

THE BOOK OF
John

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

The Beginning of Something Big

OPENING QUESTION

What is your earliest memory since your birth?

READ **John 1:1–51**.

1. What is the “Word” (Greek *logos*) in the beginning of John’s gospel?

- a. God’s spoken message.
- b. The Greeks considered this the origin of all wisdom—the source.
- c. What scientists today call “The Big Bang” (but with purpose/smarts).
- d. It’s gotta be Jesus (see *vs. 14*).
- e. This really doesn’t make sense to me.
- f. It was with God, but it wasn’t God, although it acted like God.
- g. Nature.
- h. Philosophical gobbledygook.
- i. Other.

2. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness _____? (*vs. 5*)

- a. Is always there.
- b. Cannot overcome it.
- c. Sometimes wins; sometimes loses.
- d. Doesn’t stand a chance.
- e. Fights it but can’t conquer it.
- f. Is very dark.
- g. Just seems to make the light more obvious.
- h. Makes me want to shine the light.
- i. Other.

3. What happened when “the Light” came into the world?

- a. It revealed what the darkness had hidden previously.
- b. It made things quite obvious.
- c. The Light got rejected.
- d. It blinded people.
- e. When you prefer darkness, light is not welcomed.
- f. It gave new birth—spiritual re-generation.
- g. Gravitation pull for some people.
- h. It was bright at first, but then it started to fade.
- i. Other.

4. What is so amazing about verse 14?

- A. The Word became human.
- B. God became human.
- C. God left heaven and “tented/tabernacled” on earth.
- D. Jesus walked the streets, ate and pooped, slept and felt emotions.
- E. Humans got to see exactly what God is like.
- F. There’s certainly no excuse for not understanding God now.
- G. Compare this with *1 John 1:1-10*.
- H. Other.

5. What did Jesus reveal that Moses didn’t reveal?

- A. Love.
- B. Power.
- C. Glory.
- D. Healing.
- E. Truth.
- F. Forgiveness.
- G. Grace.
- H. Other.

6. What was John the Baptist’s message?

- A. I am not the Messiah.
- B. I am not Elijah (*Malachi 4:5-6*).
- C. I am not “The Prophet” like Moses (*Deuteronomy 18:15, 18*).
- D. I am God’s voice, and I’m saying, “Get ready for God’s arrival!”
- E. Look, there is God—the Messiah/Anointed One.
- F. I have confirmation that Jesus is the Promised Messiah.
- G. Jesus is the real Lamb of God—the reality of all the symbolic lambs.
- H. Follow Jesus.
- I. Other.

7. Can anything good come out of Nazareth Christians? What happens when someone comes and sees?

8. Jesus promised that heaven would be open, and his disciples would see angels going up and down between heaven and earth via the Jesus stairway. What evidence do you have for any of this?

Surprise

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a surprise you liked. Describe a surprise you didn't like.

READ **John 2:1–25.**

1. What influence did Jesus' mother have on him?

- A. He did what she wanted.
- B. Jesus put her in her place by saying, "My time has not yet come."
- C. He was always watching out for her.
- D. Her comment to the servants took it over the top.
- E. Jesus was going to do the miracle anyway.
- F. Think about it: she was his mother.
- G. With Joseph no longer around, Jesus had to take care of Mary.
- H. He was finally breaking free and was going to leave for his ministry.
- I. Other.

2. If you were one of the servants, what would go through your head when you served the master of the wedding banquet?

- A. This is crazy.
- B. Cool!
- C. I'm going to be dead meat.
- D. This guy must be very drunk to think this is the best wine.
- E. Who is this Jesus?
- F. Am I okay?
- G. Did this happen to all the water in those giant pots?
- H. Other.

3. What do you think was the bridegroom's response to this miracle?

- A. Completely oblivious to it.
- B. Forever grateful to the master of the wedding banquet.
- C. Forever grateful to Mary.
- D. Forever grateful to Jesus.
- E. He was only thinking of the bride.
- F. Offended that Jesus used his wedding to show his miracle power.
- G. Impressed by the family he had just married into.
- H. He wanted to follow Jesus.
- I. Other.

4. What's the deal with this water being turned into wine?

- A. This shows it's Biblical to drink wine.
- B. They were just drinking wine; not getting drunk.
- C. It's a conundrum for teetotaling Christians.
- D. The Greek word "wine" (*oinos*) is any grape juice—fermented or not.
- E. Most Jews mixed their wine with water, so it wasn't very strong.
- F. It was a miracle.
- G. Water often wasn't pure; mixing wine with it prevented sickness.
- H. Jesus chose a wedding banquet to start his ministry.
- I. Other.

5. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover?

- A. That's what all the Jews did at that time.
- B. He had started his ministry, so that was the place to go.
- C. He was the Passover lamb.
- D. His mother told him to go.
- E. To cleanse the temple.
- F. He wanted to present his new kingdom to the religious leaders.
- G. To challenge the current religious system.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple at the start of his ministry?

- A. It just sort of happened.
- B. He just got enraged with the money-changers and animal hucksters.
- C. To create a seismic shock.
- D. So his disciples (and a few others) would believe in him.
- E. To present himself to the religious leaders with a confrontation.
- F. Only John records it at the beginning; it really happened at the end of his ministry.
- G. He didn't have the money to buy an animal.
- H. To make the temple accessible to those locked out.
- I. Other.

7. What does/did it take to convince you that Jesus is the Messiah (God's Anointed One)?

8. What do you need Jesus to drive out of you in order to cleanse your temple (you)?

The Gift

OPENING QUESTION

When have you met somebody secretly?

READ John 3:1–36.

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, “You must be born again”?

- A. Nicodemus needed to be baptized.
- B. Anyone who wants to go to heaven must be baptized.
- C. You first have to be born physically, and then born again spiritually.
- D. A person must be reincarnated.
- E. Being born a Jew in the line of Abraham wasn't enough.
- F. He was just trying to stump Nicodemus.
- G. Gentiles had to be baptized to become Jews; so this challenged Nic.
- H. You must receive the Holy Spirit.
- I. Other.

2. According to Jesus, what is necessary to enter the kingdom of God?

- A. Just believe.
- B. Be a Christian.
- C. Go to heaven.
- D. Be born; and then be born again.
- E. Live the kingdom of God here on earth.
- F. Be part of a small group Bible study.
- G. Be serious about your relationship with God.
- H. You must be born of water and also be born of the Spirit.
- I. Other.

3. Jesus used the metaphor of “wind” for the Holy Spirit. What word would be your first choice?

- A. Wind.
- B. Dove.
- C. Oil.
- D. Fire.
- E. Spirit.
- F. Female
- G. Comforter.
- H. Other.

