood out to you?

OBSERVE

Read the passage again for deeper understanding. Answer some or all of the following questions:

- What is the basic summary of events? How would you retell this in your own words?
- Who are the major players?
- What are some keywords or phrases?
- What comparisons or contrasts are made in this passage?
- What is confusing about this passage? What questions does it raise?
- Write a one-sentence summary of the meaning of this passage.

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APPLY

For you personally, how is God calling you to think or act differently, based on this passage?

PRAY

Ask God for the strength to live in obedience to Him.

TELL

Consider one or two people you might see this week. What might you tell them about what you learned in this passage?

Reflection 3

SURVEY and STUDY (John 9:1-41)

INSTRUCTIONS

For guidance, follow the instructions found in Reflection #2.

PRAY

Write out a prayer to God, asking Him to speak to you clearly.

PREVIEW

Quickly read the passage once. What is one thing that stood out to you?

READ

Slowly read the passage a second time. What is something **new** that stood out to you?

OBSERVE

Read the passage again for deeper understanding. Answer some or all of the following questions:

- What is the basic summary of events? How would you retell this in your own words?
- Who are the major players?
- What are some keywords or phrases?
- What comparisons or contrasts are made in this passage?
- What is confusing about this passage? What questions does it raise?
- Write a one-sentence summary of the meaning of this passage.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

APPLY

For you personally, how is God calling you to think or act differently, based on this passage?

PRAY

Ask God for the strength to live in obedience to Him.

TELL

Consider one or two people you might see this week. What might you tell them about what you learned in this passage?

Reflection 4

UNDERSTANDING and TRANSFORMATION (John 8:1-59)

INSTRUCTIONS

This reflection is divided into two sections. The first part, called UNDERSTANDING, puts the spotlight on the text. The goal of the questions in this section is to help you dig into the details of the passage so that you might discover the timeless principles God wants to teach you. The second part is called TRANSFORMATION. The goal of the reflections in this section is to help you listen to how the Holy Spirit wants you to apply these principles to your life.

Work through the questions at your own pace. They are intended to be an on-ramp, not a parking spot. If one doesn't make sense, skip it. If your reflections move in a direction away from the questions, excellent! Our prayer is that you'd grow in your understanding of God's Word and be transformed by His power.

UNDERSTANDING

Read John 8:1-59.

In John 8:2-11, what stands out about the character of Jesus?

Reread John 8:14-18. Why are Jesus' judgments valid? What reasons does He give in this passage?

According to Jesus, what does real discipleship look like?

Reread 8:40, 52-53. In your opinion, why were the people against Jesus?

The word “sin” shows up 13 times in the book of John, and it’s used 7 times in John chapters 8 and 9. Look up each of these references and summarize what John is teaching about sin: John 8:7, 11, 21, 34, 46; 9:34, 41.

Why does Jesus say that He’s greater than Abraham? (8:58) How does the context of this passage help you answer this question?

TRANSFORMATION

In John 8:11, Jesus says, “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.” What does it mean for you to leave your life of sin?

Jesus said in 8:15, “You judge by human standards.” In what ways do you unfairly judge other people? In what kinds of situations is it easy for you to judge others?

How often do you think about your own sin? How can being aware of our sin be a good thing? When does obsession with our sins become a bad thing?

In your personal journey with Jesus, how has knowing the truth set you free?

Reflection 5

UNDERSTANDING and TRANSFORMATION (John 9:1-41)

INSTRUCTIONS

For guidance, follow the instructions found in Reflection #4.

UNDERSTANDING

Read John 8:1-59.

Use a few bullet points to summarize this event in your own words. Try to do this without referencing the passage. Once you've finished, read John 9 again and make additions to your summary.

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-
-
-

In your opinion, why did the disciples believe the blindness was the result of sin?

In this passage, what was the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus and the healed man?

What was the purpose of this miracle? Why did Jesus heal this person?

When questioned by the Jewish leaders, how did the healed man respond differently from his parents?

A careful reading of 9:39-41 will reveal that Jesus uses the single image of blindness in two different ways. What are they? After working through this on your own, check out the explanation of this teaching at the end of this reflection.

TRANSFORMATION

Life isn't easy. The difficult seasons can leave us with a lot of questions. We won't have all the answers this side of eternity. In what ways can God be glorified during difficult times? What has this looked like in your life—how can the “works of God” be on display to the world through your actions?

In this passage, there are skeptics and supporters of Jesus (see John 9:16). Take some time to consider your closest relationships: are the people you rely on the most mature believers? What is your attitude toward people who are ambivalent or even critical of Jesus?

The man who was healed wasn't educated as a scholar or spiritual expert. When questioned about Jesus, he didn't have all the answers. He knew that Jesus was sent from God, and that he was blind but now could see. What's your spiritual story? What impact has Jesus made in your life? When the time comes to share about Jesus, what will you say?

Jesus did this miracle so that "the works of God might be displayed." In your own life, what can make it difficult for you to see where God is moving? What distracts you from hearing God's voice?

NOTE: TWO KINDS OF BLINDNESS

In 9:39, blindness vs. sight represents humanity's brokenness and need for healing. Jesus came to heal the world—giving sight to the blind.

In 9:41, blindness vs. sight represents responsibility. The person who sees is responsible and the person who is blind is not responsible. God is a fair judge, he does not judge us for what we do not know (see). The healed man, the crowds, and the Pharisees all saw the same miracle, they were not blind to the works of God. In this regard, they were not blind.

Reflection 6

PAUSE and PRAY

Use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) for an extended time of prayer. Incorporate your learnings from this study into your prayer.

ADORATION

How can I specifically praise God for who He is?

How can I acknowledge God's presence in my life?

CONFESSION

What do I need to confess to God?

What do I need to confess to others?

Who do I need to forgive for what they've done to me?

THANKSGIVING

How have I been blessed? What am I thankful for?

What am I hearing from God? What is He showing me?

SUPPLICATION

Where do I need help from God?

What do I need to surrender to God?

How can I pray for my family?
Friends? Church? Unbelieving
friends? Community?

How is God calling me to encourage others?

What Scripture or truth do I need to reflect on?

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MEDITATE and MEMORIZE

INSTRUCTIONS

Psalm 119 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. . . . I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes” (Ps. 119:11, 99).

Biblical meditation is focused thinking on God’s Word. If you know how to worry, you know how to meditate. Worry never helped anyone, but meditation has infinite value. When we have God’s Word, we are positioned to sin less and gain more insight. Holiness and wisdom are the rewards for meditating and memorizing God’s Word.

Choose one of the verses below (or pick your own from the readings) and write it on a 3x5 card so that you can easily read it several times a day. Consider its meaning for your life: how is God speaking to you through this scripture verse?

Additionally, take some time to commit the verse to memory. When you are tempted, God can’t bring a verse to mind if you haven’t taken the time to “hide” His Word in your heart!

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

John 8:7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Psalms 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?