

CHRISTIAN  LIFE CENTER

JOHN

BIBLE READING JOURNAL



TAP INTO GOD'S TRUTH

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The Bible stands apart from any other literary work—it consists of an entire collection of books, each written by a diverse group of people, spanning centuries. What makes the Bible truly extraordinary is that its varied human writers found inspiration from a singular divine author—God himself. When referring to the scriptures, the apostle Paul uses the term “inspired by God,” which translates to “God-breathed” in Greek. That means the words of the Bible possess the potential to effect profound change and transformation in our lives. Paul goes on to help us understand that all of Scripture is “inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”

In our attempt to understand who God is, discern His purposes, and grasp His truths for our lives, neglecting the Bible is not an option. In a very real sense, the Bible serves as the “instruction manual” for life. The Creator of our existence has outlined standards, plans, and purposes for us within its pages. Without studying the contents of this “instruction manual”, we remain oblivious to His intentions and lack the guidance to live according to His design.

Unfortunately, many individuals don't give much effort in exploring the depths of the Bible. Sometimes, this stems from laziness or misplaced priorities, or just struggling to understand the text they are reading. Its true, the Bible can prove challenging to understand at times. And while its foundational teachings can be understood by children, numerous aspects within its pages demand additional effort and guidance.

If you want to get the most out of the Bible, you need to learn how to read and interpret it for yourself.

We hope this journal will help you do just that. This journal was created to help you get the most out of your biblical reading and study as you tap into the eternal truths God reveals to us throughout Scripture. And to help you create a plan and habit of reading the Bible on a regular basis.

KEYS FOR YOUR READING

Using the acronym **TAP**, we have created key sections in this journal to help you tap into God's truth.

Truth

In our exploration of the Bible, it's crucial to stay attuned to the main themes and essential teachings, while avoiding getting too sidetracked by secondary matters. It's like peering through a telescope to see the big picture before delving into the details with a microscope. The Bible isn't a riddle book or a coded message, so there's no need to search for intricate symbols and hidden meanings. Instead, focus on what it meant to the original readers and how those insights apply to your life today. In doing so, you unveil the timeless truths that God desires for us to grasp.

As you write in this section each day, write down the eternal truth(s) that the Holy Spirit is revealing to you from your reading.

Application

The ultimate goal of reading and studying the Bible is not to showcase theological expertise or engage in intellectual debates, but rather to apply its teachings to our everyday lives. Bible study is not about impressing others; it's about allowing God's Word to bring about a transformative impact. So, as you read the Bible, listen to the Holy Spirit attentively—and then respond with obedience. With that in mind, as we read the Scriptures, we should do it with humility and an open heart, prepared to be both challenged and changed by God's truths. An open-minded attitude is key. Let go of preconceptions, assumptions, and prior knowledge. Embrace the potential for fresh revelations each time you engage with the Bible. Its pages are a wellspring of inexhaustible truths.

As you write in this section, write down how you will obey God's eternal truth(s) and apply His word to your life.

Prayer

The Bible is a book filled with spiritual wisdom and diving into it requires a spiritual mindset. You engage in studying the Bible spiritually when your reading is partnered with prayer. This approach allows the Holy Spirit to shed light on the understanding and application of its truths in your life. So, let your reading and study be wrapped in prayer. This will let the Holy Spirit guide your exploration of the profound insights within the pages of the Bible.

And as you write in this section, write a prayer asking God to help you to live out the eternal truth you have read about.

Sabbath Days

The Sabbath is a weekly oasis in the hustle and bustle of life. It's a day set apart for rest, reflection, and connection—with both God and others. Imagine it as a divine reset button, reminding us to pause, recharge, and recalibrate our focus on what truly matters. In the rhythm of our fast-paced lives, the Sabbath acts as a steady heartbeat, offering a space for spiritual rejuvenation. It's not just a break from work but a sacred invitation to experience the richness of God's presence and delve into the truths embedded in His Word. Observing the Sabbath isn't a legalistic duty; it's a relational embrace, an intentional choice to honor God's design for our well-being and find a sanctuary of peace amidst life's demands. Embracing the Sabbath means recognizing that we're not just called to be doers but also to be dwellers in the rest God provides, ensuring our souls are nourished, inspired, and ready to obey Him in the week ahead.