4. Why didn't Nicodemus become one of Christ's disciples right then?

- A. He had too much to lose.
- B. Nicodemus was a slow decision-maker.
- C. Jesus didn't ask him to become his disciple.
- D. Nicodemus needed more proof Jesus was the Messiah.
- E. Disciples need to be seen in the day; not only at night.
- F. He had to see Jesus lifted up on the cross before he "got it."
- G. He had a work to do in the Sanhedrin first.
- H. Nicodemus hadn't yet been "born again."
- I. Other.

5. What do you want to keep away from the light (vs. 19-20)?

- A. None of your business.
- B. My faults.
- C. Secret sins.
- D. My thoughts.
- E. My feelings.
- F. Nothing.
- G. My insecurities.
- H. Other.

6. "He must increase; I must decrease." Where do you see that?

- A. Only with John the Baptist.
- B. I see it in myself (sometimes).
- C. Leaders of countries.
- D. Preachers.
- E. Humble people.
- F. Children.
- G. Old people.
- H. Reality TV personalities.
- I. Other.

7. In what way is vs. 36 similar to vs. 16? How are they different?

8. What is your personal paraphrase of John 3:16?

Well Done

OPENING QUESTION

Where do you go to get away from people and just be by yourself?
How often do you go there?

READ **John 4:1-42.**

1. Why did Jesus ask the woman for a drink of water?

- A. He was thirsty.
- B. He wanted to engage her in conversation.
- C. The disciples were taking too long to return with anything.
- D. It would empower her and he needed her help.
- E. Jacob's well had the best water in the whole area.
- F. He was bored and wanted to mess with her mind.
- G. Jesus wasn't beyond flirting a little.
- H. He saw it as a good launching pad to tell her about the water of life.
- I. Other.

2. What do you think was going on in the woman's mind when she first talked with Jesus?

- A. What is he doing here? I thought I'd be by myself.
- B. I hate people who aren't like me.
- C. I hate those who think they're better than me.
- D. I know what men always want.
- E. This could be the Messiah.
- F. This guy is freaky.
- G. This guy is amazing.
- H. Other.

3. What did Jesus and the woman cover when talking about religion?

- A. My religion is better than yours.
- B. No, my religion is better than yours.
- C. My religion is older.
- D. My religion has God.
- E. Her current lifestyle.
- F. Which should be a higher priority: service or worship?
- G. Where should a person worship?
- H. How should a person worship?
- I. Other.

4. What do you say about your religion when talking with others?

- A. I don't talk about religion.
- B. My religion has the truth, or at least the closest thing to it.
- C. A person should choose their own religion; I'm not pushing mine.
- D. You'd like what happens at my church.
- E. It's a personal thing; not something to share with others.
- F. It's all about salvation.
- G. It's all about serving others.
- H. I'm not sure what I believe right now.
- I. Other.

5. How did the woman convince the townspeople to follow her to Jesus?

- A. This guy is so cute!
- B. There's a great magician at the well—check it out!
- C. She guaranteed that it would be worth the walk.
- D. She told them, "There's a guy at the well who needs your help."
- E. Come see God!
- F. She was so pumped up that they wanted to check for themselves.
- G. She promised that all their religious questions would be answered.
- H. Other.

6. What did Jesus mean when he said it was time to harvest now?

- A. Everyone should be a farmer.
- B. Everyone should tell others about Jesus and his kingdom.
- C. It was already afternoon and the sun would be setting in a few hours.
- D. Don't put off sharing your faith until later.
- E. You're missing opportunities all around you.
- F. A harvest in Samaria would be better than a harvest in Jerusalem.
- G. Follow through on what others have already prepared for you.
- H. Other.

7. How does the example of Jesus with the woman at the well challenge you to relate to others?

8. The people in the town eventually called Jesus "the Savior of the world." Why do you believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world today?

Get Up and Go

OPENING QUESTION

What is something you've done the past 38 years (or your whole life)?
What's something you haven't done for 38 years (or your whole life)?

READ **John 5:1-47.**

1. If Jesus asked you, "Would you like to get well?" what would be your response?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. I can't.
- D. I'm not sick.
- E. Nobody will help me.
- F. I haven't seen any miracles for quite a while.
- G. I'm not sick, but I know quite a few people who are.
- H. Let me pray about it.
- I. Other.

2. What did Jesus do "wrong" on this particular Sabbath?

- A. Nothing.
- B. He healed someone.
- C. He healed someone and it wasn't an emergency (ox in the ditch).
- D. Compelled another person to break an established Sabbath rule.
- E. Stopped by Starbucks on the way to church.
- F. Claimed to be God.
- G. Challenged the religious establishment of his day.
- H. Other.

3. When Jesus said believers will never be condemned and have passed from death to life, what did he mean (vs. 24)?

- A. Only the wicked are judged; the righteous aren't judged.
- B. Everyone must stand before the judgment seat of God.
- C. Believers trust Christ's promise to take their judgment on himself.
- D. You won't know if you're really a believer until the Judgment.
- E. For a believer in Christ, eternal life has already begun.
- F. No one ever judges; therefore no one will ever be judged.
- G. Believers have already died, so death isn't in their future.
- H. Other.

4. What gives Jesus the right to judge others?

- A. Jesus doesn't judge; only God does.
- B. Jesus is God.
- C. God the Father gives Jesus the answers.
- D. Jesus reads motives in addition to behavior—he knows what's inside.
- E. They judge Jesus, so Jesus has the right to judge them.
- F. He has the testimony of at least two witnesses.
- G. No judging happens until the final Judgment Day.
- H. Other.

5. How can a person study the Bible and miss Jesus?

- A. By using their head, but not their heart.
- B. When you think you know it all, you miss a lot.
- C. It's like missing the forest because you're looking at trees.
- D. Being stuck in one's ways.
- E. Not having God's perspective or power (see *Luke 24:16, 31*).
- F. By not studying the right version of the Bible.
- G. Putting God in a box, and then guarding the box.
- H. Other.

6. What had Moses written about Jesus (see vs. 45)?

- A. That Jesus would be born of a virgin.
- B. Most of the Psalms.
- C. There would be someone like Moses coming later (*Dt. 18:15, 18*).
- D. Both would give God's messages from a mountain.
- E. Everything Moses wrote actually came from Jesus.
- F. The entire sacrificial system.
- G. God is here—he was present in the sanctuary, the cloud, the manna, the miracles.
- H. Other.

7. What is something Jesus might ask you to do, and you think there's absolutely no way you can do it right now?

9. Write your paraphrase of vs. 39-40. How could this happen?

Bread

OPENING QUESTION

What is your favorite kind of bread?

READ John 6:1-71.

1. What do you consider the MOST significant thing of feeding the 5,000?

- A. Feeding so many people.
- B. Not including women and children in the count.
- C. All this came from one little boy (his mom must have packed it).
- D. Symbolically: Pentateuch (5) x the army (1,000) = the Jewish army.
- E. This happened at the time of the Passover.
- F. The disciples were the ones delivering the miracle.
- G. Picking up the leftovers.
- H. With 12 baskets leftover, each disciple was now equipped to feed.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the mass of people want to make Jesus king?

