

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Name

Jesus,

We come to sit at Your feet.

Slow our hearts.

Quiet our minds.

Free us from the need to rush ahead.

As we open the Gospel of John, would You open us—

to Your voice,

to Your presence,

to the work You long to do within us.

As we dwell in your presence in prayer,

form us not just to know You,

but to become like You.

Shape our lives until Your way becomes our way.

By Your Spirit, lead us through this season.

May we listen deeply, follow faithfully,

and be transformed by being with You.

Amen.

Gateway Baptist Church,

As we step into 2026 together, our prayer is this: God, would You do it AGAIN.

In 2026, we sense God calling us to plant again, pray again, prioritise people again, and proselytise again. For over 98 years, we have seen God work faithfully through these things in our church to bring renewal, transformation and life—and we are asking Him to do it again.

Plant AGAIN: God is calling our church to plant campuses again. This is something we can all be a part of. For you, this may look like praying with faith, investing your support, or sensing God's nudge to be part of something new. Ask God how He might be sending you and join us in believing for what's ahead.

Pray AGAIN: You might carry prayers that haven't been answered yet—prayers you've whispered, cried, or quietly laid down. This season is an invitation to pick them up again. Don't lose heart. God is still listening, still moving, and still faithful.

Prioritise people AGAIN: Following Jesus has always been lived out in community. This year, that might mean committing to worship regularly, finding your place in a life group, or serving on Team Gateway. May you experience the joy of becoming like Jesus with others.

Proselytise AGAIN: Who in your life needs to experience the love and hope of Jesus? May you be filled with courage to share your story and extend an invitation to church or Alpha. A simple invitation can change their life forever.

*Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?*²

PSALM 85:6

Again this year, we're anchoring ourselves in prayer, believing that God still revives His people and still moves when we seek Him. God is moving and we are asking God again to send revival in this nation in our generation. Over 21 Days of Prayer, we're inviting Him to shape you, stir faith within you, and prepare your heart for all He wants to do in this season.

And as you move through the Gospel of John with us over the coming months, our hope is that you would encounter Jesus afresh, deepen your trust in Him, and be reminded that following Him is worth the cost again and again.

May this season strengthen your faith, renew your hope, and gently draw you closer to Jesus every day.

God bless,

Jason and Susan Elsmore

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21 Days of Prayer

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you;
your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

ISAIAH 26:8

Our Season of Prayer and Fasting

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us how to pray. He says, “when you pray,” and then gives His disciples—and us—what we know as the Lord’s Prayer.

Immediately after this, in Matthew chapter 6, Jesus says, “when you fast.” You see, Jesus assumed that His followers, including us, would both pray and fast, just as He did.

Prayer and fasting are powerful because they stir in us a greater hunger and desire for God’s purposes and presence. When we pray, we engage in relationship with the God of the universe. When we fast, we set aside our physical desires to say that we desire God’s presence and power even more. Prayer and fasting lead to intimacy with God and a renewed hunger for Him.

That is why we’re inviting our whole church family to participate in our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. This is an opportunity to seek God intentionally in a fresh way, alongside your church family.

Throughout this season, we’ll be hosting a range of opportunities for you to engage in, along with some resources you can find on our website. We’ve also created a daily prayer Bible reading plan you can join in with. These passages have been intentionally chosen to lead you through the movements of consecration and confession, praise and petition, and invocation and intercession.

As we seek God together, He promises to hear our prayers. Our big prayer as a church is that God would pour out His Spirit, His grace, and His power upon us in a new way this season.

A call to pray

Prayer was a familiar concept to the disciples. In their culture, it was a common part of everyday life and practice. Yet, despite their experience with prayer, there was something different about the way Jesus prayed. He intentionally stopped and retreated to quiet places to be with God.

In this season of 21 Days of Prayer, our church is going to pray as Jesus did. Prayer can look like many things to many people, and this resource will help you explore some different ways of praying. As you go through this season and as you pray, remember to:

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Prayer doesn't need to be complicated; it is simply communicating with the One who loves you. There are many ways to address God: Father, Lord, friend, and many more. Even Jesus said "Abba" (Daddy) in prayer. Picture in your heart how you want to best begin talking to God, who loves you completely.

KEEP IT REAL

God loves you and accepts you as you are. Whether you are angry, frustrated, lonely, confused, or sad, God hears your prayer and knows exactly what you are going through. 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us to "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

KEEP IT UP

You can pray anywhere and anytime. Scripture even encourages us to "pray without ceasing." Ask God to cultivate a habit of prayer so that you continue to pray in all circumstances, even when this season is finished.

Throughout 21 Days of Prayer, you're invited to engage with daily Scripture-based prompts that will gently lead you into praying God's Word and drawing closer to Him each day.

