

*Daily Devotional Guide to  
the Book of John*

**John Chapter 5**

**Days 40 - 51**

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.

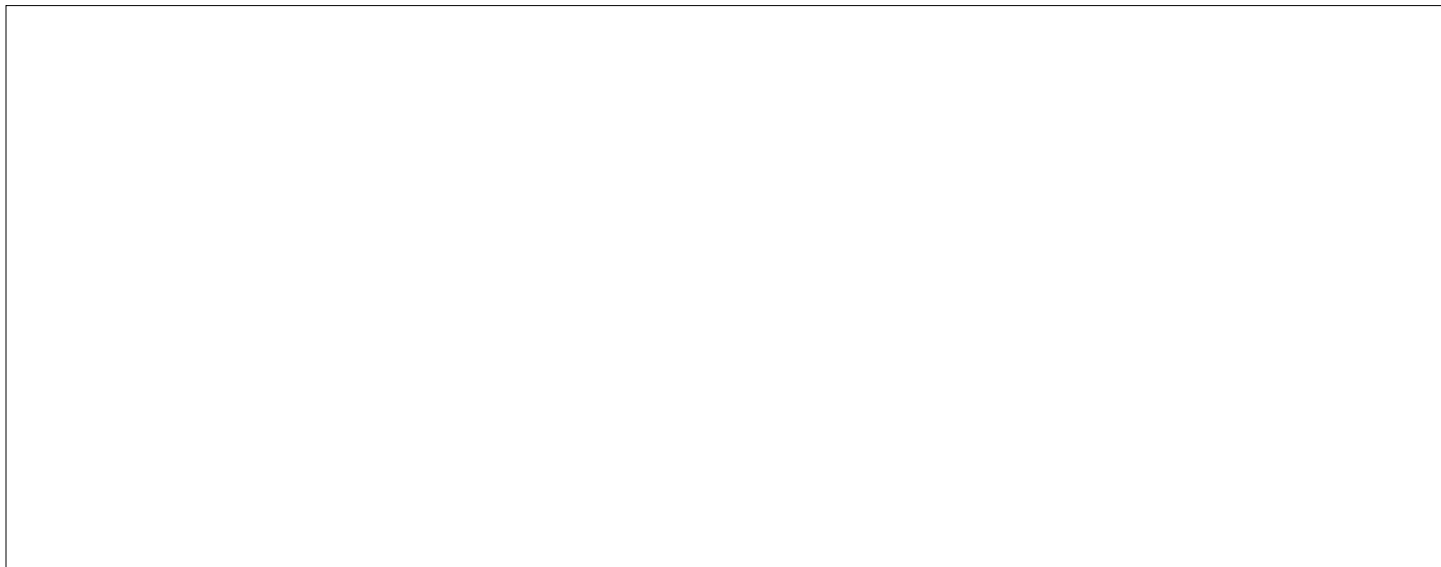
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus returned from Galilee to Jerusalem in order to observe the feast days God required of the Jewish people.</p>	<p>How do I show my respect for and obedience to God?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 5:2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>The Apostle John gave his readers background information they would need to understand Jesus' actions. John wanted his readers to understand the truth and historical setting of Jesus' life.</p>	<p>The Apostle John spent years walking everywhere with Jesus and, after Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to heaven, spent the rest of his life searching out and writing the facts about Jesus and telling them to people. How do I show respect for this apostle?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 5:3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus sought out the needy.</p>	<p>When in my life have I been as needy as this group of people?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>What do I do to help the truly needy with physical and spiritual needs?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:4</p>	<p>Your Bible may skip "waiting for the moving of the waters" at the end of verse three as well as verse four, as this short section is not present in many manuscripts. This indicates that verse four was probably not part of the original book of the Apostle John, but was added to help readers understand the situation. The added verse explains that healings happened when the water was stirred by an angel.</p>	
<p>John 5:5</p>	<p>There are always people who need healing in this world. There are many who have endured years of pain and inconvenience.</p>	<p>What was I like physically and spiritually before Jesus sought me out?</p>
<p>John 5:6</p>	<p>Not all who need physical healing <i>want</i> to be healed. Not all who are spiritually needy <i>want</i> God in their lives.</p>	<p>Do I want to be physically healed?</p> <p>Do I want to be spiritually healed?</p>