- A. They thought he was the Messiah.
- B. He was obviously a miracle-worker.
- C. They were tired of King Herod.
- D. Jesus must be “The Prophet” Moses had predicted would come.
- E. He had a compelling platform and power brokers behind him.
- F. The people wouldn’t have to do any more farming—free food.
- G. To get rid of the Romans.
- H. It was just a temporary popularity contest.
- I. Other.

3. What is missing from John’s account of Jesus walking on the water? (Compare *Matthew 14:22-36* and *Mark 6:45-56*.)

- A. The disciples didn’t get sent out on the lake by Jesus.
- B. Peter didn’t get mentioned as the only disciple who walked on water.
- C. Peter didn’t get exposed for sinking when he walked on water.
- D. There is no mention of Jesus spending much of the night in prayer.
- E. There’s no indication of a frightful storm.
- F. Jesus doesn’t get mistaken as a ghost by the disciples.
- G. Judas losing some coins overboard that Peter would later fish out.
- H. Other.

4. What is the work God wants you to do (vs. 28)?

- A. Try harder.
- B. Tell more people about Jesus.
- C. Put your full and complete trust in Jesus.
- D. Perform miracles like what Jesus did.
- E. Do more volunteering at the church.
- F. Live a life of obedience.
- G. Have Jesus do more miracles for you.
- H. Other.

5. What does it mean to “eat the flesh and drink the blood” of Jesus?

- A. Cannibalism.
- B. Carnivore.
- C. Communion.
- D. Vampire.
- E. Eternal life.
- F. Connection to God.
- G. Yuck.
- H. Other.

6. Why did many of Christ’s disciples desert him at this point?

- A. He wasn’t multiplying food any longer.
- B. His statements weren’t making sense.
- C. Jesus had become too theological.
- D. They had other options and chose to use them.
- E. Christ’s statements were too offensive.
- F. Christ’s statements were too gross.
- G. The people lacked belief in Jesus and what he was saying.
- H. Other.

7. What did Jesus mean by claiming to be “The Bread of Life”?

8. What would it take for you to leave Jesus? Why do you stay?

Here We Go

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when it rained on your parade—literally or figuratively.

READ **John 7:1-53.**

1. Who was out to get Jesus?

- a. Everyone.
- b. No one.
- c. Christ's disciples.
- d. Christ's siblings.
- e. The Pharisees.
- f. The Sadducees.
- g. The Romans.
- h. Women and children.
- i. Other.

2. How could Jesus know so much without attending the rabbinic schools?

- a. The rabbinic schools were suffering from lousy rabbis.
- b. He attended but hadn't graduated.
- c. God the Father taught him.
- d. Jesus was born as God, so he already knew everything.
- e. He was home schooled.
- f. It was because he *didn't* attend the rabbinic schools.
- g. Jesus had the Old Testament, which was all he needed.
- h. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- i. Other.

3. Why didn't the religious leaders seize Jesus at the feast?

- a. They didn't recognize him.
- b. Enough time had elapsed since he healed the lame man (*John 5*).
- c. Christ's brothers protected him.
- d. It simply wasn't time for Jesus to be killed (yet).
- e. The religious leaders feared the crowd.
- f. They couldn't because Rome was in control.
- g. They wouldn't have known what to do with him had they seized him.
- h. The religious leaders were divided among themselves
- i. Other.

4. What was most objectionable about Jesus?

- A. He hit political hot buttons.
- B. There was power in his words.
- C. He threatened the established religion.
- D. He lacked proper training.
- E. His disciples were a joke.
- F. He came from Galilee.
- G. How he treated outsiders.
- H. Other.

5. What was the significance of Jesus claiming to offer living water?

- A. It's the same thing he had offered the Samaritan woman (*John 4*).
- B. Water at the Feast of Tabernacles symbolized future rain for farmers.
- C. The priest obtained the water from the Pool of Siloam (*John 9:7*).
- D. It was all talk.
- E. People followed the priest each day of this 7-day ceremony.
- F. Priest and people circled the altar 1x/day and then 7x/7th day.
- G. Such a claim would be made only by the Messiah.
- H. Nobody could do that.
- I. Other.

6. What did Jesus mean in *verse 24*?

- A. Just what it says.
- B. I'm not too sure.
- C. It's easy to jump to conclusions.
- D. Humans look at the outward appearance, but God looks in the heart.
- E. Don't ever judge.
- F. Make only right judgments.
- G. Look a little deeper than you've been looking.
- H. Other.

7. What would happen if Jesus showed up at your church? Has he?

8. What thirst of yours does Jesus satisfy?

You Don't Get It

OPENING QUESTION

When have you told something and people just didn't "get it"?

READ **John 8:1-59.**

1. What terrible sin today troubles you and those close to you?

- A. Greed.
- B. Lying.
- C. Distorted Sexuality.
- D. Lying.
- E. Busyness.
- F. Bullying.
- G. Selfishness.
- H. Inaction.
- I. Other.

2. What are the ramifications of the words of Jesus: "Whoever is without sin should cast the first stone" (vs. 7)?

- A. Only perfect people can fire away.
- B. According to *Deuteronomy 17:2-7*, the witnesses cast the first stone.
- C. No one should ever be punished.
- D. Jesus wrote the religious leaders' sins in the dust (DA 461).
- E. Where was the male in this adultery accusation?
- F. This would have been a good time for the disciples to take action.
- G. Mercy can save and heal (see also *Isaiah 55:6-7*).
- H. Don't mess with Jesus.
- I. Other.

3. Does Jesus judge?

- A. Yes (vs. 26).
- B. No (vs. 15).
- C. He would be right if he does (vs. 16).
- D. Jesus + his Father = two witnesses, which establishes truth (vs. 17).
- E. The Father seeks and judges (vs. 50).
- F. Jesus exposes with light (vs. 12; compare with *John 3:19-21*).
- G. Believers aren't judged (*John 5:24*).
- H. Other.

4. What was the debate about between Jesus and the religious leaders?

- A. Truth.
- B. Judging.
- C. Power.
- D. Sabbath observance.
- E. Public opinion.
- F. Sexual purity.
- G. Respect.
- H. Other.

5. What does the Jewish claim “We are Abraham’s children and have never been slaves” (vs. 33) tell you?

- A. These people didn’t know their history very well.
- B. Egyptian slavery was too distant to count any longer.
- C. Babylonian captivity didn’t technically count as slavery.
- D. Roman occupation of Palestine wasn’t slavery either.
- E. Religious entrenchment wasn’t slavery.
- F. When you’re in an argument, don’t expect facts to matter.
- G. Their selective memory enabled them to be proud of their heritage.
- H. Other.