How you can pray

One of the best ways to pray is to simply pray Scripture. When we pray God’s Word, we enter into His story, allowing His life, truth, and Spirit to shape our own. Scripture does not return empty; it works in us, through us, and around us. As we bring it before God in prayer, we experience its fullness in five ways:

Powerful – God’s Word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Praying Scripture calls forth the Spirit’s power, equipping us to face spiritual battles with divine strength.

Promise-filled – Every promise God has made finds its “Yes” in Christ, and through Him, our “Amen” echoes to His glory (2 Corinthians 1:20). When we pray Scripture, we are not speaking our wishes, but declaring His promises over our lives.

Permanent truth – If we ask anything according to God’s will, He hears us (1 John 5:14). Praying Scripture ensures our prayers are grounded in eternal truth, aligned with God’s unchanging heart.

Prophetic – The prophetic Word is a light shining in a dark place, trustworthy and reliable (2 Peter 1:19). Praying Scripture invites God’s light into our broken world, carrying hope and clarity where despair lingers.

Personal – Hidden in our hearts, God’s Word protects and shapes us (Psalm 119:11). Praying Scripture transforms us from the inside out, guarding against selfishness and drawing us closer into His presence.

FIVE PRAYERS FROM SCRIPTURE TO PRAY IN 2026

Prayer for **fullness** in your life – Ephesians 3:17–19

Prayer for **favour** over your family – Numbers 6:24–26

Prayer for **faithfulness** in the Church – 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Prayer for **fruitfulness** in our community – Matthew 9:36–38

Prayer for **revival** in our nation – Psalm 85:6

A call to fast

For centuries, when people have hungered for the presence of God to bring breakthrough, they have fasted and prayed. When Jesus began His ministry, He spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting and praying. He knew the power needed to fulfil His Father's purpose would be released when He fasted.

Jesus clearly expected that His followers would fast until He comes again, and He taught us what to do when we fast and pray so we will see revival in our hearts, our families, and in our land. When we fast, we come before God in weakness and humility to declare our hunger for His presence and our deep desire for Him to break through.

God is calling us as a church to fast and pray for 21 days to see revival break through into our lives, our local community, our nation, and across the world.

PREPARING TO FAST

Drink plenty of water, maintaining proper hydration and water intake leading up to the beginning of the fast. Eat healthier foods (fruit and vegetables) before the start of the fast. Avoid overindulging. When the fast is complete, ease back into your regular diet slowly.

If you have medical concerns, are pregnant, or breastfeeding, you should visit your doctor to make sure that you are physically able to participate. A condition such as diabetes or heart disease may prevent you from fasting.

Be prepared to feel emotionally and spiritually sensitive during the fast. Changing your eating habits could also affect your energy levels. You may feel fatigued, get headaches, or feel dizzy. You will feel hungry! This is a reminder to pray and listen to God during the fast.

How you can fast

Fasting can take many forms, and there is no single way to participate. These options are offered as a guide, helping you choose a fast that creates space to seek God intentionally while honouring your health, responsibilities, and season of life.

ALL MEALS

Fast from all food except for water, juice, and broths for the duration of the 21 days of the fast.

SOME MEALS OR ALTERED DIET

Eat only one meal each day (e.g. fast each day until 6pm) or eat an altered diet for the 21 days, such as a Daniel Fast (eat only fruit, vegetables, nuts, and legumes).

ONE MEAL

Fast from one meal each day, with an intentional time of focused prayer during the time normally spent eating.

NON-FOOD FAST

If you are unable to fast from food, you can consider fasting from other pursuits you usually turn to for comfort. For example, fast from technology, television, social media, computer games, or reading anything other than the Bible.

21 Days of Prayer Gatherings

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Join us each week at every campus as we gather to pray, seek God's presence, and stand together in faith.

24 HOURS OF PRAYER

6pm 28 February – 6pm 1 March

As we close our 21 Days of Prayer, we will gather for 24 hours to seek God together—setting aside time that costs us something, quieting distractions, and hungering for His presence. We come desperate for breakthrough, listening for His voice, and calling on the name of Jesus as we pray for our families, our church, and our nation, believing for heaven to move among us.

UNIFIED PRAYER NIGHT

5pm 1 March in every campus

We're closing our 21 Days of Prayer with a unified night of prayer and worship across every campus. Come and celebrate, seek God together, and worship as one church family in many places.

For more information on all our prayer gatherings, visit:
gtwy.au/21

Heavenly Father,

As we set aside 21 days to seek You again,
we come with open hearts and willing hands.

Meet us in confession—
where we lay down what weighs us down
and receive Your mercy that makes us new.

Meet us in petition.
Teach us to ask boldly and humbly,
trusting that You know our needs before we speak
and that You delight to give good gifts to Your children.

Meet us in intercession.
Expand our hearts for others,
for our church, our city, and our world,
that we may stand in the gap with love and faith.