On these days, reflect on the past week and write down what God has taught you and how thankful you are for it.





OVERVIEW

The Gospel of John is the fourth book in the New Testament and is distinct from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in both style and content. Traditionally attributed to the Apostle John, it focuses more on the identity of Jesus as the Son of God rather than detailing his birth or extensive parables. John emphasizes key themes such as the divinity of Jesus, eternal life, and the significance of believing in Him for salvation. The Gospel opens with the famous prologue, declaring Jesus as the Word (Logos) who was with God and was God, highlighting his eternal preexistence. John also records miraculous signs performed by Jesus, each revealing a different aspect of his divine authority and power, as well as seven “I am” statements in which Jesus claims titles like the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and the Good Shepherd, further reinforcing his divine nature.

Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, which focus more on Jesus’ teachings and parables, John’s Gospel provides a more theological perspective, diving deep into the relationship between Jesus and the Father. It also emphasizes the significance of faith, the importance of eternal life, and the role of the Holy Spirit, especially in Jesus’ farewell discourse to his disciples. The Gospel’s purpose is to help people believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing, they might have eternal life in His name.

DAY 1

JOHN 1:1-28

Context

The chapter begins by introducing Jesus as the Word who was with God in the beginning and through whom all things were created. The Word who became flesh to dwell among us. John the Baptist is also introduced as the witness who came to testify about Jesus.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 2

JOHN 1:29-51

Context

In John 1:29-51, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John affirms that Jesus is the one who comes after him but is far greater and will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Two of John's disciples begin to follow Jesus, as well as Peter, and Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 3

JOHN 2

Context

In John 2, Jesus performs his first public miracle at a wedding in Cana by turning water into wine. Following this miracle, Jesus travels to Jerusalem for the Passover, where he drives out the money changers and merchants from the temple. When the religious leaders ask for a sign to prove his authority, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection. The chapter ends by noting that many people believed in his name after witnessing the signs he performed in Jerusalem.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 4

JOHN 3

Context

In this passage, a Pharisee named Nicodemus visits Jesus at night to speak with him. Jesus explains to Nicodemus the necessity of being born again in order to see the kingdom of God. Jesus also discusses the love of God for the world and the purpose of His coming to save humanity. He compares Himself to the serpent lifted up by Moses in the wilderness and affirms that belief in Him leads to eternal life. The chapter concludes with John the Baptist affirming Jesus' authority and position as the Son of God.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 5

JOHN 4:1-26

Context

In John 4:1-26, Jesus travels through Samaria and stops at a well, where he encounters a Samaritan woman. He asks her for water, which leads to a conversation about living water, where Jesus reveals that He can offer eternal life. As the conversation continues, the woman is surprised by His knowledge of her personal life and believes he is a prophet. Jesus then reveals to her that He is the Messiah.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 6

JOHN 4:27-54

Context

In John 4:27-54, the disciples return and are surprised to see Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman, but He explains the importance of spiritual work. The woman goes back to her town and tells others about her encounter with Jesus, leading many to believe in Him. Jesus stays in Samaria for two days, and many more people come to faith, declaring that He is the Savior of the world. Jesus then returns to Galilee, where He heals a royal official's son who was near death.



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DAY 7

Sabbath Day

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DAY 8

JOHN 5:1-29

Context

In this passage, Jesus heals a man who had been disabled for 38 years at the pool of Bethesda, sparking controversy because He performed the healing on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders challenge Him, and Jesus explains that He is working in unity with God the Father. He further reveals that He has been given authority to judge and grant eternal life.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 9

JOHN 5:30-47

Context

In John 5:30-47, Jesus continues to defend his divine authority, explaining that He does nothing on His own but only what the Father shows Him. Jesus references various witnesses that testify to His identity, including John the Baptist, the works He performs, and the Scriptures. Jesus also challenges the religious leaders, accusing them of not truly believing in God's Word or recognizing Him as the fulfillment of Scripture.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 10