**Day 40**

***Read John 5:1-6***

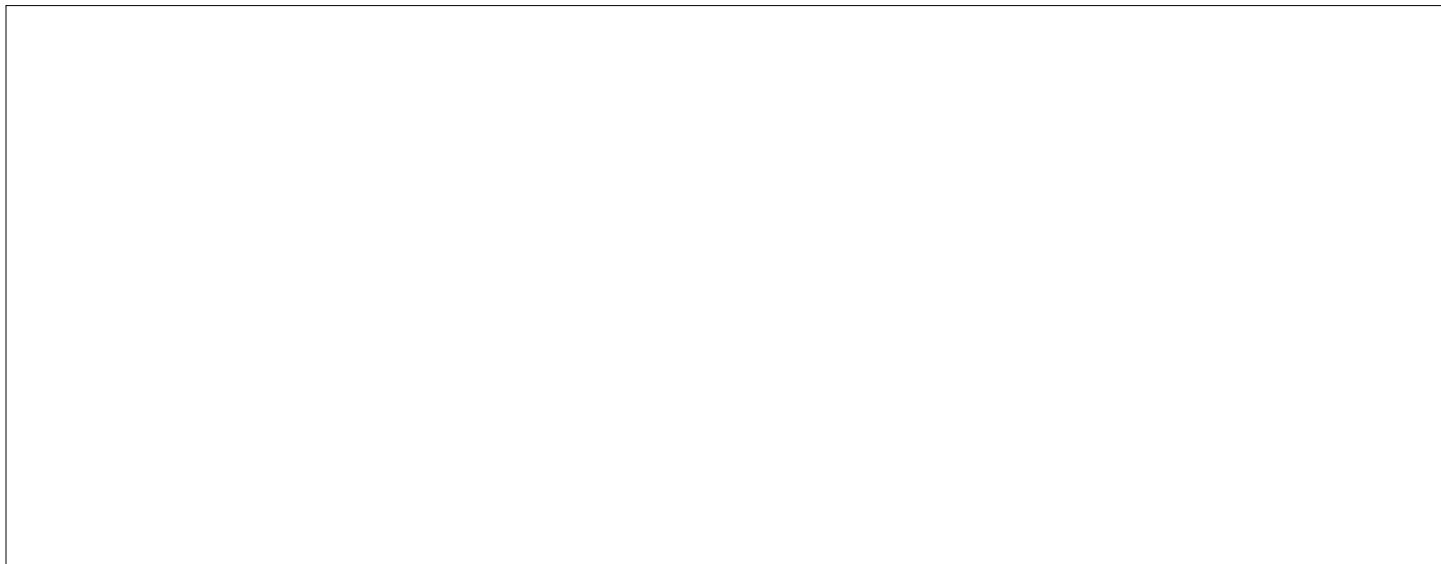
What do I want to say to God?

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**Day 41**      ***Read John 5:7-9a***

What do I need to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:9b</p>	<p>Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus did what was right on the Sabbath because that was God's intention for the Sabbath. The Sabbath was meant to be good for us, a time for God to bless and restore us spiritually. He is able to do that when we spend time with him.</p> <p>Note: The Sabbath was Saturday for the Jewish people. Many Christians now worship on Sunday and associate it with the Sabbath rest because it is the day Christ rose from the dead, winning salvation and "rest" from working and following rules to try to earn salvation from God. (Hebrews 4:9-10)</p>	<p>What do I do on the Sabbath? Why?</p> <p>Is it my time with God? My time of serving others in God's name? Or, do I just follow rules about what I can and can't do? Do I just ignore God's rights to the Sabbath?</p> <p>Do I think my use of the Sabbath is correct because of the rules I follow or because of what I typically experience with God on the Sabbath?</p>
<p>John 5:10</p>	<p>Jesus' concern was with the man's faith, healing, and restoration. Jesus knew the man needed to obey in faith, demonstrating his healing and ability to lead a new life now. Those in power over others who did not have God's power could only focus on the letter of the Law, not on God's lovingkindness. Their only concern was that, by carrying his mat, he was breaking rules about how much work was allowed on the Sabbath.</p>	<p>What is my view of the people over whom I have power? Are the things I do based on a desire to benefit them?</p> <p>What do I really care about, and what actions of mine reveal my true intentions toward others?</p>
<p>John 5:11</p>	<p>The man had merely obeyed Jesus who had given him a new chance at life. In faith, he had believed Jesus and done what he said.</p>	<p>How has Jesus given me a new chance at life? A new life?</p> <p>Is there a simple act of obedience to Jesus that would reveal my spiritual healing?</p>