As we fast and pray, quiet our souls, sharpen our hunger for
You,
and form us into people who live from Your presence.
We offer these days to You again—
trusting, surrendered, and expectant.

Amen.

Week 1: Consecration & Confession

As we begin our 21 Days of Prayer, we start with consecration and confession.

Throughout Scripture, before God moves powerfully among His people, He first calls them to prepare (or consecrate) themselves. This same invitation exists for us today. Before God works powerfully through us, He graciously and deliberately seeks to do the deep work of consecration within us.

To consecrate ourselves is to submit to Spirit-led self-examination, inviting God in His kindness to reveal whatever hinders us from fully receiving and reflecting His grace and power. Some burdens we recognise; others God lovingly uncovers.

This is where the beautiful gift of confession takes its place. Since Genesis, our instinct when it comes to sin is to hide. But sin is not an accusation or a condemnation; it is a diagnosis. The issue is not that God has a tight moral grid and expects us to prove we're on His side by following His rules. Rather, sin restricts us from living as we were created to live—from receiving love and giving it freely.

Confession is the God-given conduit by which we bring our sin before Him and receive His cleansing grace, allowing us to be made holy in His sight. It is how we turn towards God, acknowledge His presence with us, and allow Him to heal what has been hidden.

Confession is where we lay down what weighs us down.

God has not lowered His standard of holiness. Instead, He has mercifully made a way for us to be made holy that does not depend on our own performance. In Jesus, our Great High Priest, holiness comes near. Through consecration and confession, we are invited into freedom, not shame. Confession is an essential part of consecration.

We begin by asking God to search us, trusting that He knows us better than we know ourselves. By the gentle work of the Holy Spirit, He reveals both what we see and what we've overlooked. Confession then becomes two movements: searching and naming. Searching is God's work; naming is ours. As we still our bodies and quiet our minds, we make space to listen, to respond, and to bring what is revealed into the light.

This week, as we confess and lay things down, we consecrate ourselves again and make room for God to meet us, renew us, and prepare us for all that lies ahead.

DAY 1 – CONSECRATE YOURSELVES

Read: Joshua 3:1–5

Pray: Reflect on what it means to set yourself apart for God today. Invite Him to show what you need to lay down in order to step fully into His presence. Where can you intentionally align your heart and habits with His purposes?

DAY 2 – A CLEAN HEART

Read: Psalm 51:1–12

Pray: Ask God to reveal areas where your heart needs cleansing. Consider what sin, compromise, or hidden patterns are keeping you from intimacy with Him. Bring these honestly before God and invite His renewing grace. Is there anything you need to change or put in place to break the pattern and remove future temptation?

DAY 3 – RESTORE JOY

Read: Psalm 51:12

Pray: Where has your life with Jesus grown dry, stagnant, or routine? Remember the joy of God’s grace, forgiveness, and new life. Ask Him to restore that joy and help you live daily in the assurance that you are loved, redeemed, and saved.

DAY 4 – LAYING ASIDE WHAT ENTANGLES

Read: Hebrews 12:1–3

Pray: Take a moment to notice the weights in your life—anything that distracts or hinders your devotion. What slows you from freely following Jesus? Ask the Spirit to help you release these and fix your eyes on Him. Is there something God is asking you to stop so He can begin something new?

DAY 5 – FORGIVE ME AS I FORGIVE OTHERS

Read: Matthew 6:9–15

Pray: The gift of Jesus is His grace and forgiveness to us. He invites us to live as forgiven people who forgive. Is there anyone God is bringing to mind that you need to choose to forgive? To forgive is to surrender the right to get even. And, while forgiveness is a decision, it can also be an ongoing process, but one that ultimately brings us freedom.

DAY 6 – CHOOSING OBEDIENCE

Read: Luke 9:23–25

Pray: Consider where fear, comfort, or control has held you back from following Jesus fully. What does obedience cost you, and what is He inviting you to surrender today? Pray for courage to follow Him without reservation.

DAY 7 – A LIVING SACRIFICE

Read: Romans 12:1–2

Pray: Reflect on your life as an offering to God. What parts of your body, time, mind, or heart are hardest to surrender? Invite the Spirit to transform your thinking and desires so your whole life becomes a holy offering.

Week 2: Praise & Petition

As we move into Week 2 of our 21 Days of Prayer, our focus shifts from inward to upward—to praise and petition. Here, we lift our hearts to God in gratitude and bringing our needs, the needs of others, and the needs of our world before Him.

Praise and thanksgiving are always appropriate, certainly. And it's certain that our final prayers will be all praise—heaven reverberating with our amens and hallelujahs—so practising the scales of praise is always a good idea. But for here and now we mostly ask. Jesus taught us to ask.

— **EUGENE PETERSEN**

Prayer is not a distant ascent of the soul; it is an honest conversation with God in the midst of our ordinary days. But this is not only for the big, dramatic moments in life. In fact, Jesus pulls prayer out of sacred, ornate spaces and places it in the ordinary rhythms of daily life. He invites us to bring our “daily bread”—the everyday demands, obligations, and privileges of life—to Him.