JOHN 6:1-21

Context

Chapter 6 opens with Jesus performing the miracle of feeding the crowd of 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Following this miraculous event, the disciples set off in a boat across the sea to Capernaum but are met with strong winds and rough waters. Jesus comes to them, walking on the water, and calms their fears and the storm.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 11

JOHN 6:22-59

Context

Following the miraculous feeding, the crowd realizes that Jesus and his disciples have left, so they head to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they find him, Jesus challenges them, urging them not to seek temporary food but the food that endures. Jesus explains that He is the true bread from heaven, and those who believe in Him will have eternal life.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 12

JOHN 6:60-71

Context

In John 6:60-71, many of Jesus' followers are troubled by His teaching about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, finding it too difficult to accept. Jesus challenges them, explaining that His words are spirit and life. Despite some turning away, Peter affirms his faith in Jesus as the Holy One of God, while Jesus reveals that Judas, one of the twelve, will betray Him.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 13

JOHN 7:1-24

Context

Jesus travels to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, though He initially avoids going publicly because the Jewish leaders are seeking to kill Him. His brothers urge Him to show Himself to the world, but He explains that His time has not yet come. Midway through the festival, Jesus goes up to the temple and begins to teach, causing division and controversy among the crowd.



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DAY 14

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DAY 15

JOHN 7:25-52

Context

In John 7:25-52, some of the people in Jerusalem question whether Jesus is the Messiah, confused because of where he comes from. Jesus proclaims that He comes from God and speaks with authority, not his own. The debate over Jesus' identity continues, with some believing and others remaining skeptical. The religious leaders, remain opposed and even send temple guards to arrest him, but they return empty-handed, astonished by his teachings.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 16

JOHN 8:1-30

Context

At the beginning of John 8, a woman caught in adultery is brought before Jesus by the scribes and Pharisees, testing Him to see if He will uphold the law of Moses. Jesus responds by challenging those without sin to cast the first stone, leading to the departure of the accusers, leaving the woman with Jesus. He instructs her to go and sin no more. As He continues teaching, Jesus declares Himself the “Light of the World,” emphasizing that those who follow Him will have the light of life. The Pharisees challenge His authority, but Jesus boldly asserts His relationship with the Father and affirms that He is the one sent by God.



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DAY 17

JOHN 8:31-59

Context

In John 8:31-59, Jesus tells the Jews who had believed Him that if they remain in His word, they will know the truth, and the truth will set them free. They question Him and Jesus explains that true freedom comes from being freed from sin. He further asserts that He is sent by God the Father, claiming His unique relationship with God. The people, unable to accept His claims, attempt to stone Him. In response, Jesus hides Himself and leaves the temple.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 18

JOHN 9:1-23

Context

Jesus heals a man who was born blind by spitting on the ground, making clay with the saliva, and applying it to the man's eyes. After the man washes in the pool of Siloam as instructed by Jesus, he emerges able to see. The healing causes controversy among the Pharisees, who question the man and his parents about the miraculous event.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 19

JOHN 9:24-41

Context

In John 9:24-41, the man is questioned again and testifies to the power of Jesus, which leads to his expulsion from the synagogue by the religious leaders. Jesus encounters the man again and reveals Himself as the Son of God. The chapter concludes with a discussion about spiritual blindness.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 20

JOHN 10:1-21

Context

In John 10:1-21 Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who cares for His sheep. He explains how the sheep know His voice and follow Him. Jesus also compares Himself to a shepherd willing to lay down His life for the sheep. He declares Himself as the gate for the sheep, offering salvation to those who enter through Him. The crowd reacts with confusion and division, with some accusing Him of being demon-possessed, while others believe His words because of the miracles He performs.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