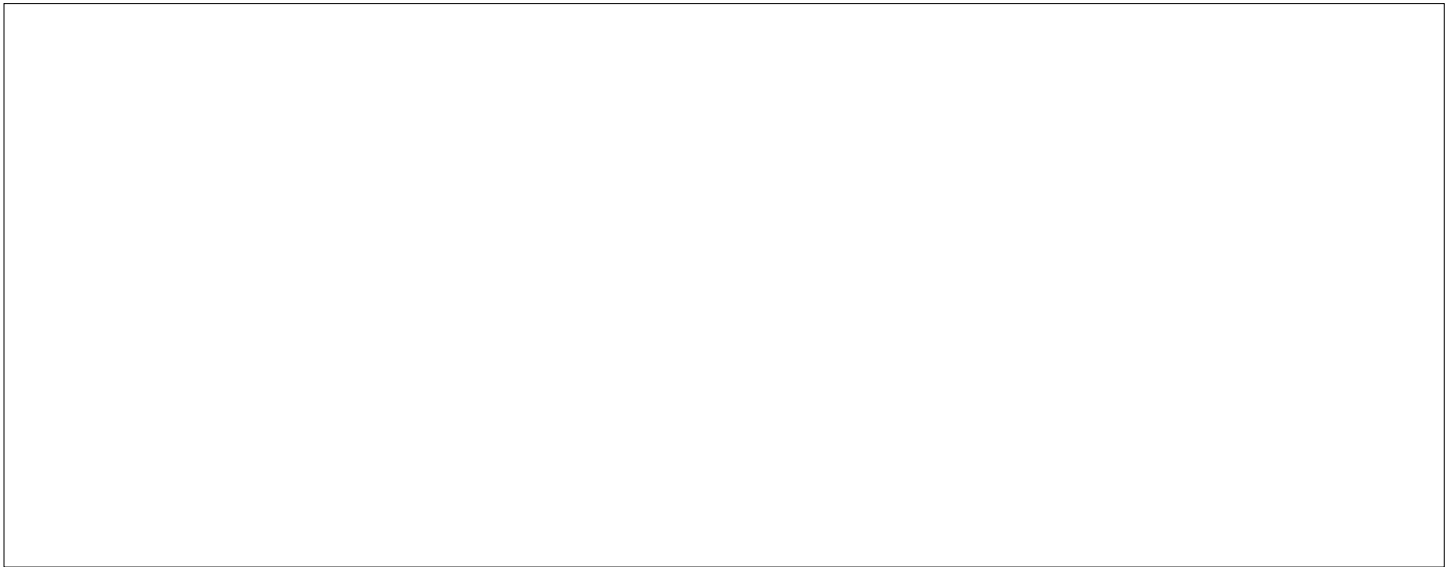
**Day 42**

**Read John 5:9b-14**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 5:12 <div data-bbox="100 281 428 560" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 133px;"></div>	When the focus is on the letter of the Law and having power over people, then power must be maintained, people controlled, and events stopped.	Where is my focus? <div data-bbox="786 281 1524 390" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 52px;"></div> Where is the focus of the people who are in spiritual leadership over me? <div data-bbox="786 457 1524 560" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 49px;"></div>
John 5:13 <div data-bbox="100 611 428 963" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 168px;"></div>	Jesus was more concerned with people and their spiritual state than in gathering followers to establish a kingdom on earth.	Am I more concerned with helping people or with establishing myself? <div data-bbox="786 644 1524 963" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 152px;"></div>
John 5:14 <div data-bbox="100 1010 428 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 187px;"></div>	Evidently this man was not making wise choices with his new chance at life!	What recent decisions show I am making wise choices or not making wise choices with the life God has given me? <div data-bbox="786 1043 1524 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 171px;"></div>

**Day 42**      ***Read John 5:9b-14***

What do I need to say to the Lord?