6. How could this exchange in *John 8* have ended better?

- A. If Jesus would have just walked away.
- B. Stoning the woman caught in adultery.
- C. Stoning the religious leaders.
- D. Jesus shouldn’t have called them children of the devil (vs. 44).
- E. If the Jews would have acknowledged Jesus as God.
- F. If Jesus hadn’t claimed to be the “I AM” of the Old Testament (vs. 58).
- G. If Jesus would have chased out the temple money-changers again.
- H. Other.

7. What would you say/do to someone who told you they were having an affair?

8. How does knowing “the truth” set a person free (vs. 32)?

Now I Get It

OPENING QUESTION

What's something you really wanted, but had to wait a long time to get it?

READ **John 9:1-41.**

1. What's something negative in your life that shows God's good activity?

- A. Birth defect.
- B. Fiery temper.
- C. Feelings of insecurity.
- D. Gossiping.
- E. Being broke all the time.
- F. Busyness.
- G. Pessimism.
- H. Lack of self-control.
- I. Other.

2. What is an example of something that seems good, but another thing brings it into question?

- A. A person who treats some people very well, but others very poorly.
- B. The spread of the Gospel, but with a legalistic bent.
- C. A big donor for your cause, but questions about the source of funds.
- D. God's Spirit at work in part of my life, but not in another part of it.
- E. When my church does something well, but then embarrasses me.
- F. Christ's promise to return, but it's been so long.
- G. The truth of God's forgiveness, but I don't feel it.
- H. The miracle of healing for someone, but not for another person.
- I. Other.

3. When is a person old enough to speak for one's self?

- A. As soon as they can talk.
- B. When a person chooses to be baptized.
- C. First grade.
- D. The start of adolescence.
- E. When the person moves out of the house.
- F. The cerebral cortex of the brain isn't fully formed until age 25.
- G. Old people eventually lose the right to speak for themselves.
- H. Other.

4. When are you tempted to disown your kid (or your parent)?

- A. Never.
- B. When I'm tired.
- C. When I'm angry.
- D. When they embarrass me.
- E. When they lie.
- F. When they hurt me.
- G. Too often.
- H. Other.

5. What makes it difficult to believe Jesus is God?

- A. It's not difficult for me.
- B. When Jesus doesn't do what I think he should do.
- C. There are so few miracles in my life.
- D. I didn't grow up with that belief that seems so normal to others.
- E. A lot of stuff in the Bible just doesn't make sense to me.
- F. I have trust issues.
- G. How could a human who walked this earth be God.
- H. Other.

6. What leads you to believe Jesus is God?

- A. It's just the way my parents raised me.
- B. The things I read in the Bible.
- C. Prayer makes Jesus real and divine to me.
- D. The needs of the world.
- E. The blessings I've received.
- F. Answers to prayer.
- G. I just feel it.
- H. Other.

7. When the man born blind saw Jesus, he worshipped him (vs. 38). What causes you to worship Jesus?

8. What has become obvious to you, but you were blind to it in the past?

A Certain Sound

OPENING QUESTION

What tone of voice did your parent(s) use to communicate to you when you were young?

READ **John 10:1-42.**

1. What does the shepherd's voice sound like to you (vs. 3, 27)?

- A. A still, small voice.
- B. Like thunder.
- C. Silent.
- D. Demanding.
- E. Friendly.
- F. Directive.
- G. Corrective.
- H. I'm not sure when it's from God.
- I. Other.

2. What is something God has told you, but you don't understand it?

- A. What my life is really about.
- B. Why bad things happen.
- C. Salvation.
- D. How to improve my life.
- E. The circumstances I've been given.
- F. How to relate to someone who troubles me (a lot).
- G. How to live a consistently Godly life.
- H. Forgiveness.
- I. Other.

3. Jesus came to give us life "abundantly." What does that look like?

- A. Finances.
- B. Family.
- C. Freedom.
- D. Free-loading.
- E. Focus.
- F. Forgiveness.
- G. Faith.
- H. Flowers.
- I. Other.

4. Who are the “other sheep” not already in the fold?

- a. Anyone who isn't part of my church.
- b. Muslims.
- c. Secular people.
- d. Those who are religious on the outside, but not the inside.
- e. Young people who haven't accepted Christ.
- f. People of any age who haven't accepted Christ.
- g. “Nones”—those with no religious affiliation.
- h. Other.

5. What reception did Jesus receive in *John 10*? Is it similar today?

- a. Affirmation and a triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- b. People calling him “insane.”
- c. People calling him “demonic.”
- d. Hailed as a miracle-worker.
- e. Some people attempted to stone him.
- f. Followers had faith in him.
- g. The leaders attempted to capture him.
- h. Other.

6. What actions of Jesus would have led you to believe in him back then?

- a. Miracles.
- b. Teachings.
- c. How he treated people.
- d. The way he challenged the status quo.
- e. His openness to outsiders.
- f. The fact the religious leaders were opposed to him.
- g. The way people were changed after being with him.
- h. Other.

7. What works did Jesus do that made him like God—his Father?

8. How do you know it's Jesus when you communicate with him?

Life, and Death, and Life

OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone you wish Jesus would resurrect from the dead right now?

READ **John 11:1-57.**

1. Why did Jesus delay two days before going to Lazarus?

- A. Jesus was super busy.
- B. Jesus didn't think Lazarus would die.
- C. Delaying would end in God being glorified.
- D. Delaying would end in Jesus being glorified.
- E. It would deepen the disciples belief in Jesus.
- F. Many from Jerusalem would place their faith in Jesus.
- G. Resulted in unquestionable death; after four days, no more hope.
- H. To build the faith of Mary and Martha.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the disciples object to returning to Judea?

- A. They didn't have any friends there.
- B. Lazarus was sleeping, so there was no need for Jesus to heal him.
- C. They had left when the Jewish leaders tried to stone Jesus.
- D. They were practicing their healing gifts on Gentiles.
- E. The disciples feared for their own lives.
- F. They felt jealous about all the attention Jesus gave Mary and Martha.
- G. They preferred the Sea of Galilee.
- H. It's a very long walk.
- I. Other.

3. What does this chapter tell you about the resurrection of the dead?

- A. Not much.
- B. Much.
- C. It's real.
- D. Jesus is the One who makes it happen.
- E. You have to die before you get eternal life.
- F. Resurrection happens at the end of time.
- G. God give gives eternal life to believers the moment they believe.
- H. Believers might "sleep" but they won't "die."
- I. Other.

4. What's the significance of Lazarus' resurrection happening in Bethany?

- A. The place doesn't matter as much as the resurrection itself.
- B. Bethany is right next door to Jerusalem.
- C. It would put Bethany on the map.
- D. Christ's other resurrections happened way up north in Galilee.
- E. The Jerusalem leaders wouldn't be able to dispute this miracle.
- F. It showed that death wouldn't be the end for Jesus.
- G. Jesus told a parable about a person named Lazarus (*Luke 16:19-31*).
- H. Jesus was born in Bethlehem; sounds sort of like Bethany.
- I. Other.