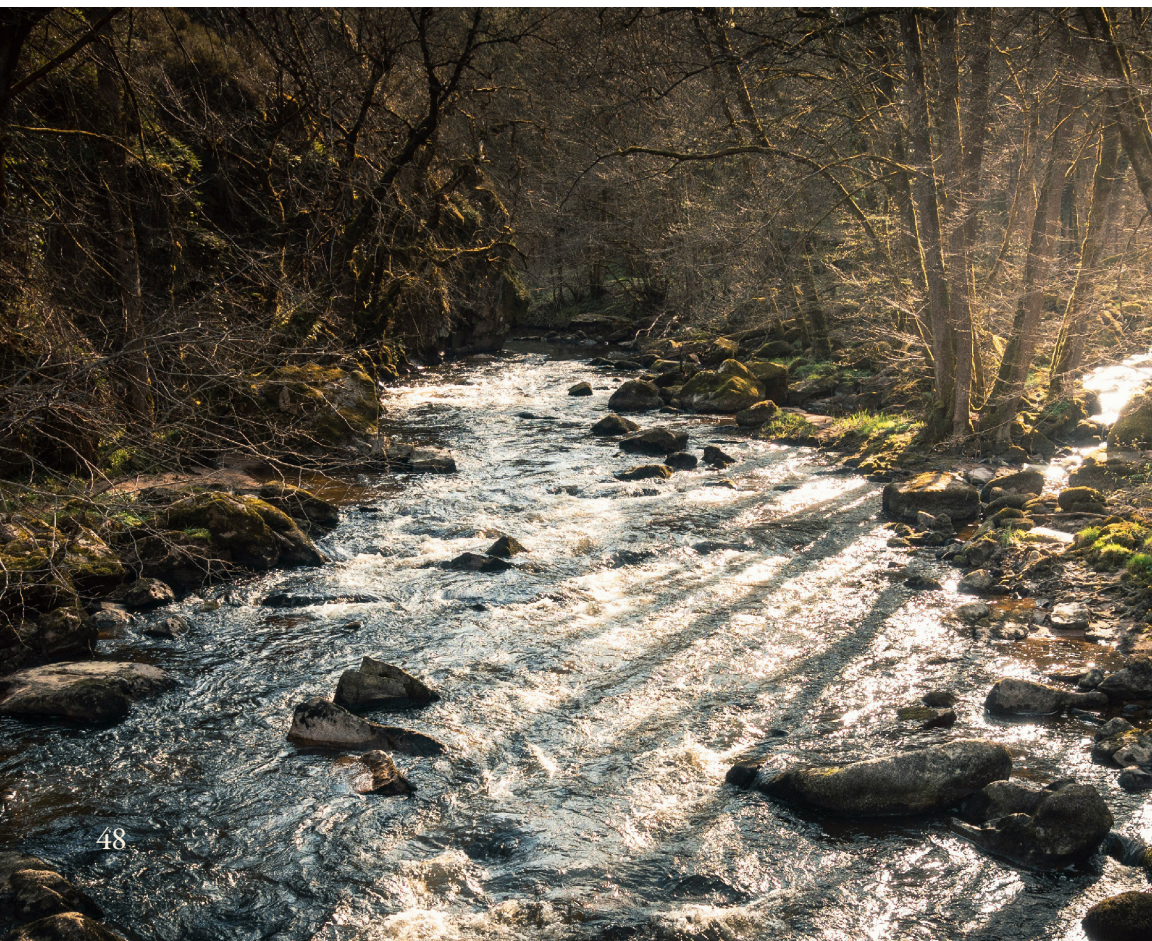
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DAY 21

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DAY 22

JOHN 10:22-42

Context

In John 10:22-42, during the Feast of Dedication, Jesus is confronted by the Jews who ask Him directly if He is the Messiah. Jesus responds that He has already told them, but they do not believe because they are not His sheep. He states that His sheep listen to his voice and follow Him, and He declares His unity with the Father, claiming, “I and the Father are one.” This statement leads the Jews to pick up stones to stone Him for blasphemy, but Jesus escapes.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 23

JOHN 11:1-27

Context

John 11 opens with Jesus receiving word that his friend Lazarus is ill. Despite being informed of this, Jesus waits before going to Bethany. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has already died and has been buried for four days. Martha expresses to Jesus that if He had been there, her brother would not have died. Jesus assures her that Lazarus will rise again, and she affirms her belief in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus then declares Himself to be the Resurrection and the Life and promises that anyone who believes in Him, even if they die, will live.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 24

JOHN 11:28-57

Context

Upon seeing the grief of Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, Jesus is deeply moved, arrives at the tomb, and requests for the tomb to be opened. He then calls Lazarus out of the tomb, and miraculously, Lazarus comes back to life. Many of the witnesses believe in Jesus, but some report the event to the Pharisees. Fearing His growing influence, the religious leaders plot to kill Jesus.