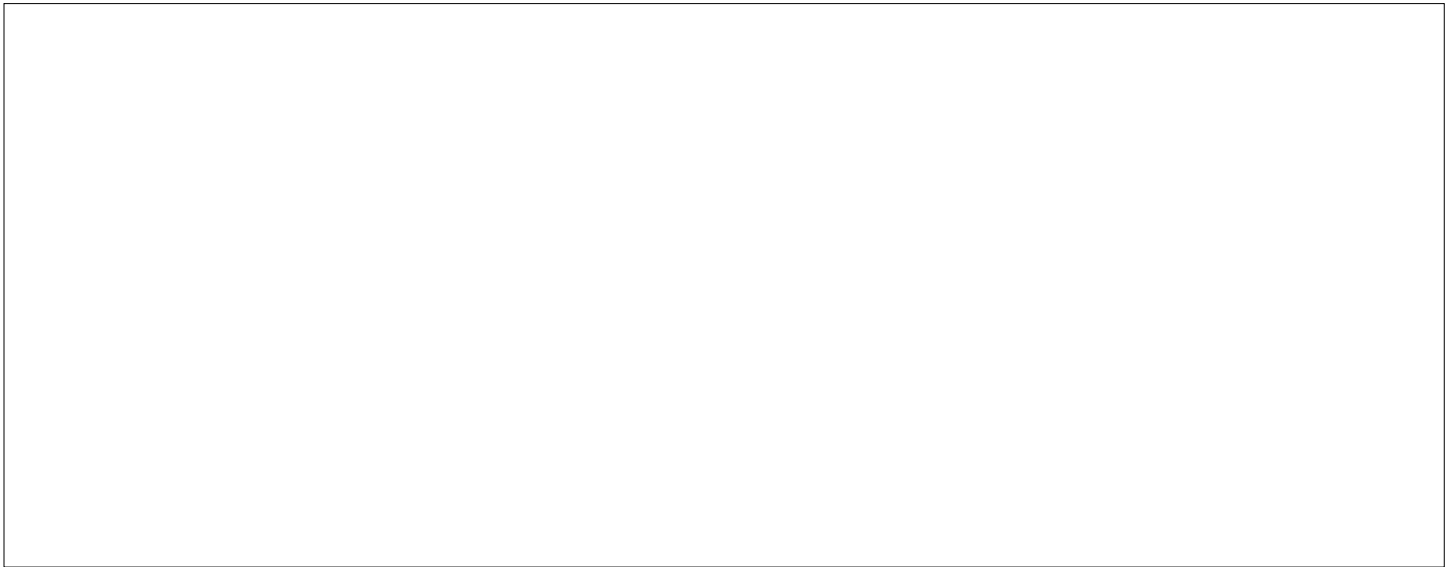
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:15</p>	<p>We don't know the man's motives for telling the religious leaders that it was Jesus. Was he giving God the glory because he believed Jesus was the Son of God and his Messiah?</p>	<p>What are my motives in telling people what Jesus has done for me? Am I giving God glory?</p>
<p>John 5:16</p>	<p>Jesus did good things on the Sabbath. He frequently helped people, healed people, and met their needs, no matter what day it was. Of all days, the Sabbath was especially a day when God wanted to deliver his people from sin and bondage. (Luke 13:10-16)</p>	<p>What good do I do toward helping meet people's needs on the Sabbath, whether Saturday or Sunday?</p>
<p>John 5:17</p>	<p>God's work, by his own choice, is to forgive, heal, restore and save people. He and his Son, Jesus, are continually doing this work. They offer forgiveness and salvation to everyone who will receive it.</p>	<p>How have I claimed and laid hold of Jesus' work on my behalf?</p> <p>What am I doing to help God with this great work of offering his forgiveness and salvation, the greatest work imaginable?</p>
<p>John 5:18</p>	<p>Jesus, as God's son, has authority over the greatest of God's laws and requirements. He came to show us what God is really like: God wants us to use the Sabbath and every day to bring others to him for salvation and for God to bless them.</p>	<p>What is God's heart and his desire for people?</p> <p>What can I do today to help God accomplish what is in his heart for the world?</p>

**Day 43**

***Read John 5:15-18***

What do I need to say to God?