Praise is the God-given reward for those who can faithfully bring the small things to Him. When we bring our requests with gratitude and praise, we are reminded that God is in control and we are not. Petition replaces our desire to control with trust, teaching us to rely on Him for both what we want and what we need. In asking, we acknowledge that God alone provides—sometimes in ways we expect, often in ways that surprise us. Petition is a pathway to praise: small, everyday requests build our trust, and bold, vulnerable petitions stretch our faith.

This week, we will practise the balance of praise and petition: rejoicing in God’s character and faithfulness, and asking boldly and vulnerably for His work in our lives, our families, our city, and our mission. As we lift our hearts in praise and bring our needs before Him, we trust that God hears, meets, and transforms.

DAY 8 – PRAISE FIRST

Read: Psalm 100:1–5

Pray: Begin with praise. Thank God for who He is—His goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty. Reflect on His character before bringing your needs. How does knowing Him as Lord change the way you see your circumstances today?

DAY 9 – HUNGER FOR GOD’S PRESENCE

Read: Psalm 63:1–8

Pray: Seek and hunger for God’s presence in your day. Ask Him to dwell in your heart and guide your thoughts, words, and actions. How can you make space today to sense His nearness and wisdom in everything you do?

DAY 10 – CONFIDENCE IN PETITION

Read: Matthew 7:7–11

Pray: Reflect on God’s character—a loving Father who invites His children to ask, seek, and knock. Bring your personal requests before God with confidence. Ask for what you need, both big and small. Reflect on how trusting Him reshapes your heart, and how praise and petition work together in daily life.

DAY 11 – PERSISTENCE IN PETITION

Read: 1 Kings 18:41–46

Pray: Reflect on Elijah’s persistence in prayer and his expectation that God would send rain. Identify areas where you have grown weary or stopped praying. Commit to praying again with perseverance and faith, trusting God to move even when the answer is not yet visible.

DAY 12 – BOLD FAITH IN PETITION

Read: Ephesians 3:14–21

Pray: Praise God for His power at work within the Church. Ask Him to do immeasurably more than you could ask or imagine in your life, in our church, and in our city. Let your prayers stretch beyond what feels safe or reasonable.

DAY 13 – TRUSTING IN PETITION

Read: Psalm 24:1–11

Pray: Bring your grief, loss, or discouragement before God. Ask Him to meet you in the valleys of your life, to refresh your soul, and to restore hope. Be honest about your struggles, and allow your lament to become a prayer of trust. Praise God for His steadfast love even when circumstances feel heavy, and ask Him to guide your heart towards hope, resilience, and joy in His presence.

DAY 14 – PEACE IN PETITION

Read: Philippians 4:4–7

Pray: Take a moment to notice the small, ordinary blessings in your life. Praise God for His provision and faithfulness in daily life. Ask Him to cultivate a heart of gratitude that transforms how you live, work, and relate to others. Pray that His peace, which surpasses all understanding, would guard your heart and mind as you trust Him in every circumstance.

Week 3: Invocation & Intercession

As we enter the final week of our 21 Days of Prayer, our focus turns outward to invocation and intercession, calling on God's presence and standing in the gap for others.

This kind of prayer is a profound invitation. It is the most profound invitation God offers us on the other side of grace, and it is not reserved for the overly pious or spiritual—it is for all of us. Invocation is the act of calling upon God to invite His presence, guidance, and blessing into our lives, our gatherings, and our prayers. It centres our hearts on Him and opens the way for His Spirit to move.

Intercession is the practice of praying for others, of standing in the gap between God and those in need. True intercessory prayer flows from love. It is not a way to manipulate outcomes or make wishes come true; it is a willing, intentional act of turning from our own desires and needs to the needs of others. Each word of intercession is an expression of love, inviting God's power into places where that love is lacking.

When we intercede, we are joining God's work of restoring creation, restoring what sin and brokenness have damaged, and participating in His kingdom purposes. Jesus' teaching—"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"—frames intercession in two movements: releasing and asking. "Your will be done" reminds us to release control, surrendering our own agendas. "Your kingdom come...on earth" invites us to see our lives, our relationships, our communities, and our world through God's eyes, praying with hearts full of faith and hope.

This week, we will practise calling on God's presence and praying on behalf of others. We will lift up prayers for our families, our church, our city, and the nations, trusting that as we intercede, God's power, love, and kingdom purposes flow through our prayers. In invocation and intercession, we step into the privilege and responsibility of joining God's work—as his co-labourers—bringing His kingdom and will into the everyday reality around us.