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DAY 25

JOHN 12:1-19

Context

Six days before the Passover, Jesus is anointed by Mary with expensive perfume at a dinner in Bethany. Judas Iscariot criticizes Mary's gesture, but Jesus defends her, saying she has prepared Him for His burial. As the news of Jesus' presence spreads, a large crowd gathers. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd greets Him with palm branches and shouts, acknowledging Him as the King of Israel.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 26

JOHN 12:20-36

Context

Some Greeks come to Jesus' disciples, seeking to see Him, which prompts Jesus to reply that the time has come for him to be glorified, explaining that a grain of wheat must die to produce a harvest. Jesus expresses that his soul is troubled but reaffirms his purpose and asks God to glorify His name. A voice from heaven responds, affirming God's approval, which the crowd hears but doesn't fully understand. Jesus then urges the people to walk in the light while they still have it.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 27

JOHN 12:37-50

Context

In John 12:37-50, despite the many miracles Jesus performed, many people still refuse to believe in Him, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah about the hardening of hearts. Jesus explains that those who believe in Him are also believing in God, who sent Him, and that He came into the world as a light. He then states that he did not come to judge the world but to save it. He emphasizes that His words are not His own but come from the Father, and those who reject Him will face judgment by His words on the last day.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

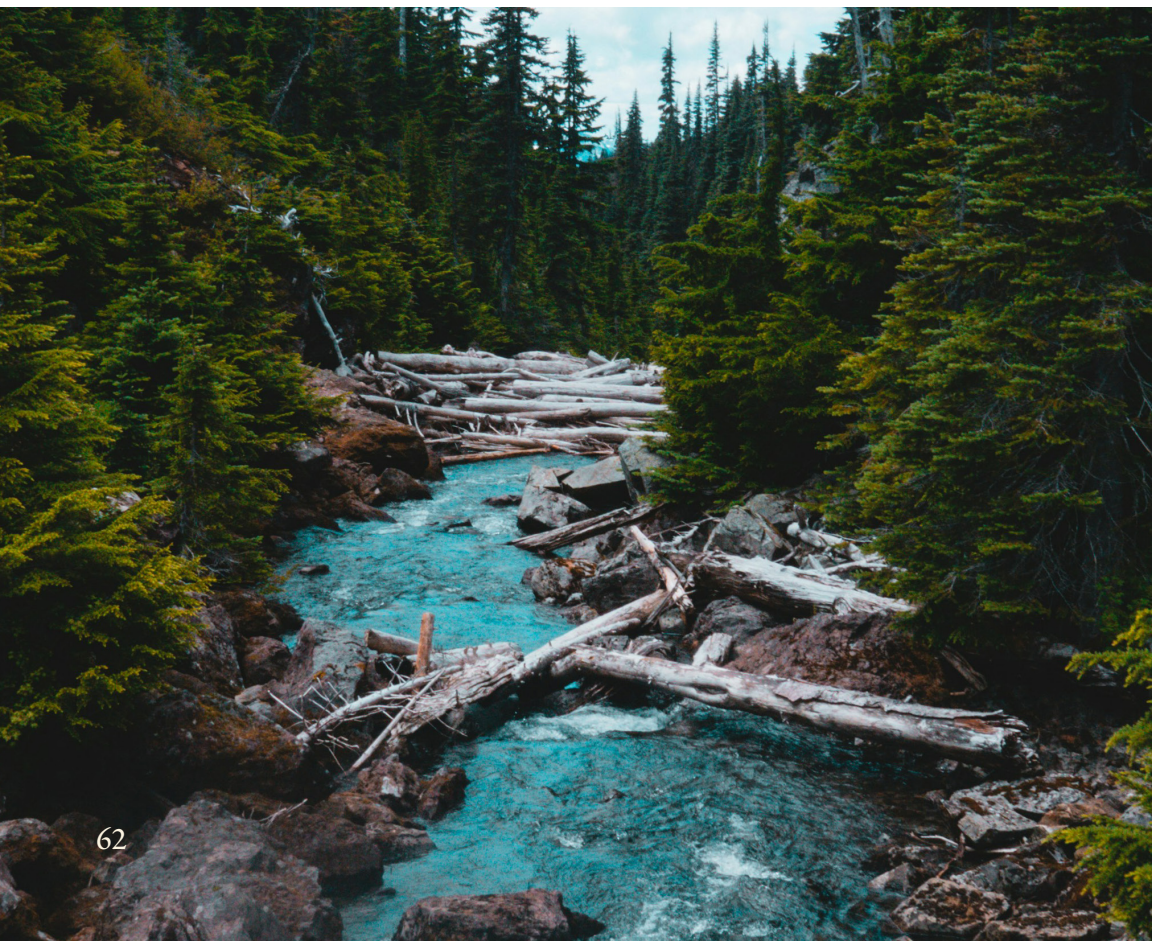
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DAY 28

