

Misunderstood Messiah: The Gospel of John

Week of October 11, 2026

Misunderstood Comparison

JOHN 21:20-25

PRAYER

🕒 Spend about 20 minutes here.

- After having someone read the passage out loud, and sitting in silence for a few minutes to “let it land,” spend some time in prayer together as a group. Remember that the Word of God is living and active, so let the passage inform, shape and inspire your prayers.
- Are you convicted of sin? Confess it and ask for healing or transformation. (And thank him for the cross so you no longer have to fear condemnation!) Are you moved to worship by how God reveals himself? Praise him and thank him. Are you given a vision for your life or the life of your group or West? Pray for it!

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

🕒 Spend about 40 minutes moving through all Head, Heart, Hands questions.

- Why do you think John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”?
- What do you think John means when he says that Jesus did so many other things in addition to the things he has written about that the world couldn’t contain all the books that could be written about all that he did?

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

- Where are you, like Peter, more interested in what God’s plan is for other people than following what he says to you?

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

- Spend time right now confessing to the Lord where you are comparing, envying, coveting, etc. Confess your powerlessness to stop living this way, and ask him to bring healing and new life to you in those places. (Then WATCH this week and NOTICE what he does.)

LOVING THE WORLD TOGETHER

🕒 Spend about 10 minutes here.

- Let’s spend some time dreaming together about how we want to move out to love and serve the world and how we want to invite those who do not know Christ into “gospel hospitality” as a group this year. Pray for creativity, desire and direction!

LEADER RESOURCES

NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE

[Bible Project John Pt 2](#) • [Why The Gospel of John is Special](#) • [Acts 1:6-14](#)
[Tim Keller John Podcasts](#)

GROUPS

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SETTING THE SCENE

Peter’s attention drifts to John’s future, but Jesus gently calls him back with the simple invitation, “You follow me.” Our hearts are often tempted to compare our journey with others, yet Christ lovingly reminds us that his plans for each of us are unique. John closes his Gospel by inviting us to find peace and purpose not in comparison, but in faithfully following Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” 22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” 23 So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

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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LOVING THE WORLD TOGETHER

- Let's spend some time dreaming together about how we want to move out to love and serve the world and how we want to invite those who do not know Christ into "gospel hospitality" as a group this year. Do we want to serve with Napier? Do we want to do lawn care for an elderly neighbor? Do we want to invite our non-Christian friends to a happy hour with us? A Christmas party? Pray for creativity, desire and direction!
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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.