5. Why did Jesus weep?

- A. Sorrow over the death of Lazarus.
- B. Sadness because nobody believed he could resurrect Lazarus.
- C. He faced so much constant pressure that this was a breaking point.
- D. No one knows for sure.
- E. Mary and Martha lacked the faith to believe in a current resurrection.
- F. His disciples remained clueless, fearful for their own survival.
- G. He knew some of the people there would soon crucify him.
- H. Other.

6. How did the religious leaders respond to the resurrection of Lazarus?

- A. They put their faith in Jesus.
- B. They plotted Christ's death.
- C. This led to their decision to kill Lazarus, too (*John 12:10*).
- D. Determination to stop the spread of Jesus' influence.
- E. Fearful they would lose their nation and temple.
- F. They offered to wash the feet of Jesus.
- G. The Holy Spirit moved on them to prophesy.
- H. Other.

7. Do you identify more with Mary or Martha in this story? Why?

8. How do you relate to death? To life? To eternal life?

Getting It All Wrong

OPENING QUESTION

What's an example of you getting something all wrong (misunderstanding)?

READ **John 12:1-50.**

1. What was wrong about Mary anointing the feet of Jesus?

- A. Her timing.
- B. The location.
- C. The smell.
- D. The cost.
- E. Martha was left to do all the work (again).
- F. How Mary probably got the money for the expensive perfume.
- G. Using her hair the way she did.
- H. Jesus never asked for this.
- I. Other.

2. What was wrong about the observation Judas made (vs. 5)?

- A. There was nothing wrong; it was the perfect observation.
- B. Judas was a thief.
- C. Judas was a liar.
- D. Judas was a betrayer.
- E. The fact Judas handled the finances for Jesus and the disciples.
- F. It wasn't that much money.
- G. You'll still have poor people.
- H. Jesus commended Mary and her action.
- I. Other.

3. What could have happened after Christ's triumphal entry?

- A. The religious leaders could have joined.
- B. The Romans could have shut it all down.
- C. Jesus could have set up his earthly kingdom.
- D. The Jews could have overthrown the Romans.
- E. Christ could have been put on the temple altar as the final sacrifice.
- F. Gentiles could have come streaming to Jerusalem.
- G. Jesus could have departed for Galilee (way up north).
- H. John the Baptist could have been resurrected.
- I. Other.

4. If someone asked you to show them Jesus, what would you do?

- A. Give my testimony.
- B. Take the person to church.
- C. Take the person to my pastor.
- D. Take the person to my small group Bible study.
- E. Feel completely inadequate.
- F. Say a quick prayer and expect God to speak through me.
- G. Suggest they ask someone else.
- H. Offer to join them in their search.
- I. Other.

5. Which statement Jesus made would a disciple find most confusing?

- A. Father, save me from what lies ahead.
- B. That thunderous voice from heaven—that was for you.
- C. Now is the time for the judgment of this world.
- D. Father, bring glory to your name.
- E. The prince of this world will now be cast out.
- F. I will die on a cross.
- G. When I am lifted up, I will draw all to me.
- H. Other.

6. When are people not likely to admit to being a Jesus-follower?

- A. When the bad guys are in charge.
- B. When life gets tough.
- C. When things are going well for them.
- D. When they don't get the miracles they want/expect.
- E. When human admiration ranks higher than heavenly admiration.
- F. When Jesus seems distant.
- G. When they find themselves in a Jesus-hostile environment.
- H. Other.

7. In what way was Jesus the light of the world? How does Jesus light your world now?

8. When have you seen miracles turn out positive? Negative?

Oh No!

OPENING QUESTION

What's an example of a time you've been embarrassed?

READ **John 13:1-38**.

1. Why did Jesus wash the feet of his disciples?

- A. Nobody else was doing it.
- B. Jesus wanted to do it.
- C. To teach them a lesson.
- D. To model servant leadership.
- E. Jesus knew they wouldn't understand at the time, but would later.
- F. In order to bond more closely with his disciples.
- G. So we would have an example to follow today.
- H. Due to his clear identity, Jesus didn't have to pretend to be important.
- I. Other.

2. What would be your response if Jesus started to wash your feet?

- A. No.
- B. Jesus, you will never wash my feet.
- C. Like Peter—Not just my feet; wash everything.
- D. Please trade places with me.
- E. Jesus, don't you think _____ should be doing this?
- F. This is so embarrassing.
- G. Jesus, you're too important to be doing this.
- H. My god wouldn't do something so demeaning.
- I. Other.

3. How could/should we wash the feet of others now?

- A. The same way Jesus did 2,000 years ago.
- B. Divide into pairs and wash each other's feet.
- C. Wash a person's dirty clothes.
- D. Give offerings for community services.
- E. Adopt a homeless person.
- F. Donate online to a vetted charity.
- G. It doesn't mean the same thing to us as it did in that time/culture.
- H. Serve at a "food for the hungry" location.
- I. Other.

4. When have you betrayed Jesus?

- A. I haven't.
- B. I do it just about every day.
- C. When I am silent even though I should speak.
- D. When my actions don't match my words.
- E. The times I'm inconsistent.
- F. Whenever I talk more about myself than about Jesus.
- G. Failure to follow through on my commitment to Him.
- H. The times I find myself swearing.
- I. Other.

5. What's all the "glory" about in vs. 31-32?

- A. Jesus was about to prove unequivocally he was God.
- B. By going to the cross, others would be drawn to him (*John 12:32*).
- C. The miracles at the crucifixion would glorify God.
- D. Divinity was about to flash through humanity.
- E. Not just a crucifixion, but also a resurrection.
- F. The supernatural in the Great Controversy would soon be unveiled.
- G. Everyone was about to bow at the feet of Jesus.
- H. Other.

6. What made Christ's command to love a "new commandment" (vs. 34)?

- A. The disciples had never heard this previously.
- B. The disciples had never understood this previously.
- C. It was "new" in the sense of being fresh or renewed.
- D. This was in the New Testament rather than in the Old Testament.
- E. They now had the example of Jesus for ways to demonstrate love.
- F. God had given the command earlier; this time Jesus gave it.
- G. It's very much like *1 John 2:7-8*.
- H. Other.

7. What sets people up for a big fall?

8. What is something you know is right, but you don't do it (vs. 17)? What would lead you to actually do it?

Heaven and Earth

OPENING QUESTION

Name someone who is quite similar to you. How are they similar/different?

READ **John 14:1-31**.

1. Why might the disciples' hearts be troubled (vs. 1)?

- A. It had been a pretty intense week for them.
- B. Jesus had just washed the feet of all 12.
- C. Uncertainty about the religious leaders desire to eliminate Jesus.
- D. More missed opportunities to overthrow the Roman occupation.
- E. They really wanted a home-cooked meal.
- F. All Christ's talk about death.
- G. The game of "Who is the Greatest" showed no sign of ending.
- H. The money they could have had from Mary's perfume (*John 12*).
- I. Other.