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DAY 29

JOHN 13

Context

In John 13, on the night before His crucifixion, while at supper, Jesus demonstrates humility and servanthood by washing the feet of his disciples. He uses this act to teach them about serving one another. After washing their feet, Jesus tells them that they are clean, though not all of them, for he knew who was to betray Him. He then foretells His betrayal, and Judas leaves to carry out his plan. Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment: to love one another as He has loved them, which will be the mark of their discipleship. He also foretells Peter's denial of Him before the rooster crows.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 30

JOHN 14

Context

In John 14, Jesus comforts His disciples by assuring them that He is preparing a place for them in His Father's house and that He will come again to take them to Himself. Jesus declares His identity as the way, the truth, and the life, emphasizing that no one comes to the Father except through Him. He explains that knowing Him is the same as knowing the Father and promises that anyone who believes in Him will do greater works. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit, the Helper, who will guide and teach them. He concludes by assuring them that if they love Him and keep His commandments, both He and the Father will dwell with them.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 31

JOHN 15

Context

Jesus speaks to his disciples and uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate the relationship between Himself and His disciples. He emphasizes the necessity of remaining or abiding in Him, the true vine, in order to bear fruit. Jesus explains that apart from Him, individuals can do nothing. He instructs His disciples to abide in His love by keeping His commandments. Jesus also teaches the importance of mutual love among His followers and the significance of laying down one's life for others. He warns of the world's hatred towards those who follow Him but assures them that the Holy Spirit will bear witness about Him.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 32

JOHN 16

Context

Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for His impending departure. He speaks about the role of the Holy Spirit, who will be sent to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and will guide the disciples into all truth. Jesus forewarns His disciples of the persecution and sorrow they will face but tells them that their grief will turn to joy. He also assures them that they can ask God for anything in His name and receive it. The chapter concludes with Jesus reassuring the disciples of His victory over the world and encouraging them to take heart despite the tribulations they will face.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