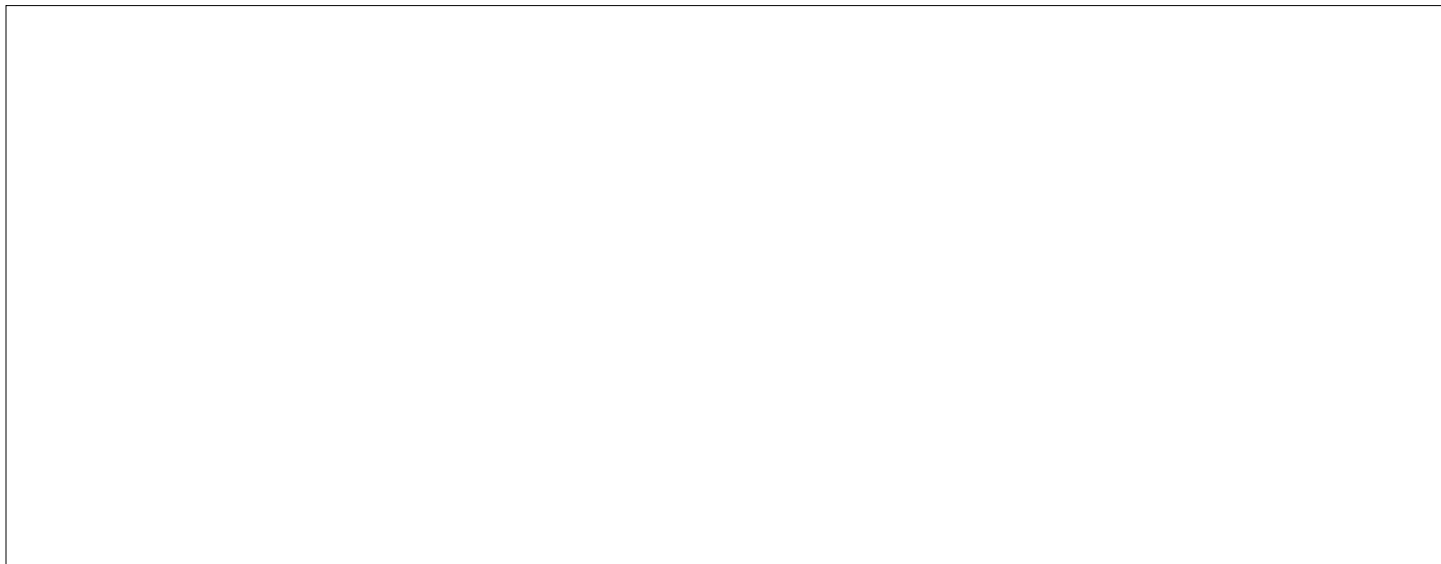
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:19</p>	<p>All the things that Jesus did while here on earth were things that God is always doing. God is in the business of miraculously healing and restoring people spiritually. Jesus was totally dependent on God's wishes.</p>	<p>God wants to heal and restore me. God wants to heal and restore the people I am concerned about. Have I asked Jesus to do it?</p>
<p>John 5:20</p>	<p>God loves Jesus and revealed to him all that was in his heart for people. We can hardly imagine what God wants to do in our lives.</p>	<p>What kinds of things does God want to do in my life, in me?</p> <p>What does God want to do in the lives of those I am praying for?</p>
<p>John 5:21</p>	<p>Just as God has charge of the afterlife, so Jesus has charge of giving salvation and eternal life through his position as God's Son and through his obedience to God, his sacrifice on the cross.</p>	<p>Jesus wants to give salvation and eternal life. Jesus will give salvation and eternal life. What is my response to Jesus' offer of life?</p>

**Day 44**

***Read John 5:19-21***

What can I say to Jesus?

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**Day 45**

**Read John 5:22-23**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:22</p>	<p>Jesus is the God who will judge the world.</p>	<p>What will Jesus have to say about me when I die? (Matthew 10:32-33)</p>
<p>John 5:23</p>	<p>If I define God without including Jesus, I am not honoring God.</p>	<p>Am I being clear in my life and words about who Jesus is?</p> <p>What circumstances cause me to avoid mentioning Jesus?</p> <p>Is it better to offend people by mentioning Jesus, or to offend God by not mentioning Jesus?</p>

What do I need to say to God?



What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:24</p>	<p>Believing in Jesus means believing what God said about him, that he is his Son. Believing in Jesus means moving from a position of being condemned to death by God (Revelation 20:14-15), to life everlasting in Jesus (Revelation 20:6; 21:3-4).</p>	<p>What does it mean to be free of God's condemnation?</p> <p>How is life here and now on the earth different if I live without condemnation?</p>
<p>John 5:25</p>	<p>People who hear and believe Jesus become "alive" spiritually, alive to God. Also, when Jesus comes back from heaven at the end to gather up his followers, those who have died will be raised to live with him eternally. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)</p>	<p>In what ways am I alive right now: what life have I gained from hearing Jesus?</p> <p>For whom am I praying who is not yet alive to God but will live when they hear the words of Jesus?</p>
<p>John 5:26</p>	<p>God has given to Jesus life to give to us. God is the source of all life and he has included his Son to have the power to give life as well.</p>	<p>What life has Jesus given me?</p>

**Day 46**

**Read John 5:24-27**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 5:27          	God has given Jesus the authority to judge us all because Jesus came and lived as a man. He knows what it is to be human, so Jesus has earned the right to judge all human beings. (See the devotional for John 3:14 and the Son of Man reference in the book of Daniel. See Hebrews 7: 25-28)	What does it mean to me that Jesus, God's Son, came and lived a human life like mine, but did not sin and now lives eternally?          

