Daily Devotional Guide to the Book of John

John Chapter 6

Days 52 - 69

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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.

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Day 52 Read John 6:1-6

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:1	The author of the book was with Jesus during all of these actual events. St. John knew and accurately described the times and places.	After studying the first five chapters of this book, why do I think John wrote about Jesus?
John 6:2	Many people evidently followed Jesus to see miracles happen but didn't really know who he was or understand why he did the miracles.	What attracts me to Jesus? Why did and does Jesus do miracles in people's lives?
John 6:3	Jesus desires time with those who have committed their lives to him.	How do I respond when Jesus calls me aside to spend time with him?
John 6:4	Jesus and his disciples were probably on their way to Jerusalem again to observe the Passover holiday, as was required of Jewish men.	What am I on my way to? Are there required events coming in my life?

Day 52 Read John 6:1-6

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:5	Jesus asked the question in concrete, earthly terms. It would require a lot of bread, a large establishment, and a lot of money to meet such a need. None of these things were present.	What would it take in earthly terms to meet the needs I have and see in others?
John 6:6	Jesus didn't need Philip's advice since it would take a miracle to feed all those people. How would Philip respond to such a great need? Would he turn to Jesus in faith?	How do I respond to overwhelming needs? To what or whom do I turn?

Vhat would I like to say to Jesus?				

Day 53 Read John 6:7-10a

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:7	Here is the reality of the situation in black and white: it is hopeless in Philip's view.	What situation in my life is seemingly hopeless today?
John 6:8	The disciples know the situation is alarming.	Is there a situation I care about that is well known for its hopelessness?
John 6:9	The sum total of their resources amounts to crumbs.	What are my resources to deal with my own overwhelming situations and the hopeless situations of the world?
John 6:10a	Jesus has God's view of the situation. His concern is for the people.	What is God's concern in my situation?

Day 53 Read John 6:7-10a

What would I like to say to Jesus?				

Day 54 Read John 6:10b-13

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:10b	A large number of people were following Jesus, perhaps also on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. In an arid climate plenty of grass to sit on is rather unusual, but the area around Galilee is green, especially in the spring. If there were 5,000 men there were additional women and even children. The disciples listened and obeyed Jesus.	Am I following Jesus so that when a need arises in my life, I can turn to him for the answer? Will I listen?
John 6:11	Jesus took what was available, gave thanks to the Father in Heaven, and gave it to those in need. Their need was met: they had as much as they wanted. Only Jesus could and would do this.	What meager resources do I have to offer the Lord? Does Jesus want to help me with this situation? What could Jesus do with that meager resource if I offered it to him?
John 6:12	They would hunger again, soon!	How can I make the most of what Jesus does in my life? Is my focus on basic human needs which arise over and over again? Why did Jesus bother to feed these people?

Day 54 Read John 6:10b-13

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:13	Only Jesus can provide such abundance.	Watch for Jesus to provide. Am I prepared to accept and be blessed by his abundant provision?
What do I need to say to J	lesus?	

What do I need to	Vhat do I need to say to Jesus?				

Day 55 Read John 6:14-15

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:14	The people recognized God's work. They knew who Jesus was, the one like Moses promised by God (Deuteronomy 18:15). They didn't necessarily understand that Jesus himself was the eternal bread provided for us by God.	Am I able to see beyond the miraculous provision Jesus willingly gives to meet physical needs in my life, to the eternal provisions he gives me?
John 6:15	The people wanted only what Jesus could provide for their earthly needs, unaware of their greater spiritual needs. They wanted him only as a source of continuous miraculous food. He wanted to be king of their hearts.	In addition to thanking Jesus for what he has provided for my physical needs, what else can I thank him for? Why do I want Jesus in my life? What kind of relationship do I have with Jesus, what kind do I want?

Day 55 Read John 6:14-15

What do I need to ask Jesus for?			

Day 56 Read John 6:16-21

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:16-17	Crossing the lake (the Sea of Galilee) was the most direct route from town to town along the shores. Jesus often went to pray by himself. He was not with them in the boat, but he knew where they were.	Am I in a situation today that feels like Jesus isn't in the boat with me? Does he know?
John 6:18	Life is sometimes difficult, even when we are doing the right thing.	Even if I think I'm doing the right thing, what is making it difficult?
John 6:19	Sometimes God approaching up close and personal or extending supernaturally into our lives is frightening from our perspective, even when we need his help.	Am I willing to admit I need God and ask him for help? How will I recognize his help?
John 6:20	Jesus wants us to know that we do not need to fear him.	What frightens me about my current situation? Could I be unaware of Jesus' presence in the situation?

Day 56 Read John 6:16-21

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:21	When Jesus approaches us, it is to help us. Life becomes much better when we accept his divine help. He can meet our needs in a supernatural way.	

What do I need to say to Jesus?			