DAY 15 – PRIORITISING PEOPLE AGAIN

Read: Acts 2:42–47

Pray: Reflect on the example of the early church – how they devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer together. Ask God to help you intentionally prioritise relationships in your life, making time to love, encourage, and support those around you. Pray for a renewed heart for community, both in your church and among the people God has placed in your daily life.

DAY 16 – INTERCEDING FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Read: Numbers 6:24–26

Pray: Lift your family and friends before God today. Ask Him to bless them, protect them, and give them peace. Pray for their growth, joy, and alignment with His purposes, trusting that your prayers invite God's presence and power into their lives.

DAY 17 – INTERCEDING FOR OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITIES

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:11–24

Pray: Pray for our church and local communities, asking God to strengthen and encourage His people. Lift up leaders, ministries, and every member, that they may live in faith, hope, and love. Pray for unity, encouragement, and holiness to abound, that God's Spirit would work powerfully in every gathering and relationship.

DAY 18 – INTERCEDING FOR OUR NATION & OUR GENERATION

Read: Psalm 85:1–7

Pray: Lift up our nation and our generation before God. Pray for wisdom, justice, and integrity in our leaders, communities, and institutions. Ask God to bring His blessing, mercy, and righteousness across every sphere of society. Pray that this generation would seek His kingdom, reflect His love, and live in ways that honour Him.

DAY 19 – PLANT AGAIN

Read: Matthew 28:16–20

Pray: Praise God for the growth and fruit He has already brought through our church. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and unity as we step into planting new campuses again this year. Ask God to prepare hearts and provide what is needed to see His mission expand.

DAY 20 – PROSELYTISE AGAIN

Read: Mark 1:16–20

Pray: Reflect on the call to share the good news of Jesus. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and love in communicating the gospel. Ask God to help your words and actions point others to Him, and to give courage to step into opportunities to share His truth.

DAY 21 – SURRENDER AND ASK IN FAITH

Read: Colossians 1:9–14

Pray: Conclude 21 days of prayer and fasting by lifting your heart in surrender and intercession. Ask God to continue His work in your life, the church, and the world. Pray with confidence, trusting that as you release control and ask in faith, His kingdom will come in ways beyond what you can imagine.

Reflect on this season of prayer and fasting.

What prayer was on your heart as you entered this season?
What have you seen God do in you, in your family or through our church? How is your life different as you enter a new year?

We love hearing stories of what God has done during this season. If you would like to share your story, let us know: stories@gatewaybaptist.com.au.

The Gospel of John

Introduction

To follow Jesus is, at its heart, to be with Him—to learn from Him, to become more like Him, and to allow Him to transform every aspect of our lives.

In the first century, to sit at a rabbi's feet was a way of life. It meant listening closely, learning slowly, and allowing your whole life to be shaped by the teacher you followed. This is still the invitation Jesus extends to us today—not simply to know about Him, but to dwell with Him.

We sit at His feet now through prayer and Scripture. Not as a task to complete, but as a posture we return to again and again. When we linger in God's presence, we are transformed. And as we continually be with Jesus, we will become more like him.

The Gospel of John is uniquely suited for this kind of slow, attentive seeking. Its language is simple yet layered with meaning. Its stories are familiar, yet endlessly deep. John does not rush to tell us everything Jesus did; instead, he invites us to behold who Jesus is.

John is not a Gospel to quickly skim—it is a Gospel to sit with. To return to again and again. To let its revelation of who Jesus is deepen in our hearts over time as we continually respond. That is why, as a church family, we have chosen to remain in John for an extended season to create space for the words of Jesus to form us together.

This journal is designed to help you do just that. Its purpose is simple: to help you slow down, listen deeply, and stay close to Jesus. At the beginning of each movement, you'll find a reflective journaling prompt to guide your prayer and reflection as you sit with the passages that follow throughout the weeks ahead. You can use it daily or weekly, briefly or unhurriedly. The details will unfold as you go.

As you begin this journey, resist the pressure to rush or perform. Read with openness rather than urgency, with surrender rather than striving. And may the Spirit meet you in the pages of God's Word, drawing you again to the feet of Jesus—the place where life is renewed and love is formed.

Let us sit again. Let us listen again.

Let us be transformed again.

How to Read Scripture

We are shaped by a culture that teaches us to read quickly, to scan for information, analyse, judge, and move on. Efficiency is rewarded. And without noticing, we often bring this same posture to the Bible.

But Scripture was never meant to be consumed the way we consume everything else.

To sit at the feet of Jesus is to read differently. As His followers, we approach the Scriptures slowly and intentionally, with open hearts and surrendered lives.

Our aim is not to control the text, but to let the text—by the Spirit—shape us.

When we read Scripture as just another task, it can feel dry or distant, reduced to a box to tick in our pursuit of being a “good Christian.” In doing so, we miss the invitation at the heart of God’s Word: not merely to learn something new, but to encounter Someone living.