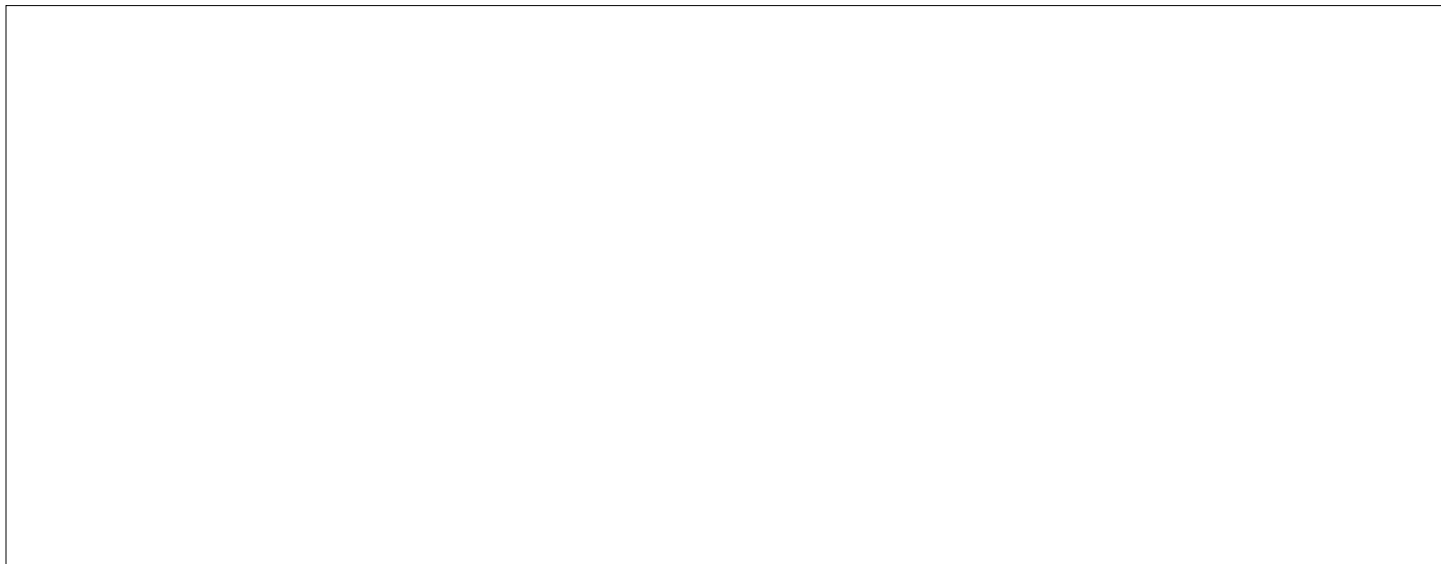
What would I like to say to God and his Son, Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:28</p>	<p>Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man to indicate his authority is given by God the Father. Jesus went on to explain that it is his voice which will resurrect all of the dead at the end of the world. (See I Thessalonians 4:16-18 from yesterday.)</p>	<p>Do I know Jesus' voice? Am I used to doing what he asks of me?</p>
<p>John 5:29</p>	<p>Jesus will give eternal life to those who have done good and Jesus will be the judge who condemns those who have done evil.</p>	<p>Will Jesus give me eternal life or condemn me forever? How do I know? (See John 5:24)</p>
<p>John 5:30</p>	<p>Jesus judges us by our Heavenly Father's standards. Jesus won't misjudge anyone because he will judge each in a way that pleases God's justice and mercy.</p>	<p>If I have believed God and demonstrated it by believing in his Son, what further good things am I doing to please God as a result?</p>

