

*Daily Devotional Guide to  
the Book of John*

**John Chapter 4**

**Days 28 - 39**

Gaile Thulson

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## ***A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John***

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

### ***How This Devotional Study Works***

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:1</p>	<p>The Pharisees had been watching the people <i>John</i> was gaining and were probably worried about him taking power from them and influencing the people. Now they had cause to worry about <i>Jesus</i> taking on an even greater role as a leader of the people.</p>	<p>Do I want others to come to Jesus? Why or why not?</p>
<p>John 4:2</p>	<p>It was the role of those around Jesus, as with John, to bring the people to a state of readiness through repentance, to hear and understand Jesus' teaching.</p>	<p>How do I pray for those who need Jesus?</p> <p>What is my role?</p> <p>What about the Holy Spirit? (John 16:7-8)</p>
<p>John 4:3</p>	<p>Jesus was not interested in being a popular political leader. He had a job to do, given by the Father in Heaven. It was not time to end that job, so he withdrew to teach again in Galilee.</p>	<p>Why wasn't Jesus interested in being a political leader?</p> <p>Why didn't Jesus confront instead of withdrawing?</p>

**Day 28**

***Read John 4:1-3***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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**Day 29**

**Read John 4:4-8**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:4</p>	<p>Geographically, when traveling north from Jerusalem to Galilee, one would go through Samaria. However, at this time in history, many Jews crossed the Jordan River and went up the east side in order to avoid going through the entire area of Samaria (NIV Study Bible note) because they considered the Samaritan people of mixed descent to be unclean. This would add many miles to the journey of a devout Jew. But Jesus evidently needed to go through Samaria in order to minister to the Samaritan people.</p>	<p>Is Jesus willing to help me? How do I know?</p> <p>Is anyone beyond God's care?</p>
<p>John 4:5</p>	<p>He came to a small town with a strong connection to the early Jewish patriarchs (forefathers).</p>	<p>How do I know God cares about individuals, little people who are not important to the world?</p>
<p>John 4:6</p>	<p>Jesus was fully human: he was tired and thirsty. He knows our weaknesses, our needs, our struggles, and challenges.</p>	<p>What personal needs can I bring to Jesus today?</p> <p>What needs do others have that I can bring to God?</p>

**Day 29**

**Read John 4:4-8**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 4:7 <div data-bbox="100 281 428 630" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 166px;"></div>	Jesus began with a need for water, a need that they had in common, knowing this woman had a much greater need to be clean before God.	What are my spiritual needs today? <div data-bbox="786 281 1524 436" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 74px;"></div> What about the spiritual needs of others? <div data-bbox="786 474 1524 630" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 74px;"></div>
John 4:8 <div data-bbox="100 680 428 926" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 117px;"></div>	If the disciples had been there, they may have rejected this woman who needed God so much.	Are there people I am rejecting because they need God so much? <div data-bbox="786 716 1524 926" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>

What do I need to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:9</p>	<p>Jesus does not allow sin or evil or wrong to hinder him from seeking us and meeting our needs.</p>	<p>Is there a need Jesus cannot meet? Is there anything that can keep Jesus from coming to us, no matter who or where we are?</p>
<p>John 4:10</p>	<p>Jesus knew that what God had to give this woman was even greater than water that sustains this life. God gives it freely through Jesus.</p>	<p>How do we get the gift of eternal life from God?</p> <p>Which kind of life (physical or eternal) is a bigger gift?</p>
<p>John 4:11</p>	<p>Living water meant that it flowed out of the ground, as a spring. She knew there was no such spring in the area unless it was in the well.</p>	<p>Where does Jesus get this life he promises us? (See v. 10)</p>