For followers of Jesus, the goal of reading Scripture is not information, but formation. We read not to accumulate knowledge, but to be transformed and to become people who live, love, and reflect the life of Jesus through time spent in His presence.

One simple way to read Scripture with this posture is the S.O.A.P. method.

The S.O.A.P. method is a simple, reflective way to read Scripture slowly and prayerfully. It helps us move from reading the Bible for information to receiving it for transformation.

S – SCRIPTURE

Begin by reading the passage slowly—perhaps more than once. Write out a verse or short section that stands out to you. Don’t rush. Let the words settle.

O – OBSERVATION

What does this reveal about God, Jesus, or the way of His Kingdom? This is not about deep analysis, but gentle attentiveness.

A – APPLICATION

What might need to change in the way you think or live? Keep this personal and honest.

P – PRAYER

Respond to God in prayer. Thank Him. Ask for His help. Offer yourself again in surrender.

How to use this book as a family

Our prayer is that as we journey together through the book of John, God's Word would come alive, He would move powerfully and that your whole family would continue to grow as fully devoted followers of Jesus.

We want every child know God's Truth, experience His presence and follow Jesus every day. And we want to partner with your family as you follow Jesus together.

One way you can do this is to dedicate one night each week to sit around the table and talk about faith. Your time together doesn't have to be long, extravagant or perfect—life and faith are often messy and chaotic. You can adapt this time to best suit your family.

Connect: Start by spending a few minutes connecting as a family. Ask each person to share a highlight from their week and something that felt hard or tricky.

Read: Read the Bible passage together. You can choose one person to read or take turns reading a verse each. Reading the passage twice is a good practice that helps everyone hear and understand it better.

Talk: Chat about what you've read. There are no right or wrong answers—just share honestly.

Questions to ask:

- What did you learn about Jesus from this story?
- Is there anything you didn't understand or want to find out more about?
- Is there something Jesus is inviting you to do or remember this week?

Pray: Finish by praying together. Praying is simply talking to God, just like talking to a good friend. Your prayers don't have to be long or fancy—short and honest prayers are perfect.

Encourage each person to say a simple prayer or have one person pray for the family. You might thank God, ask Him for help, or ask Him to give you courage to follow Jesus this week.

Bible Reading Plan

You're invited to read through the entire Gospel of John at your own pace. Check off each chapter as you go.

- John 1
- John 2
- John 3
- John 4
- John 5
- John 6
- John 7
- John 8
- John 9
- John 10
- John 11
- John 12
- John 13
- John 14
- John 15
- John 16
- John 17
- John 18
- John 19
- John 20
- John 21

Gospel of John

Welcome to the story of Jesus told by his close friend, John.

The Gospel of John stands apart. Its language is disarmingly simple, yet its depths are profound. Its message is instantly compelling, yet it never fails to call us further in. It welcomes the new believer with awe, yet equally sustains the lifelong disciple. And unlike the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), it does not rush to recount the story of Jesus. Instead, it invites us on a journey to behold Him.

John's purpose is clear: to reveal who Jesus truly is and to invite a response. Through signs and wonders, intimate conversations, and extended teaching, John shows us that Jesus is the self-revelation of the living God who became flesh and made His dwelling among us. He is the Eternal Word revealed. God with us. The crucified and risen King. The great "I AM." The Saviour who sends, the Teacher who forms, and the Life that transforms every story He touches.

John's Gospel is a carefully crafted theological witness, written with the deep conviction that true transformation comes from encountering Jesus in this life and for all eternity. He does not simply catalogue what Jesus did; he unveils who Jesus is. And it is from this vantage point, near the end of his Gospel, that John invites us to respond in faith:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

JOHN 20:31

John wants us to examine the evidence, to be captivated by Jesus' words and works, and to see how God's eternal plan is fulfilled in Him. But more than that, John invites us to experience the life that flows from faith in Jesus—learning to walk in His ways, to abide in His love, and to be transformed by His Spirit.

This year, as we journey slowly and intentionally through John's Gospel, we are resisting the urge to rush. We are choosing to linger, to listen, and to look again, so that we might see Jesus again. With each passage, we will keep asking two guiding questions:

- What does John want us to know?
- How are we invited to believe?

And as we return to Jesus again and again and again, we trust that this Gospel will deepen our understanding of who He is and transform our lives, drawing us into the abundant life found in His.

MOVEMENT 1

Eternal Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

JOHN 1:1

Exploring the theological themes and creedal foundations of John

Before John tells us what Jesus does, he wants us to understand who Jesus is. From the very opening lines of his Gospel, John lifts our eyes beyond events and moments and invites us to behold the Eternal Jesus – the One who existed before all things and remains Lord over all things. John anchors the story of Jesus not in history alone, but in the deepest theological truths—truths that shape everything we will read, hear, and believe.