**Day 47**

***Read John 5:28-30***

What would I like to say to God?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:31</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus was stating what we all know: he could claim to be the Son of God and it would not necessarily be true. Jesus doesn't expect us to irrationally accept his claims to deity. Many throughout history in a variety of cultures have claimed deity.</p>	<p>Why do I believe or disbelieve what Jesus says?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 5:32</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus was not the only one who knew that Jesus was the one chosen by God. Jesus knew that John the Baptist walked with God in obedience and that God had revealed to John that it was Jesus who was the anointed one, God's very own son.</p>	<p>Why should I believe John's testimony about who Jesus is?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 5:33</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>John knew from his closeness to God (from what God had told him to look for) that this Jesus was the one he had waited for and prepared the way for. The people had checked with John to see if Jesus was really the one.</p>	<p>Since I can't ask John, how do I verify who Jesus is?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 5:34</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus didn't need John's testimony about Jesus' identity as God revealed it, but we do. It is so important that it could mean our salvation or our condemnation by God.</p>	<p>Am I saved? How do I know?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 100%;"></div>

**Day 48**

**Read John 5:31-35**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:35</p> <div data-bbox="100 279 428 632" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 168px;"></div>	<p>The people to whom Jesus was talking had enjoyed John and his calling from God. John had brought them light from God, had preached repentance, and had directed people to a baptism of repentance and godly living.</p>	<p>How can I enjoy John's light like the people of his time did?</p> <div data-bbox="789 279 1524 422" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 68px;"></div> <p>What can I do today to be light to others, showing Jesus to the world? (Luke 8:15-16)</p> <div data-bbox="789 489 1524 632" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 68px;"></div>

What would I like to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:36</p>	<p>Jesus said that his actions here on earth were an even greater testimony to God's hand than the word of a prophet like John the Baptist. God sent Jesus to finish a task, to accomplish our salvation. No one else would send Jesus with that mission, a mission to give his life to save us eternally.</p>	<p>What events in Jesus' life show that he accomplished the work God sent him to do?</p>
<p>John 5:37</p>	<p>God actually spoke in an audible way when Jesus was baptized by John. God said that this was his Son, that he loved Jesus, and that he was pleased with Jesus (Matthew 3:17). Those who were seeking God in repentance went to John, so they would have actually heard God say this. Those who kept trying to accuse Jesus did so because they were not seeking God in humility and had consequently missed God's revelation through John and in other ways, more than once in their lives.</p>	<p>How, when, or why was I able to hear God's revelation of who Jesus is?</p>
<p>John 5:38</p>	<p>If they were seeking God in the Scriptures, they would have recognized that Jesus was God's gift to them.</p>	<p>Has learning more about the Scriptures help me to discover who Jesus is?</p>

**Day 49**

**Read John 5:36-40**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 5:39 <div data-bbox="100 279 428 560" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 134px;"></div>	Jesus is revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures. Those accusing Jesus knew the Scriptures and studied them...	Where is Jesus revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures? (See Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53) <div data-bbox="786 312 1524 560" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 118px;"></div>
John 5:40 <div data-bbox="100 611 428 1081" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 224px;"></div>	but their reasons for studying the Scriptures were not conducive to giving up their own efforts to gain life by their own efforts.	What are my reasons for studying the Scriptures? (II Timothy 3:14-17 reveals that Paul's assistant, Timothy, had the privilege of learning the Scriptures as a child, which made him wise to recognize the truth of and receive salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.) <div data-bbox="786 737 1524 875" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 66px;"></div> <p>How can I study in such a way that the Scriptures bring me to Jesus so that he can give me life?</p> <div data-bbox="786 947 1524 1085" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 66px;"></div>

What do I want to say to God?