What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:12</p>	<p>Jacob's descendants were indebted to him for digging this life-giving well of water. It supplied enough water for all. Jacob was considered one of the great patriarchs and the father of the Jewish people.</p>	<p>Why is Jesus greater than any of the greatest people who have lived on earth?</p>
<p>John 4:13</p>	<p>Water sustains life, but only <i>this</i> life, only as long as we keep drinking it.</p>	<p>What things make me happy in this life?</p> <p>Can I keep that happiness every day and after I die?</p>
<p>John 4:14</p>	<p>The gift that God gives when we believe in Jesus and "drink" of him, is eternal life.</p>	<p>How is knowing Jesus like a spring of water that wells up to eternal life?</p>

**Day 30**

***Read John 4:9-14***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:15</p>	<p>The Samaritan woman's thinking and response is still on the concrete, physical level. It is difficult for us all to admit our need of God and our spiritual thirst. It is not something we normally want to talk about.</p>	<p>How do I try to restrict God to the rules of the physical world, his creation?</p>
<p>John 4:16</p>	<p>Jesus knew she had a great spiritual need and wanted her to face her need.</p>	<p>What is my greater need?</p>
<p>John 4:17</p>	<p>This woman denied her sin by living without accountability and without having to be responsible for anyone.</p>	<p>How do I deny my sin?</p> <p>Is there an area of my life that I have placed off limits to accountability or responsibility?</p>
<p>John 4:18</p>	<p>Having five husbands and living out of marriage is indeed not having a husband. Jesus knew all about her real situation.</p>	<p>Jesus knows my sins and my weaknesses:</p>

**Day 31**

**Read John 4:15-19**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:19</p> <div data-bbox="100 279 428 562" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 135px;"></div>	<p>Her initial response to God's invasion of her "privacy" is still limited by her human perspective. She can acknowledge this person knows something about her, but she is still not willing to let God deal with her sin.</p>	<p>What is my response to God's invasion of my privacy?</p> <div data-bbox="789 279 1524 562" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 135px;"></div>

What do I need to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:20</p>	<p>The Samaritan woman changes the subject. It is not pleasant to have someone know all about our wrongs. She returns to the topic of Jewish/Samaritan differences which normally separate someone like herself from someone like Jesus.</p>	<p>How do I block Jesus from dealing with my sin?</p> <p>What are the things I think separate me from Jesus?</p>
<p>John 4:21</p>	<p>The place of worship is not as significant to God...</p>	<p>Does my own requirement of worshiping in a certain place or form keep me from worshiping God as I should?</p>
<p>John 4:22</p>	<p>as the content of our worship. God did reveal himself to the Jewish people and salvation comes through God's word revealed in the past and through God's Word (Jesus) who is speaking with this woman.</p>	<p>Do I know what or who it is that I am worshiping?</p> <p>How can I know I am worshiping the God of the Scriptures, the real God? (John 14:6)</p>

**Day 32**

**Read John 4:20-24**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 4:23          	What God really wants from all people groups and individuals is willing worship out of love for him, with our spirits informed truthfully about God and responding to him with worship.	How can I ensure that I worship God in spirit and in truth?          
John 4:24          	We need to know the truth about God as revealed in the Scriptures and in his Son. Then our spirits can respond to who God truly is.	Do I know the Scriptures?          Do I know God's Son?          

What does my spirit say to God, The Spirit, today?

**Day 33**

**Read John 4:25-30**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:25</p>	<p>The Samaritans were also waiting for the Messiah (someone who would know everything and help them understand).</p>	<p>Who do I know that is still waiting for someone who understands?</p>
<p>John 4:26</p>	<p>Jesus knew he was the Messiah. Jesus plainly said that he was the Messiah they had been waiting for.</p>	<p>How is Jesus' statement different from John the Baptist's statements when asked who he (John) was? Why is this statement of Jesus' so significant?</p>
<p>John 4:27</p>	<p>The disciples would not have spoken to this woman. They would not have told her the good news that the Messiah was there. Jesus had to do it himself. The disciples were confused but respected and trusted Jesus. Jesus responded to people's needs regardless of who they were.</p>	<p>Can I trust Jesus to meet the needs of all people?  Can I trust Jesus to meet my needs?</p>
<p>John 4:28</p>	<p>This woman is beginning to believe. She is excited...</p>	<p>What was it like when I began to understand who Jesus is?  How can I help others who are struggling with a need for Jesus but reluctance to acknowledge him?</p>