John is not content to present Jesus merely as a teacher, prophet, or miracle-worker. He presents Him as the eternal Son of God, the Word made flesh, and the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. This is Jesus before time began—the One from whom all things were made, in whom life is found, and through whom the very glory of God is revealed. These are not side notes in John’s writing; they form the very framework through which he wants us to see and know the Eternal Jesus.

The word creed comes from the Latin credo, which simply means “I believe.” From the earliest days of the church, creeds have served as clear statements of the core beliefs that shape Christian thought and life. John’s Gospel functions in a similar way. One of his primary aims is to lead us to believe in Jesus as both the Messiah and the Son of God. Woven throughout his stories of Jesus are key teachings that have shaped our understanding of His divine nature and mission. From the very outset, John points us to grand themes of the Trinity, the incarnation, and Jesus’ divinity, inviting us not only to know about Him but to place our faith in Him—the Eternal Jesus, our everlasting hope, our living God.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: As you sit with the eternal nature of Jesus, how does this expand or challenge your understanding of who He is, and how you place your trust in Him?

THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

John 1:1-14; John 10:22-38

THE WORD BECOME FLESH

John 1:14–18; John 3:16–21

THE LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29–34

MOVEMENT 2

Encounters with Jesus

“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

JOHN 1:39

Encountering the life of Jesus—power, healing, teaching, and lived presence.

What was Jesus like? How did He treat people? How do we know He is more than just a good man? In John’s Gospel, these questions are answered not through abstract ideas, but through encounters with Jesus. We come to know Him as we watch Him step into real moments with real people—people with needs, doubts, questions, and deep brokenness, much like our own. Each encounter invites us closer, revealing not only His compassion and wisdom, but also the unmistakable power of God at work through Him—the miracle-working, healing, and redemptive presence of the living God.

From the very first sign at the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine, an encounter becomes a revelation of His glory and leads His disciples to belief. In a quiet, midnight conversation with Nicodemus, an encounter opens the door to new birth and heart-level transformation. At a well in Samaria, Jesus encounters a woman overlooked by society and awakens her to a harvest ready for God’s kingdom. At the Pool of Bethesda, an encounter becomes an invitation into both physical healing and spiritual restoration. On the stormy waters of Galilee, Jesus encounters His fearful disciples, coming toward them with the words, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” And in His encounter with a man born blind, Jesus declares that God’s works are on display through a single life, revealing that His mission is at once deeply personal and cosmic in scope.

These encounters with Jesus are not simply stories preserved from the past; they are invitations for us today. As we journey through John’s Gospel, we are invited to notice Jesus at work in the ordinary spaces of our own lives, to recognise His presence among us, and to respond to Him with renewed faith and openness.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: Where do you see yourself encountering Jesus in these stories, and what is He revealing about your need, your faith, or your willingness to follow Him?

THE WEDDING AT CANA

John 2:1-12

NICODEMUS

John 3:1-21

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4:1-42

HEALING AT THE POOL AT BETHESDA

John 5:1-15

WALKING ON WATER

John 6:16–24

HEALING OF MAN BORN BLIND

John 9:1-12

MOVEMENT 3

Jesus Saves

'It is finished.'

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

JOHN 19:30

Reflecting on the story of Jesus Crucifixion and Resurrection

In John 18–20, we walk with Jesus through the darkest and most decisive moments of His life. From His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to His trial, crucifixion, and death, John presents Jesus as a King who reigns not through force or power, but through surrender, obedience, and love. Even in grief and suffering, Jesus remains fully in control, willingly giving of Himself—his very life—to reconcile the world back to the Father. He is love personified: underserved, given unreservedly and unconditionally.

But the story does not end at the cross. On the third day, the tomb is empty. Jesus, alive again, appears to many of his followers, bringing peace, forgiveness, and new life. In His resurrection, death is defeated, sin is destroyed, and Jesus opens the way for us to enter eternal life. Through Him, we are adopted as children of God, welcomed into the eternal Sonship of the Father.

Crucified yet victorious, once dead and now alive, Jesus saves as the risen King who restores what was broken, redeems what was lost, and transforms lives from the inside out.

In these chapters, we witness the heart of the Gospel and the unmistakable truth that Jesus saves.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: What does the saving work of Jesus mean for you personally, and where do you need to receive again the life, freedom, and hope He offers?

JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

John 18-20

MOVEMENT 4

Revelations of Jesus

'Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'

JOHN 8:58

A deep dive into the ‘I AM’ statements of Jesus revealing his nature, mission and invitation.

Two simple words—“I AM”—carry the weight of eternity, hope, and authority. In the Gospel of John, these words stand as some of the clearest revelations of Jesus. When Jesus spoke them, He was not just making a statement about Himself; He was revealing the very heart of God.