2. In my Father's house are many "mansions" (KJV)—"rooms" (NIV) tells you:

- A. Two different translations give very different meanings.
- B. I'd prefer a mansion.
- C. A "room" makes me think of a dorm or hotel.
- D. Will this be like a palace or like a commune?
- E. Many? How many?
- F. We're going to God's house.
- G. God's house won't be similar to churches here on earth.
- H. For this project, God the Father and Jesus work together closely.
- I. Other.

3. Why will Jesus return to earth for his people?

- A. For the celebration of celebrations.
- B. He will be fed up with evil and bring it to an end.
- C. To rescue people from the endless boredom and harm of sin.
- D. To fill up heaven—the place he has prepared for his people.
- E. God the Father sends him to do so.
- F. God's people will finally be worthy of heaven.
- G. All in the universe will be clear about "The Great Controversy."
- H. God's people have "hastened" the return, so Jesus has to do it.
- I. Other.

4. How is Jesus like God the Father?

- A. Identical.
- B. He isn't.
- C. Similar in heart and mind; but not in function.
- D. Jesus came to earth; His Father stayed in heaven.
- E. Both are God.
- F. Jesus is a lot like God.
- G. Jesus exposed the Father to earth.
- H. They operate in ideal tandem; like dancers moving as one.
- I. Other.

5. What can you do by invoking the name of Jesus (vs. 12-14)?

- A. Get anything you want.
- B. Get anything you need.
- C. Obtain any and every spiritual thing you desire.
- D. Get heaven's attention.
- E. Freedom and protection from evil.
- F. Miracles.
- G. Things God would do, or would have you do.
- H. Other.

6. What/Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. Same as Jesus.
- B. Same as God the Father.
- C. Counselor.
- D. Your conscience.
- E. A power.
- F. Immanuel.
- G. Something you feel.
- H. Other.

7. How is Jesus the way, the truth, and the life (vs. 6) for you?

8. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: What does each one do for you? What do you do for each one?

Connected

OPENING QUESTION

When has physical distance made you feel distant from a loved one? When hasn't it?

READ **John 15:1-27.**

1. How do you remain/abide in the vine (Jesus)?

- A. It's just natural for me.
- B. It's more "on and off" to me than "remain/abide."
- C. Daily devotions.
- D. It's an attitude more than an action.
- E. It requires regular attention and care—like gardening.
- F. Think more about heavenly things than earthly things.
- G. Engage in my world the way I believe Jesus would.
- H. Pray without ceasing.
- I. Other.

2. What are you able to do apart from Jesus?

- A. Not much.
- B. Whatever I want.
- C. I can breathe on my own.
- D. I'm a fairly responsible person.
- E. Nothing.
- F. Most people consider me to be a decent person.
- G. Horribly sinful things.
- H. I'm not sure what part is from Jesus and what part is from me.
- I. Other.

3. What are examples of vs. 8 in your life (also matchings *Mt. 5:16*)?

- A. Manage a productive orchard or light show that is glorious.
- B. Take care of my family.
- C. Be honest in my dealings.
- D. Look fabulous.
- E. Be involved in my church.
- F. Help in the community.
- G. Go on expensive trips or vacations.
- H. Other.

4. What are ways you can remain/abide in Christ's love (vs. 10)?

- A. Give priority to your personal relationship with Jesus.
- B. Meditate.
- C. Obey God in all things.
- D. Don't be a jerk.
- E. Listen to soothing music.
- F. Be active in a faith community.
- G. Serve others as your lifestyle.
- H. Accept forgiveness; give forgiveness.
- I. Other.

5. When has your joy overflowed (vs. 11)?

- A. At a special wedding.
- B. Certain family gatherings.
- C. The birth of a baby.
- D. My own re-birth.
- E. Christmas.
- F. When my team won!
- G. When someone close to me succeeded.
- H. Moments when I felt unabashedly connected to Jesus.
- I. Other.

6. Why does Jesus command us to love one another?

- A. We wouldn't do it without his command.
- B. It's the nice thing to do.
- C. It's impossible to do, at least sometimes or with certain people.
- D. You can love someone, but that doesn't mean you have to like them.
- E. So others would end up hating us.
- F. This kind of love (*agape*) is based on a decision, not a feeling.
- G. To demonstrate his love on earth.
- H. It forces us to depend on Christ in order to really do it.
- I. Other.

7. What has God cut off or pruned from your life? Why?

8. What fruit has God produced in you because of your connection to Jesus?

Everything Will Be All Right

OPENING QUESTION

When have you wanted to push a “restart” button?

READ **John 16:1-33**.

1. . Why would someone want to kill you in the name of God (vs. 2)?

- A. They are a religious extremist.
- B. You are a religious extremist.
- C. Out of revenge for something you did.
- D. Mistaken identity—thinking you’re someone else who’s really bad.
- E. Because you keep the 7th day Sabbath.
- F. Because you don’t believe exactly the same as they believe.
- G. Because you’re too evil in their eyes.
- H. That would never happen to you.
- I. Other.

2. Why is it good that Jesus isn’t on earth any longer?

- A. We couldn’t be close to him unless we lived in Israel—where Jesus was.
- B. We now have a Savior in heaven who has been human on earth.
- C. He sent the omnipresent Holy Spirit in his place.
- D. He’s preparing a place for us in heaven (*John 14:1-3*).
- E. Jesus wasn’t an American—a major disadvantage in today’s world.
- F. He completed all that he came to earth to accomplish.
- G. The earth has become too evil for Jesus to be present.
- H. Heaven and the whole universe are now able to move forward.
- I. Other.

3. What has been your level of conviction from the Holy Spirit regarding (see *verses 8-11*):

	<u>NON-EXISTENT</u>				<u>DEEP</u>
A. SIN	1	2	3	4	5
B. RIGHTEOUSNESS	1	2	3	4	5
C. JUDGMENT	1	2	3	4	5

4. How does *verse 11* impact your life right now?

- A. It doesn't.
- B. It doesn't any more than the other 32 verses in this chapter.
- C. I don't even know what it means.
- D. It rocks my world.
- E. There really will be a judgment.
- F. There has already been a judgment.
- G. When Jesus was on earth, someone else was the ruler of this earth.
- H. This reminds me of *John 12:31*.
- I. Other.

5. What has been the result when you made a request "in Jesus' name"?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Magic—it happens.
- C. I don't really put this to the test.
- D. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't.
- E. I only use that phrase when it's a real emergency.
- F. I always end my prayers with some form of this phrase.
- G. It changes me to consider it from God's perspective rather than mine.
- H. Other.