**Day 50**

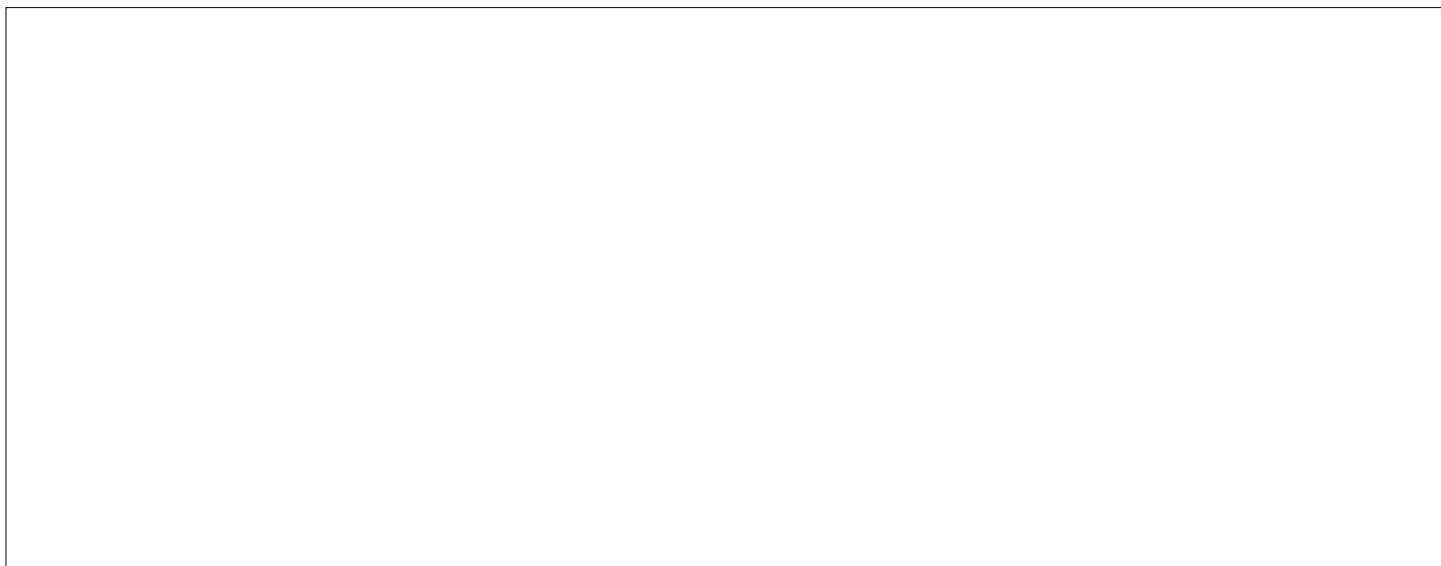
**Read John 5:41-44**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 5:41     	Jesus said that he was not on earth to seek our approval. He knew his mission and that his job was to please his Heavenly Father.	From whom do I seek praise?     
John 5:42     	Jesus, as God, knows each person's heart. His accusers claimed to follow God but had no love for the people.	Do I have the love of God in my heart? How can I tell?     
John 5:43     	People who reject Jesus are willing to accept people with all kinds of philosophies and self-proclamations.	Have I sometimes found it easier to accept and believe certain kinds of people than to accept and believe what Jesus says? Why?     
John 5:44     	Some people praise one another and try to build each other up to establish themselves, but they ignore God and don't seek to please him with their lives and decisions.	Do I want the praise and approval of certain people, or do I want the praise and approval of God?     

**Day 50**

***Read John 5:41-44***

What do I want to do about it?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 5:45</p>	<p>If we think we can earn entrance to heaven by following the Law perfectly, then the Law is what ends up condemning us because we can't keep it perfectly. If we insist on being judged by the Law, we will be judged by the Law. Moses himself will condemn us.</p>	<p>Why do I think God will let me into heaven?</p>
<p>John 5:46</p>	<p>Jesus said these Scriptures were about him:            Genesis 49:10 (Jesus was born into the tribe of Judah and is the eternal ruler foretold.),            Exodus 12:21 (Jesus is the perfect lamb slaughtered at Passover so that God can look at his blood and extend grace and life to us instead of condemnation and death.),            Leviticus 16:5 (Jesus' body was sacrificed outside the camp or city like the first goat, he bears our sins as the scapegoat, and his sacrifice took care of the sins of the people as the ram's.),            Numbers 24:17 (Jesus is the star and ruler descended from Jacob to bring victory.), and            Deuteronomy 18:15 (Jesus is the prophet God promised: someone like us, for us to listen to instead of listening to God's fierce, frightening power.)</p>	<p>What does it mean to me that Jesus is my king forever?</p> <p>What does it mean to me that Jesus lived perfectly before God so that he could offer himself as God's lamb to cover my sin?</p> <p>What does it mean to me that Jesus carried my sin in my place forever, and that he gave his life to end its power over me?</p> <p>What does it mean to me that Jesus is a Morning Star who will rule over all the nations and peoples of the earth?</p> <p>What does it mean to me that God cared to give me what I needed: someone who lived as I do, who understands my thoughts and weaknesses, who stands between me and God's frightening power?</p>

**Day 51**

**Read John 5:45-47**

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 5:47          	If we believe the Scriptures spoken by God through Moses, we can understand who Jesus is and believe.	What does it mean to me that God told about Jesus long before he came and then, at the right time, sent him to accomplish my salvation?          

What would I like to say to God?