At this time, Jesus faced a religious world confident in their standing before God simply because of their heritage. In the midst of their indignation, He boldly declares, “Before Abraham was born, I AM” (John 8:58). Hearing this, they picked up stones to kill Him, for they recognised that in those two simple words, Jesus was claiming the divine name itself—the God revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). This is a direct and unmistakable revelation:

Jesus profoundly claims that He is God Himself.

John frames his entire Gospel around these revelations of Jesus. He opens with the declaration that “the Word was God” (John 1:1) and closes with the confession that these signs are written so that we may believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30–31). Throughout the Gospel, Jesus reveals His divinity through seven “I AM” statements, each paired with vivid imagery: bread of life, light of the world, gate, good shepherd, resurrection and life, the true vine, and the way, the truth, and the life. These revelations inform us about Jesus and reveal what He offers. In every “I AM,” Jesus presents Himself as the source of life, hope, salvation, and restoration for the world. His invitation is radical in its inclusivity—“whoever believes”—and absolute in its exclusivity—there is no other name through whom salvation and eternal life come.

As we sit with these powerful “I AM” statements, we are invited to return daily to each revelation of Jesus to receive what He alone provides, to trust who He reveals Himself to be, and to shape our lives around His sustaining presence.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: What does this “I AM” reveal about who Jesus is for you right now, and what response does it call for in your life?

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:25–60

I AM THE LIGHT

John 8:12–19

I AM THE GATE & I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-21

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

John 14:1-14

I AM THE TRUE VINE

John 15:1-8

MOVEMENT 5

Sent by Jesus

Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you.

JOHN 20:19

A new commandment and a new commission

Throughout John, Jesus calls His followers into a life that extends beyond themselves. He gives a new commandment to love one another and a new commission to go into the world as He was sent. In these two weeks, we will explore how Jesus equips and empowers His people to bear lasting fruit locally and globally, carrying His love, peace, and mission to everyone we encounter. Having encountered His love once more, we are called to step forward again—sent by Jesus to live out His commandment and carry His mission into the world.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: How is Jesus sending you—through love, obedience, and witness—and what might it look like to live on mission where He has placed you?

A NEW COMMANDMENT

John 15:1-8

A NEW COMMISSION

John 20:19–23

MOVEMENT 6

Teachings of Jesus

Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

JOHN 14:19

Being formed by the words of Jesus spoken to his disciples in the Upper Room discourse

In John’s Gospel, the teachings of Jesus come into sharp focus during an intimate and sacred moment with His disciples in the Upper Room. Spanning several chapters, Jesus speaks directly and personally to those closest to Him, offering words that would anchor them long after His departure. These teachings—preserved for us in red—are central to understanding not only who Jesus is, but how His followers are to live in light of His ongoing presence and the formation of His Church.

Within these teachings, Jesus prepares His disciples for what lies ahead. He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, who will continue His teaching, guide them into all truth, and empower them to bear faithful witness to the world (John 14:16–17; 16:13). In His prayer, Jesus reveals the profound and mysterious communion between Father, Son, and believer—a shared life of love from which the Church is born and sustained. These teachings also reshape our understanding of greatness and leadership, as Jesus calls His followers to lives marked by service, humility, and self-giving love, vividly illustrated when He washes His disciples’ feet (John 13:1–17).

The teachings of Jesus are never abstract or detached from real life. They are an invitation to be formed—shaped by His truth, His love, and His mission. In this holy moment, we are called not merely to hear His words, but to dwell in them, to follow where they lead, and to allow them to transform the way we live, serve, and love again and again.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: As Jesus teaches His disciples in the Upper Room, what is He forming in you, and where is He inviting you to remain, trust, or surrender more deeply?

THE PATH TO GREATNESS

John 13:1-17

NEVER ALONE

John 14:15–31

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

John 16:4–15

A NEW UNITY

John 17:20–26

MOVEMENT 7

Transformed by Jesus

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

JOHN 21:24

When people meet Jesus, their lives are transformed forever.

As John's Gospel draws to a close, we see the power of Jesus' presence in the lives of those who follow Him. From doubting Thomas to the reinstated Peter, and the faithful witness of John, Jesus meets each person where they are, transforming their stories, giving new purpose, and calling them into renewed mission.

These final encounters remind us that transformation is never static. Jesus meets our doubts, restores our failures, and invites us to bear witness to His life in the world.

As we begin the second half of the year, we are invited to encounter Him again and to tell our stories, to pray with intention, and to prioritise people as He does, letting His life continue to shape ours and the lives of those around us. We are reminded that Jesus is not finished with us. He meets us again—in our doubts, our failures, and our calling—inviting us to keep living as witnesses to the transforming life He gives.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Ask: How does the risen Jesus meet people in their fear, doubt, or failure—and where do you see Him bringing transformation and renewal in your own story? Where is he inviting you to share that story with others?

JESUS AND THOMAS

John 20:24–29

JESUS AND PETER

John 21:15–19

JESUS AND JOHN

John 21-20-25