6. Why does Jesus command us to love one another?

- A. Moving, with loss of friends → new friends I would have never had.
- B. Bad news → turned out to be incorrect.
- C. Separation → reunion.
- D. Crisis → dependence on God.
- E. Loss of success → re-prioritizing values.
- F. Birth pangs → delivery of my baby.
- G. Loss of a job → better future.
- H. Other.

7. Into what truth has the Holy Spirit guided you (*vs. 13*)?

8. What's an example of a trial or sorrow you've already experience?

How much peace has Jesus given you for that?

Where do you need peace right now?

Christ's Prayer for You

OPENING QUESTION

What do you tell God the Father about Jesus? What do you think Jesus tells God the Father about you?

READ **John 17:1-26.**

1. Why did Jesus pray to be glorified at this time *(vs. 1)?*

- A. He had covered his humanity long enough.
- B. So his disciples would believe in his divinity.
- C. So those coming to arrest him would believe in his divinity.
- D. This would provide proof of his authority.
- E. Consider this the showdown between Christ and Satan.
- F. His sacrifice on the cross would be glorifying.
- G. He needed a divine dose to make it through what lay ahead.
- H. Other.

2. How does a person receive eternal life?

- A. By knowing God (and Jesus).
- B. Obedience.
- C. Maintain a consistent devotional life.
- D. Forgive others.
- E. Practice kindness.
- F. Tell others about Jesus.
- G. Repent.
- H. Pray "the sinner's prayer."
- I. Other.

3. Based on vs. 6-8, how could the disciples desert Jesus that same night?

- A. They stopped being his disciples when they deserted him.
- B. They were only human.
- C. They failed to stay awake and pray.
- D. They weren't all Jesus cracked them up to be.
- E. They stopped believing.
- F. They did the best they could.
- G. They were either overconfident or clueless.
- H. Other.

4. How do Christ's disciples glorify Christ (vs. 10)?

- A. It rarely happens.
- B. It happens naturally.
- C. Because they were given to God, they now glorify Christ.
- D. Obedience glorifies Christ.
- E. With praise and adoration.
- F. By being on Christ's loyal team.
- G. A lifestyle that resembles the life of Christ.
- H. Continuing Christ's ministry after Christ left the earth.
- I. Other.

5. Christ's prayed for his disciples not to be removed from the world, but to be kept safe from the evil one. What are the ramifications?

- A. We are to be "in the world."
- B. We are in the world.
- C. Private Christian schools separate young people contrary to Christ's prayer.
- D. The evil one is out to get us.
- E. There is a supernatural world; many of us are unaware of it.
- F. Faith grows by trusting God in worldly settings.
- G. Clearly place your trust in Jesus as you move into the world.
- H. Other.

6. What does it mean for God to send us into the world (vs. 18)?

- A. It's the very thing Jesus did—leaving the safety of heaven.
- B. We need to prepare for such exposure.
- C. The salvation and service to others is more important than our safety.
- D. We're on a mission.
- E. God is with us always, to the end of the age.
- F. We have a purpose.
- G. We need to think beyond our small walls.
- H. Other.

7. Why did Jesus leave the world? Why did he leave it in the care of his disciples (vs. 11)?

8. What is your paraphrase of verses 20-21?

Fight or Flight?

OPENING QUESTION

When faced with sudden danger, is your reflex usually “fight” or “flight”?

READ **John 18:1-40.**

1. What did it take to arrest Jesus?

- A. Roman soldiers and temple guards teaming together.
- B. The instigation of the religious leaders.
- C. Peeling away the brave disciples.
- D. A traitor like Judas.
- E. Jesus had to give his permission.
- F. Night time.
- G. Away from the crowds.
- H. The disciples losing a skirmish.
- I. Other.

2. What went through the minds of the disciples during the arrest of Jesus?

- A. Is that really Judas?
- B. We can take on these thugs.
- C. What is Jesus doing?
- D. What are we doing?
- E. We want a piece of Malchus.
- F. Let's go down fighting.
- G. Let's pray.
- H. Where can we get some help?
- I. Other.

3. Why was Jesus taken to Annas before going to high priest Caiaphas?

- A. Caiaphas was too young.
- B. The temple guards answered to Annas.
- C. Annas was the *de facto* religious leader; not high priest Caiaphas.
- D. Caiaphas was busy calling together the Sanhedrin for a quick trial.
- E. Annas' place was simply closer—it was convenient.
- F. More Roman support because Pilate knew Annas better than Caiaphas.
- G. Caiaphas needed his sleep.
- H. Other.

4. What does it take for you to realize you've denied Jesus?

- A. I have never denied Jesus.
- B. A rooster crowing three times.
- C. Someone bringing it to my attention.
- D. Quiet conviction by the Holy Spirit.
- E. A friend I trust who is brutally honest with me.
- F. An accuser.
- G. Being alerted in advance.
- H. Seeing someone else deny Jesus.
- I. Other.

5. What kind of king is/was Jesus?

- A. The ruler of Judea.
- B. Ruler of the Roman empire.
- C. King of the entire world.
- D. Master of the universe.
- E. Someone for whom others will fight.
- F. Someone from whom others will defect.
- G. One the establishment hated and the underdogs loved.
- H. Other.

6. What is "truth"?

- A. No one knows for sure.
- B. The Bible.
- C. The teachings of the Bible.
- D. Jesus.
- E. Whatever Jesus said.
- F. Whatever Jesus did.
- G. Everyone must figure it out for one's self.
- H. Anything free of politics.
- I. Other.

**7. If you were in Peter's position, what would you have done the same?
What would you have done differently?**

8. With whom do you identify in *John 18*?

A Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

OPENING QUESTION

At what point do you know you're having a bad day?

READ **John 19:1-42.**

1. Rank (from 1-8) what was most painful for Jesus in this chapter:

- His disciples deserting him.
- Crucifixion.
- Pilate's treatment of him.
- The crowds turning on him.
- The weight of the sins of the world.
- Judas betraying him.
- Torture by the Roman soldiers.
- Other: _____

2. Why would Pilate crucify a man he pronounced "not guilty"?

- A. To get Jesus out of his hair.
- B. He feared a riot.
- C. This kind of stuff happens all the time.
- D. Pressure from the religious leaders.
- E. Pressure from the crowd.
- F. Perception is reality.
- G. He was just a pawn in Satan's hand.
- H. Other.

3. Who has power over you?

- A. No one.
- B. Everyone.
- C. Family.
- D. Friends.
- E. God.
- F. Government.
- G. Those with guns.
- H. Those with money.
- I. The media.
- J. Other.

4. Who crucified Jesus?

- A. Pilate.
- B. The Roman soldiers.
- C. The religious leaders.
- D. You and I.
- E. Satan.
- F. Adam and Eve.
- G. The same crowd from the triumphal entry a few days earlier.
- H. Sinners.
- I. Other.