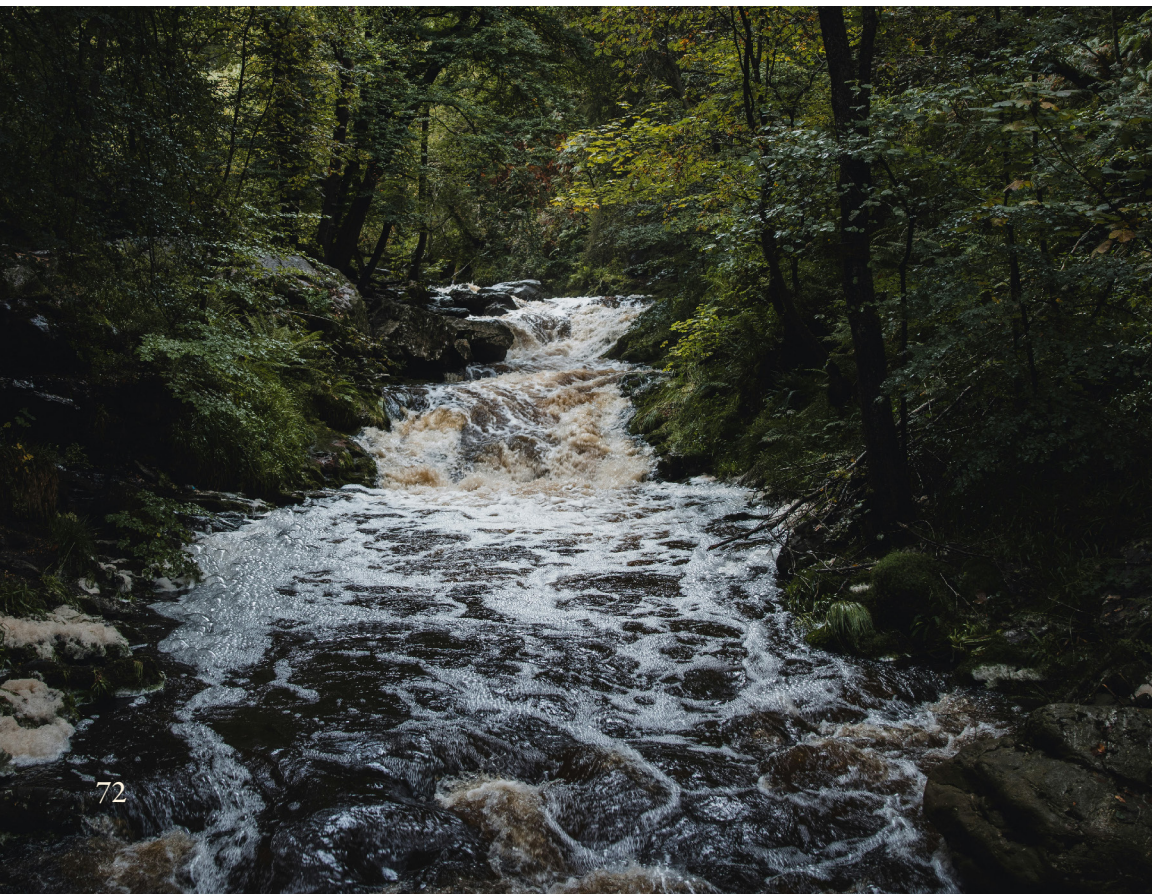
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DAY 33

JOHN 17

Context

In John 17, often referred to as the “High Priestly Prayer,” Jesus prays to the Father, asking for Himself to be glorified so that He can bring glory to God through the completion of His earthly mission. Jesus then prays for His disciples, asking God to protect them and sanctify them with the truth. He also prays for future believers, that they may be united and reflect the same unity that He shares with the Father. Jesus concludes by expressing His desire that all who believe in Him will be with Him in glory.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 34

JOHN 18:1-24

Context

In John 18:1-24, Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane by soldiers and officers led by Judas Iscariot. Peter attempts to defend Jesus by cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant, but Jesus instructs him to put the sword away and willingly surrenders. Jesus is then taken before the high priest, where he is questioned, while Peter follows at a distance and denies knowing Jesus.



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DAY 35

Sabbath Day

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DAY 36

JOHN 18:25-40

Context

John 18:25-40 begins with Peter denying Jesus for the third time before the rooster crows, fulfilling Jesus' earlier prediction. Jesus is taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, and Pilate questions Jesus about His teachings and kingship, finding no fault in Him. Pilate offers to release him for the Passover festival, but the crowd demands for Barabbas, a criminal, to be released instead.



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DAY 37

JOHN 19:1-16

Context

Pilate takes Jesus and has him flogged. The soldiers place a crown of thorns on his head, dress him in a purple robe, and mock him. Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd, and they demand for him to be crucified. Pilate tells them that he finds no guilt in him and tries to question Jesus again. The crowd continues to demand his execution, leading Pilate to hand Jesus over to be crucified.