Day 57 Read John 6:22-24

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:22	Jesus left quietly rather than put himself at their disposal for their own ends. His goal was not to draw a crowd, but to change hearts, offer forgiveness, and bring people into relationship with God the Father.	Am I in harmony with the goals I see in Jesus' life?
John 6:23	This crowd was pursuing Jesus for more bread.	Why does Jesus do miracles in my life?
John 6:24	Jesus had gone elsewhere after time alone in prayer with the Father. His commitment was to obedience to his Father in Heaven.	Why should I continue to pursue Jesus?

Day 57 Read John 6:22-24

What should I say to Jesus?					

Day 58 Read John 6:25-27

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:25	They didn't understand how Jesus crossed the lake because he had walked on the water. Our perspective is often limited and slanted toward our personal needs.	How can I understand the divinity of Jesus and his authority to do as he pleases in this world?
John 6:26	Jesus understands our motives and our hearts. He knew they only wanted bread they did not have to work for.	What do I want from Jesus?
John 6:27	Through Jesus, God offers us his Spirit, spiritual bread we don't have to work for, that lasts forever because it yields eternal life by nourishing our souls rather than just our bodies. What Jesus offers us leads to doing things with eternal significance for other people as well.	What kind of food am I working for? Do I accept what God wants to give me? Can I see my needs from God's eternal perspective?

Day 58 Read John 6:25-27

What do I want to say to God?				

Day 59 Read John 6:28-29

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:28	Since Jesus instructed them to work for food that endures to eternal life, they wanted to know what God requires of us.	Do I really want to know what God requires of me?
John 6:29	What God requires of us is to believe in his Son, Jesus. It is so simple that people often have a hard time doing it.	Have I done what God requires? Why do I keep thinking I must work or do something difficult to win God's approval? Why don't I need to do something difficult to win God's approval?
Vhat would I like to say to G	od?	

Day 60 Read John 6:30-33

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:30	They wanted a greater sign than the bread and fish he broke, blessed, and provided for them. Why wasn't it enough?	What is enough for me to believe Jesus? For my friends and family to believe Jesus?
John 6:31	Read Exodus 16:1-36. The manna fed the Jewish people after they left Egypt (the Exodus) in approximately 1450 B.C. They believed Moses gave them bread from heaven and they wanted a greater sign than that to believe Jesus is who he says he is.	What do I think would prove to most people that Jesus really is the Son of God?
John 6:32	They were leaving God out of the picture. God is the source of the bread Moses gave. God is the source of Jesus. The bread he gave Moses gave life, but the "bread" Jesus gives is for eternal life.	Am I leaving God out of the picture? What does God, the Father, say about Jesus?
John 6:33	Jesus is God's true bread, a means to eternal life.	Have I accepted God's provision from heaven? What does partaking of Jesus result in that is to my profit? What do I gain?

Day 60 Read John 6:30-33

What do I want to say to Jesus?				

Day 61 Read John 6:34-37

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:34	They said that they wanted this true bread from heaven, sent from God to give life to the world. They wanted Jesus to provide it for them every day, perhaps still thinking it was literal bread he was referring to.	What kind of bread do I want from Jesus today?
John 6:35	Walking every day with Jesus and knowing him and talking with him is like eating. It is life-giving. We are spiritually hungry and only Jesus can satisfy that hunger.	What other ways do I try to fill my spiritual needs? Am I willing to admit that only Jesus can meet that need?
John 6:36	Some people refuse to believe that Jesus is the answer to their spiritual hungers.	Do I believe that Jesus and Jesus alone is the answer to my deepest needs?
John 6:37	Those who earnestly seek God come to know who Jesus is. When we come to Jesus and accept his salvation, we can rest in the knowledge that we are saved. God won't lose track of us. We don't need to worry anymore about being rejected by God.	In seeking God, why have I found Jesus? How does it feel to be secure in Jesus, to know that God accepts me if I have accepted his Son, that Jesus will never send me away?

Day 61 Read John 6:34-37

What do I want to say to God and to his Son, Jesus?				

Day 62 Read John 6:38-40

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:38	Jesus only does what God the Father tells him to do.	Do I understand what it means that Jesus and the Father are one? What are the implications?
John 6:39	God wants us to be saved, to be safe in Jesus, to walk with him, to be safe even when we die, to be resurrected, to be with him physically when God ends the history of the world.	What does God really want for me?
John 6:40	God wants to give life, eternal life with him. God wants us to live. He has entrusted us to Jesus and he has empowered Jesus, his Son, to raise us someday just as he was raised from the dead.	What is God like? What is Jesus like?

Day 62 Read John 6:38-40

What do I want to say to God and to his Son, Jesus?			