**Day 33**

**Read John 4:25-30**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 4:29          	and wants to understand. She is even willing to admit her sin in front of the whole town. She is seeking verification of Jesus' claim to be the Messiah.	How does it make me feel to know that Jesus could tell everything I ever did?          
John 4:30          	Jesus knew these people needed him. Their response to a sinner's confession brings them to Jesus.	How could telling someone about Jesus knowing my sin and forgiving it, help that person to acknowledge their own sin?          Who can I tell about the Messiah today?          

What can I say to God today?



What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:31</p>	<p>Jesus' disciples were concerned about his physical needs.</p>	<p>Am I more concerned with people's physical or spiritual needs? Why?</p> <p>Am I more concerned about my physical or spiritual needs? Why?</p> <p>What evidence is there in my life that supports my answers?</p>
<p>John 4:32</p>	<p>Jesus was concerned about doing the will of his Father in Heaven.</p>	<p>What is Jesus' concern for me today?</p>
<p>John 4:33</p>	<p>The disciples were unaware of Jesus' real needs. They could only think in terms of concrete, visible life on earth.</p>	<p>What physical needs of my own are getting in the way of my realization of spiritual needs?</p> <p>Can I ask God to fill both needs and trust him to do it?</p>

**Day 34**

**Read John 4:31-34**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 4:34          	Jesus knew his job was to tell people about God, God's love, and God's kingdom (a spiritual kingdom), and then to win that kingdom for us by giving his life on the cross.	Jesus did what his Heavenly Father sent him to do. Am I doing God's will?          

What would I like to say to God today?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:35</p>	<p>Jesus told his disciples that in spiritual matters, people are ready and needy right now.</p>	<p>Have I acknowledged <i>my</i> need of Jesus and God's forgiveness?</p> <p>Do I need to open my eyes and look around me at the people who are needy and ready to hear about Jesus?</p>
<p>John 4:36</p>	<p>People are ready now for eternal life. People are ready now to turn to Jesus. Followers of Jesus plant seeds (or beginnings of belief) in some people and bring some people to full understanding of eternal life in Christ. Christ's followers rejoice together at whatever God is doing to bring people into his kingdom of love.</p>	<p>What am I waiting for?</p>
<p>John 4:37</p>	<p>I Corinthians 3:5-9 says that followers of Jesus are God's servants. We work together for God by each doing our part. It is really God who works in people's hearts to turn them to him. If someone in my life needs Jesus and is searching, I can be sure that God is working in that person's life and heart to bring salvation to that person. I get to participate by doing my part.</p>	<p>Who has planted seeds of belief in Jesus in my life? How did they do that?</p> <p>What can I do that would plant a seed of belief in someone else's life today?</p>

**Day 35**

**Read John 4:35-38**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:38</p> <div data-bbox="100 279 428 667" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 185px;"></div>	<p>Jesus expects his followers to reap, to bring people into the kingdom by explaining who he is and what he has done for them. Other people have planted seeds (told people about Jesus), or watered (encouraged people to think about Jesus and what he has done for them), and NOW is their time for salvation.</p>	<p>If I tell people about Jesus, I will have the joy of leading others to salvation. I may witness their new birth into God's family by them acknowledging their sin and repenting of it, by them asking Jesus for forgiveness. Who has been prayed for and witnessed to and now might be ready to become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ?</p> <div data-bbox="789 432 1524 667" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 112px;"></div>

What would I like to say to God?