5. What did Jesus mean when he said, “It is finished”?

- A. Jesus was done with this earth.
- B. This earth was done with Jesus.
- C. The plan of salvation was complete.
- D. Jesus was completely spent.
- E. The Old Testament sacrificial system was done—temple curtain torn.
- F. Jesus reclaimed this earth from Satan.
- G. Jesus completed what no one has ever done—he lived a perfect life.
- H. Other.

6. What grabs your attention with Joseph and Nicodemus?

- A. Nothing in particular.
- B. They were wealthy.
- C. They were late.
- D. They cared for the body of Jesus at a crucial time.
- E. They finally “came out.”
- F. What might have happened if they had stood up sooner?
- G. They signaled a tipping point.
- H. It pays to be in the right place at the right time.
- I. Other.

7. What does the crucifixion of Jesus mean to you?

8. The Jewish leaders preferred to break legs rather than break the Sabbath. What blind spots might you have? Who could tell you?

Believe It or Not

OPENING QUESTION

What's something you found hard to believe when someone told you?

READ **John 20:1-31.**

1. Why was Mary the first person at the tomb Sunday morning?

- A. She longed to see Jesus more than anyone else.
- B. Mary hadn't been able to sleep, so she went walking.
- C. The disciples were hiding in fear of the Jewish and Roman leaders.
- D. Females are more inquisitive.
- E. Mary wanted to put more perfume on the feet of Jesus.
- F. She had worked that night servicing the Roman soldiers on duty.
- G. She could run faster than the disciples, certainly pudgy Peter.
- H. Mary believed Jesus would be resurrected as he had said.
- I. Other.

2. What did both disciples "believe" after they entered the tomb and "saw"?

- A. Jesus was resurrected.
- B. Jesus was gone.
- C. The Roman soldiers were off duty now.
- D. Joseph and Nicodemus relocated Christ's dead body.
- E. What Jesus had told them before his death was actually true.
- F. The Scriptures.
- G. Mary's testimony, which could now be verified by two witnesses.
- H. Other.

3. Why did Jesus appear to Mary first?

- A. She was his favorite.
- B. She stayed around instead of leaving.
- C. This was more important than ascending to His Father.
- D. Another challenge to the male-dominated norms of the day.
- E. She would believe.
- F. She would pass along the word to others.
- G. No real reason; that's just the way it happened.
- H. The order of Christ's resurrection appearances are confounding.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Jesus tell Mary, “Touch me not” (vs. 17 KJV, TLB)?

- A. He needed God’s approval before human contamination.
- B. That’s a bad translation; “stop clinging to me” is more accurate.
- C. He knew it would take a lot of explaining, so he cut it short.
- D. Mary wasn’t even supposed to see Jesus yet.
- E. This verse isn’t in older manuscripts, but was added later.
- F. Mary wasn’t going to ever let Jesus go again.
- G. Jesus had a pretty busy agenda and couldn’t waste a lot of time.
- H. It was more important that she go tell his disciples Jesus was alive.
- I. Other.

5. Why did Thomas not believe the disciples’ testimony of seeing Jesus?

- A. He felt left out because he missed the first sighting.
- B. Thomas simply had to see the nail prints and touch them first.
- C. He was naturally a doubter.
- D. Thomas hadn’t worked through all five stages of grief yet.
- E. Mary’s testimony made him extra skeptical.
- F. Thomas believed when he saw Jesus; he didn’t have to touch him.
- G. Would you believe if someone told you a dead person was alive?
- H. Other.

6. Rank (from 1-8) the impact of the miracles of Jesus recorded in John:

- _____ Turn water into wine (*John 2*).
- _____ Healing the officials’ son in Capernaum (*John 4*).
- _____ Healed lame man at the Pool of Bethesda (*John 5*).
- _____ Feeding 5,000+ (*John 6*).
- _____ Walking on the Sea of Galilee (*John 6*).
- _____ Healing the man born blind (*John 9*).
- _____ Resurrection of Lazarus (*John 11*).
- _____ Resurrection of Jesus (*John 19*).
- _____ Other: _____.

7. What have others told you about Jesus that you find hard to believe until you experience them yourself?

8. Besides what is written in the book of John, what do you need in order to believe Jesus is God and he gives you eternal life? What do others need?

Tying It Up

OPENING QUESTION

If you suddenly had a free day, what would you do with that time?

READ John 21:1-25.

1. Why did seven disciples go fishing?

- A. That's all who were left by this time.
- B. These were the professional fishermen.
- C. They had nothing better to do.
- D. Seven is the perfect number.
- E. Their fathers encouraged them to get back to work.
- F. It was an ideal night for fishing.
- G. They had given up on Jesus and simply returned to their trade.
- H. They were hungry.
- I. Other.

2. Why didn't the disciples catch any fish all night?

- A. They weren't very good fishermen.
- B. They were supposed to be fishing for people, not for fish.
- C. Jesus prevented them from catching any fish.
- D. Jesus had already caught all the fish.
- E. They had been throwing their nets on the wrong side of the boat.
- F. The fish didn't want to be caught.
- G. Jesus was "teaching them a lesson."
- H. They had slept most of the night, just like that night in Gethsemane.
- I. Other.

3. Why were the disciples willing to throw their nets on the other side?

- A. They had never thought of that before.
- B. They trusted the "stranger" on the shore.
- C. They were desperate by this time.
- D. Their hunger drove them to try anything.
- E. The disciples were accustomed to taking orders.
- F. The morning shadows created on that side might fool the fish.
- G. They had an inkling the "stranger" might be Jesus.
- H. Other.

4. What is the significance of catching 153 fish?

- A. It's a lot.
- B. The fact that they actually counted them.
- C. That broke the Guinness Book of World Records at that time.
- D. They were sardines, so it really wasn't that much.
- E. There were 153 people groups in the world at that time.
- F. That the nets didn't break.
- G. $153 = 3 (\text{God})^2 \times 17$ (10 commandments + 7 perfect number).
- H. This gave Peter plenty of fish when Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
- I. Other.

5. Why did Jesus ask Simon Peter the same question three times?

- A. Peter wasn't known for being very bright, so repetition was helpful.
- B. It was such a serious question that it required double confirmation.
- C. To match the three times Peter had recently denied Christ.
- D. Jesus wanted to include "lambs" and not just "sheep."
- E. To call for a full commitment—loving Jesus more than "these" (fish).
- F. Three is the God number, so this was God's call to Peter.
- G. It took that long for Peter to give the right answer.
- H. Other.

6. What does it mean to "feed Jesus' sheep"?

- A. Become a great chef.
- B. Learn how to cook healthfully.
- C. Give them fish from the big catch the disciples had just made.
- D. Become a pastor who cares for one's "flock."
- E. Give Christ's followers deep messages; not baby food.
- F. Give the followers of Jesus what they need at the time.
- G. Teach Christ's followers how to practice spiritual disciplines.
- H. Other.

7. When have you wondered if God did a miracle or if it was just a matter of luck or coincidence?

8. What else do you wish John would have written about? When have you heard the words of Jesus misquoted?