Day 63 Read John 6:41-44

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:41	Jesus said that he was the manna that God sent for the provision of life to the Israelites when Moses was leading them through the wilderness. The people didn't know how to interpret that. They had a hard time accepting what Jesus said.	Have I partaken of this bread from heaven? What things are difficult for me to accept about Jesus?
John 6:42	People who will not accept Jesus' deity have a hard time believing and understanding what he said.	Do I believe what Jesus said about himself? If Jesus was sent by God as his one and only begotten Son, what should I do about the words of Jesus?
John 6:43	Jesus knows the things that keep us from hearing and accepting and obeying what he says. Unbelief is a roadblock to understanding Jesus.	What things keep me from Jesus?
John 6:44	It is the Father in Heaven who draws people to Jesus. Anyone who comes to Jesus is accepted by Jesus, saved from eternal death, and raised to life in God.	Can I entrust my future to Jesus?

Day 63 Read John 6:41-44

What do I need to say to Jesus?				

Day 64 Read John 6:45-48

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:45	The Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah spoke of a time in the future when God would establish a covenant of peace with people, a time when he would teach them and remove their sins from them. Jesus was telling the people that he was the fulfillment of that promised time of blessings from God. (Isaiah 54 and Jeremiah 31)	Who can I tell about God's promise in Jesus to teach us and to remove our sins? Why do we need to be taught of God, and why do we need our sins removed?
John 6:46	Jesus is the only one who came from God's presence to the world.	Why can't anyone but Jesus remove my sins?
John 6:47	Jesus spoke strongly to help us understand that his words are true. He is the source of life.	What do I have if I believe Jesus is God's Son?
John 6:48	When we believe (eat), he gives us life, abundant and eternal.	What would my life be like without Jesus? What does Jesus give me?

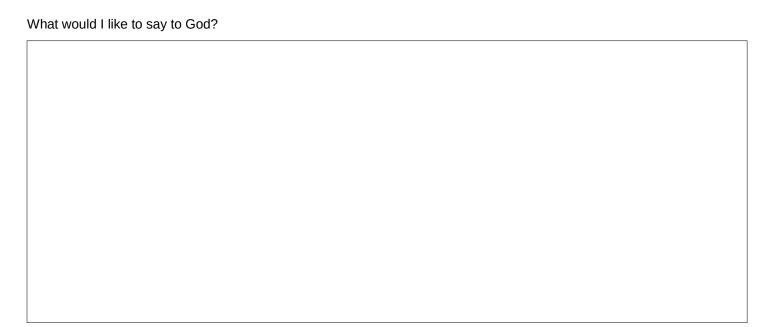
Day 64 Read John 6:45-48

What can I thank God for?				

Day 65 Read John 6:49-51

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:49	Jesus explained the difference between bread that sustains this physical life only temporarily and	How often do I thank God for the food he gives to sustain my physical life?
John 6:50	spiritually partaking of God's provision to live beyond this life.	How often do I thank God for the food he gives for my eternal life?
John 6:51	Jesus said that he came down from heaven, like the manna God sent before. But Jesus was a living person. He came to give his own life for all the people of the world so that through our belief in him God could grant us the right to live forever with him.	The manna is said to be a foreshadowing or picture of the Messiah. How is the manna God sent to feed his people similar to Jesus' coming to earth? How is it different?

Day 65 Read John 6:49-51



Day 66 Read John 6:52-56

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:52	A hardened heart finds Jesus' words hard to understand. If we take our questions to Jesus he will teach us.	Am I or is someone I know having trouble accepting any of Jesus' words? Which ones? What makes it hard for me or for others to accept?
John 6:53	Apart from belief in Jesus, there is no provision of living a meaningful life by being at peace with God, ourselves, and others. Apart from Jesus, there is also no provision for life after death with God who loves us.	Am I trying to live a meaningful life on my own? How am I trying to live at peace with God, myself, and others?
John 6:54	Whoever believes in Jesus, the Christ, has his sins forgiven and God's acceptance and the promise of life with God when we die. Only in Jesus do we have the promise of living real life in our physical bodies again, at the end of time when people are resurrected from the grave.	Am I trying to earn life with a loving God after death, or am I accepting his provision? Do I hope to live again somewhere, sometime? On what do I base that hope?
John 6:55	Jesus indicates the eternal spiritual world is the "real" world, rather than the world we see around us. When we turn from an imperfect world to look for something better, there is Jesus and his provision for the "real" world.	What has the reality of Christ's sacrifice earned for me?