**Day 36**

**Read John 4:39-42**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:39</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 180px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Telling people what Jesus has done in our lives is a powerful witness about who he is. It can bring belief in the Messiah.</p>	<p>Do I tell what Jesus has done in my life?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Who can I tell now?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 4:40</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Belief results in having a desire to be with Jesus. Jesus is willing to spend time with us, even if we are less than desirable to the rest of the world. Jesus overcomes our sins, our failures, our misconceptions, and positions in life that bind us or restrict us. He offers cleansing to us. He offers a new life as a new person.</p>	<p>Do I spend time with Jesus?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Is Jesus willing to spend time with me?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>How has belief in Jesus changed me and made me a new person?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 4:41</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 180px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Hearing Jesus' words brings belief in him.</p>	<p>Do I regularly spend time reading and thinking about the words Jesus spoke?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Is there some way I can give the words of Jesus to someone I care about who does not know Jesus?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>

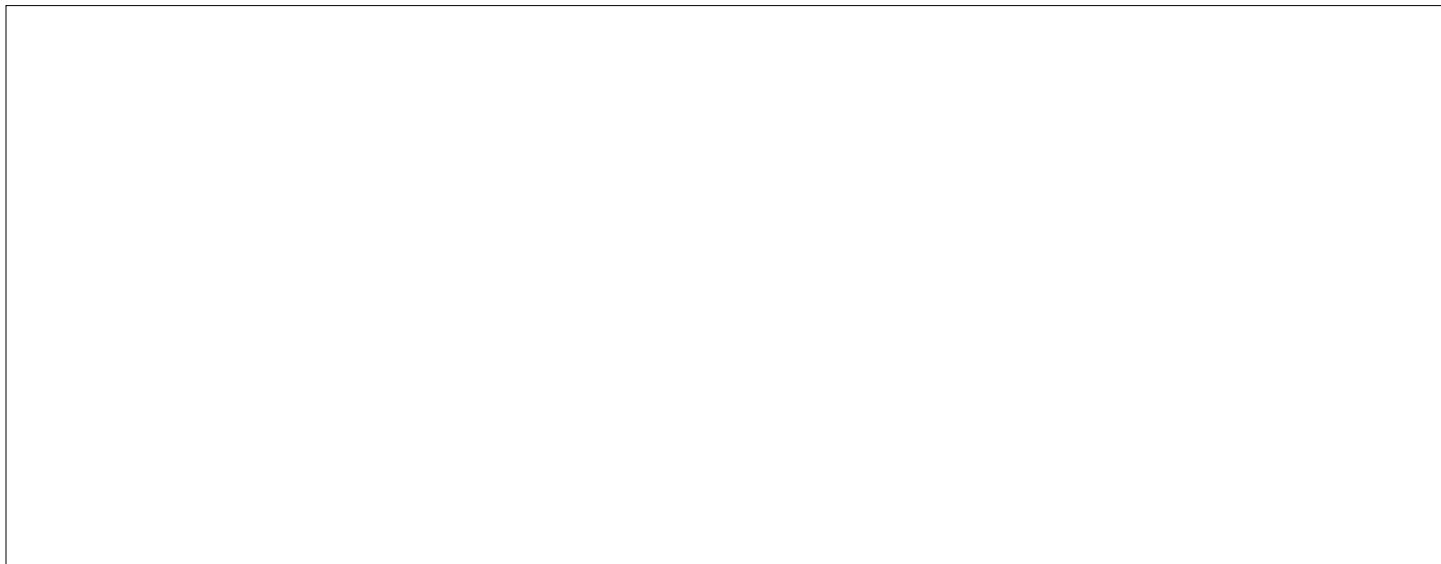


What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:43</p>	<p>Jesus needed to tell more people about God's kingdom and how to enter it.</p>	<p>Who else do I need to tell about how to enter the kingdom of God?</p>
<p>John 4:44</p>	<p>People who thought they knew who Jesus was and where he came from had a more difficult time believing that he was the Messiah.</p>	<p>Do I know a religious person or a highly educated person who thinks he or she has defined Jesus, but has defined Jesus incorrectly? Can I pray for that person?</p> <p>Is there any intellectual or experiential "wisdom" from my past that keeps me from fully believing who Jesus is?</p>
<p>John 4:45</p>	<p>The people who saw Jesus' miracles accepted that he was someone special, a prophet. For some people it is hard to accept that Jesus is more than just a miracle worker.</p> <p>Perhaps some welcomed him for putting the religious leaders in their place.</p> <p>Those whose hearts were right with God would have welcomed Jesus because his zeal for God cleansed the temple and restored it to God's purposed intention. Jesus made it a holy place to worship God.</p>	<p>If Jesus does a miracle in my life, or someone else's life, is it easier to believe he is God's Son?</p> <p>Do I care about what is truly important to God?</p>

**Day 37**

***Read John 4:43-45***

What would I like to say to God?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:46</p>	<p>Jesus had previously worked a miracle at a Jewish wedding in this area of Galilee. This person who had a great need was most certainly a Roman official, and it is implied that he had heard about what Jesus did.</p>	<p>Is there someone in my life today who is in trouble and may need Jesus in a special way?</p>