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DAY 38

JOHN 19:17-42

Context

Jesus carries his cross to Golgotha where he is crucified along with two criminals. Pilate has a sign placed on the cross that reads, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” While on the cross, Jesus speaks to His mother, Mary, and entrusts her care to the disciple John. Jesus then proclaims, “It is finished,” and gives up His spirit. A soldier pierces His side with a spear bringing forth a flow of blood and water, fulfilling prophecies that no bones would be broken and that he would be pierced. Jesus is then taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

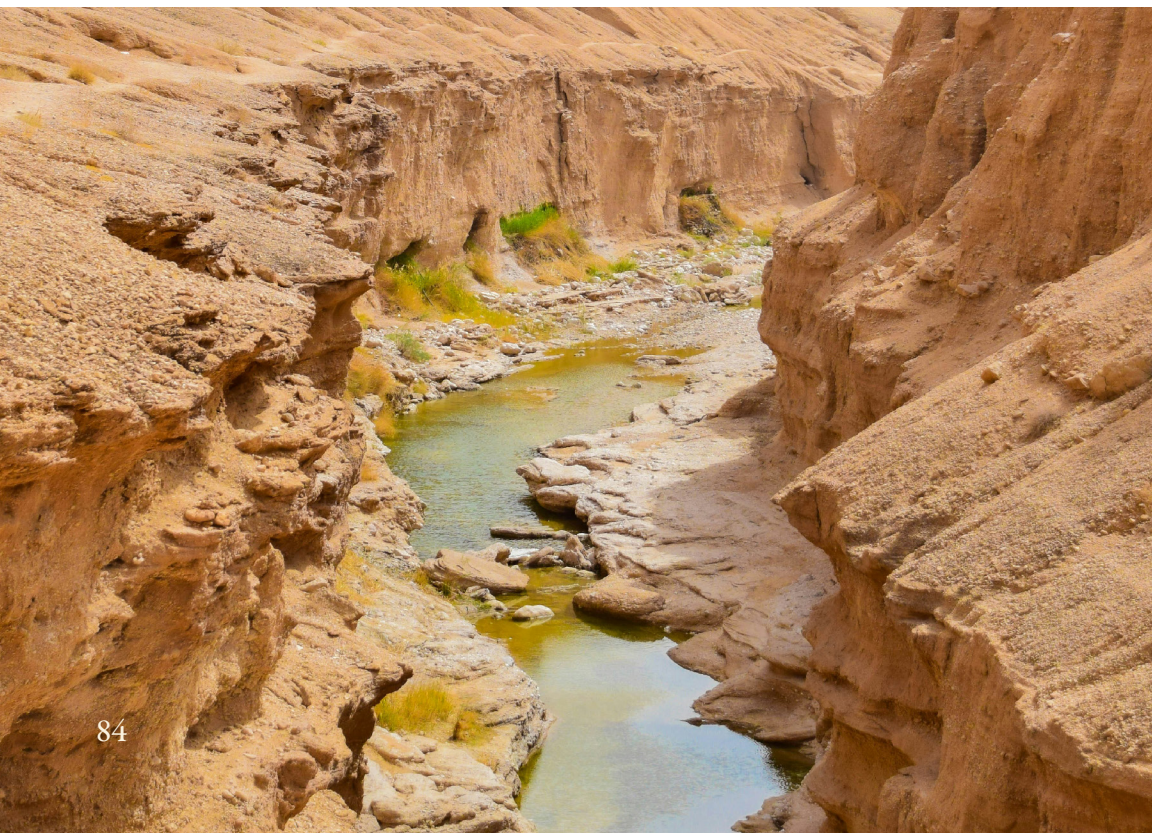
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DAY 39

JOHN 20

Context

In John 20, on the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene visits Jesus' tomb and finds it empty. She runs to tell Peter and John, who also find the tomb empty and the burial cloths inside. Mary encounters the resurrected Jesus but initially does not recognize Him. Jesus reveals Himself to her, and she goes to inform the disciples that she has seen the Lord. Later that same day, Jesus appears to the disciples, shows them His wounds, and commissions them. Thomas, who was not present during this encounter, doubts the resurrection until Jesus appears to him a week later. Thomas believes upon seeing Jesus and acknowledges Him as Lord and God.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 40

JOHN 21

Context

In John 21, after His resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee while they are fishing. At first, they do not recognize him but then He tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, leading to a miraculous catch of fish. After sharing breakfast with His disciples, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him, instructing him to take care of His sheep. Jesus then foretells the manner of Peter's death and instructs him to follow Him. The chapter ends by noting that Jesus did many other things, which couldn't all be written down.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.



2699 W Commercial Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 731-5433 • info@clcftl.org • clcftl.org