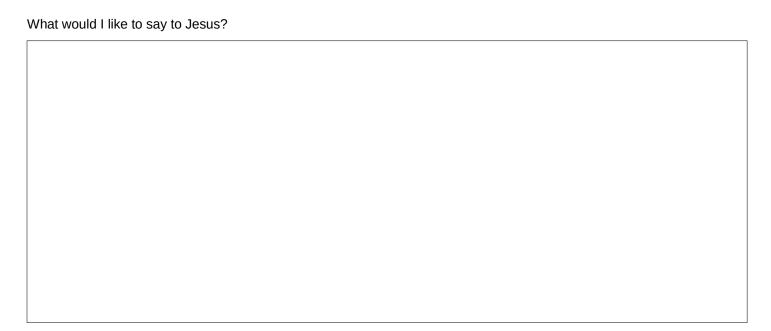
Day 66 Read John 6:52-56

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:56	Remaining in Jesus gives sustaining peace, wisdom, and joy.	What is eating and drinking Jesus? How do I remain in Jesus? (John 15:9-14)
What would I like to say to J	esus?	

Day 67 Read John 6:57-59

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:57	God is alive. Jesus is alive because of God the Father. If I commune with Jesus, and abide in him in obedience, I am alive because of Jesus.	Am I alive in Jesus? How do I know?
John 6:58	Jesus gives us life in this way, sent down to earth by God the Father to make us alive. The kind of life God sent us is what Jesus gives and it lasts forever. God wants us to live forever with him, the result of "eating" (believing and obeying) Jesus.	Does "feeding on Jesus" help me now, in this life? How? What is the eternal result of "feeding" on Jesus? Am I hoarding this "bread" or sharing it with others?
John 6:59	St. John, the author of this book, has been telling all of this because it is what Jesus said.	How important is it that Jesus said it and it's not just what someone else thinks about Jesus or has experienced?

Day 67 Read John 6:57-59



Day 68 Read John 6:60-65

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:60	Many of the people following Jesus did not understand or refused to accept that they needed to "eat" and "drink" of Jesus. They evidently had trouble accepting that he came from heaven. They rejected the truth that Jesus is something even better and more eternal than the manna their ancestors had eaten in the wilderness.	If I am willing to accept Jesus' deity (that he is God), does it help me understand what Jesus is saying?
John 6:61	Jesus evidently knew what was in people's hearts and minds. He seemed to always address the issues directly.	Would people today who do not accept Jesus' deity, be willing to "eat" and "drink" of him?
John 6:62	They would not believe that Jesus was from heaven. Would their unbelief go so far as to cause them to deny that Jesus would return to the Father if they saw it with their own eyes? In Matthew 22:44, Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1 as a prophecy that referred to him. According to Scripture, that is where Jesus is today.	Do I know people who reject Christ's deity and refuse to believe that he is seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father?
John 6:63	They evidently were not able to set aside their earthly physical desires long enough to see their eternal spiritual needs.	How can I shift my focus, and help others shift their focus to the spiritual world and the question of their eternal destination?

Day 68 Read John 6:60-65

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:64	Jesus was not surprised when Judas Iscariot betrayed him. Jesus knew that was the way it had to be in order to fulfill Scripture, so he allowed Judas to pretend to be his follower and even to have charge of the group's money though he would misuse it for his own gain. (John 12:4-6)	If I knew someone was going to sell me to death at the hand of my enemies, what would I do? Would I be willing to work with this person to fulfill God's purposes?
John 6:65	God is sovereign (has all authority and power over all that happens, is supreme over all people and events). Jesus' life and death were part of God's plan. Perhaps acceptance of God's sovereignty enables our belief and faith in God.	Do I accept that God is sovereign? Do I allow the truth of God's sovereignty to enable me to believe in him and place my faith in him, to trust God with my life?

What would I like to say to Jesus?	What would I like to say to Jesus?			

Day 69 Read John 6:66-71

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:66	Many who looked like followers of Jesus really had other priorities than Jesus and his Heavenly Father.	Is it possible that some who today say they are followers of Jesus really have different priorities than following Jesus and receiving eternal life provided by God?
John 6:67	The Father had given Jesus these twelve to build the church to carry on when Jesus returned to heaven.	Can I commit to continuing with Jesus and having eternal priorities?
John 6:68	Peter understood the heart of God reflected in Jesus' concern for our eternal being. Peter believed that Jesus was the only way to the Father and to eternal life.	Am I willing to stake my life on the truth that only Jesus' words bring eternal life?
John 6:69	The twelve apostles were convinced that Jesus is God's Son. He is holy. God made it clear that he claimed Jesus as his Son.	How do people treat those they think are really holy people? Do people treat Jesus that way? Do I?

Day 69 Read John 6:66-71

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 6:70a	Jesus called the twelve to leave everything and follow him. He chose them because God had given them to him.	Is there something I believe God is calling me to give up in order to follow Jesus more fully? Does it fit with God's heart of love and concern for others?
John 6:70b-71	Judas would allow Satan to use him to betray and kill Jesus. Many of the religious people of Jesus' time who claimed to be children of God were deaf to Jesus' claims because their hearts were so far from God. (John 8:42-47)	How do God's heart amd desires for us contrast with Satan's desires for us?

What would I like to say to Jesus?					