<p>John 4:47</p>	<p>This Roman official believed that Jesus could actually heal his son. He asked Jesus to come and heal his son.</p>	<p>Could I ask someone with a particular need if I could pray for their need?</p>
<p>John 4:48</p>	<p>Jesus knew that many people were waiting for him to prove who he was before believing him.</p>	<p>Do I keep asking Jesus to prove who he really is?</p>
<p>John 4:49</p>	<p>The heart of this man's concern was for his son, and he revealed that in his heart he truly believed Jesus was the only one who could prevent his son from dying.</p>	<p>Do I, or does someone I know, have a need today that only God could impact?</p> <p>Have I asked Jesus for his help?</p>

**Day 38**

**Read John 4:46-50**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 4:50 <div data-bbox="100 281 428 529" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 118px;"></div>	When Jesus healed, it was because faith in him was involved.	Am I willing to accept God's answer when I ask for help? <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 386" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div> Do I expect God to act? <div data-bbox="789 424 1524 529" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>

What do I want to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:51</p>	<p>This man believed Jesus when he said that his son would live. So, he started on his way home. Acting in obedience demonstrates that we believe God and God is free to answer our requests.</p> <p>Believing and obeying God results in informed giving of the credit to God when our request is granted.</p>	<p>What, specifically, am I asking God to do today?</p> <p>Am I acting on his answer?</p> <p>Am I going to give him the credit?</p>
<p>John 4:52</p>	<p>This man was interested in when God had intervened in his son's life. It was the day before at the time he was talking with Jesus.</p> <p>We need to be aware of God working in our lives. If we are aware we will know how real he is.</p>	<p>These are ways God has worked in my life recently:</p>
<p>John 4:53</p>	<p>Recognizing God's hand in our lives is a powerful tool to cause us to honor God and believe him. Those closest to us will also be affected powerfully.</p>	<p>Have the things God has done for me caused me to believe and honor God, and his Son, Jesus?</p> <p>Am I willing to share with others the powerful things God is doing in my life so that they might believe? How can I do that today?</p>

**Day 39**

**Read John 4:51-54**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 4:54</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 701" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>	<p>The author of this book of John (John the Apostle) wanted to record the amazing things Jesus did that showed he is the Messiah, God's Son. It is important to recognize and record the miraculous things God does in our lives.</p>	<p>Am I willing to give God the glory for who Jesus really is?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 386" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div> <p>Am I willing to give God the glory for past answers to prayer?</p> <div data-bbox="789 424 1524 529" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div> <p>Am I willing to give God the glory when he answers my current requests?</p> <div data-bbox="789 596 1524 701" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>

What can I say to God today?