

Misunderstood Messiah: The Gospel of John

Misunderstood Comparison

JOHN 21:20-25

CORE TRUTH

Week of October 4, 2026

Jesus calls us to obedience, not comparison.

WELCOME to remind us why we're here.

⌚ Spend about 5 minutes here.

Mission – To become more like Jesus – together.

Vision – We work out our salvation side-by-side—with honesty, humility, and hope. We walk with one another, not just to talk about Jesus, but to be transformed by him. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Guidelines – Our Group Guidelines help us live out our mission and vision with kindness and humility together. We encourage you to read and discuss the guidelines together regularly—they can be found on the last page.

HEAD to help us examine what the word shows and let in what's true.

⌚ Spend about 10 minutes here.

- What stands out to you in this story at the end of John?
- Why do you think Jesus responds to Peter's question about John with, "You follow me"?

HEART to help us wrestle with what we believe and be with each other in it.

⌚ Spend about 30 minutes here.

- Where are you most tempted to look sideways at someone else's life and wonder, "what about them?"
- Jesus doesn't explain John's path to Peter; he simply says, "You follow me." Where in your life do you wish Jesus would explain what he is doing instead of simply asking you to trust and follow him?
- How would being more secure in Jesus' love for you change the way you respond to the circumstances of others?

HANDS to help us bring the truth into our lives and go out into the world with the Holy Spirit.

⌚ Spend about 15 minutes here.

- Think of one area where you have been especially tempted to compare your life with someone else's. What would it look like this week to hear Jesus' words personally: "You follow me"?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2 below and give space for a time of prayer as a group in response:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

LEADER RESOURCES

[Weekly Leader Video](#) • [Bible Project John Pt 2](#) • [Why The Gospel of John is Special](#) • [Tim Keller John Podcasts](#)

NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE

John 21:1-14

GROUPS

Misunderstood Comparison

SETTING THE SCENE

SCRIPTURE

25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after someone shares gives them a true chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** Allowing silence in the group provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, gather their thoughts in order to share, and genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

If you need childcare reimbursement please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. You must submit within 30 days of attending group.

