

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 11

Days 121 - 134

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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.

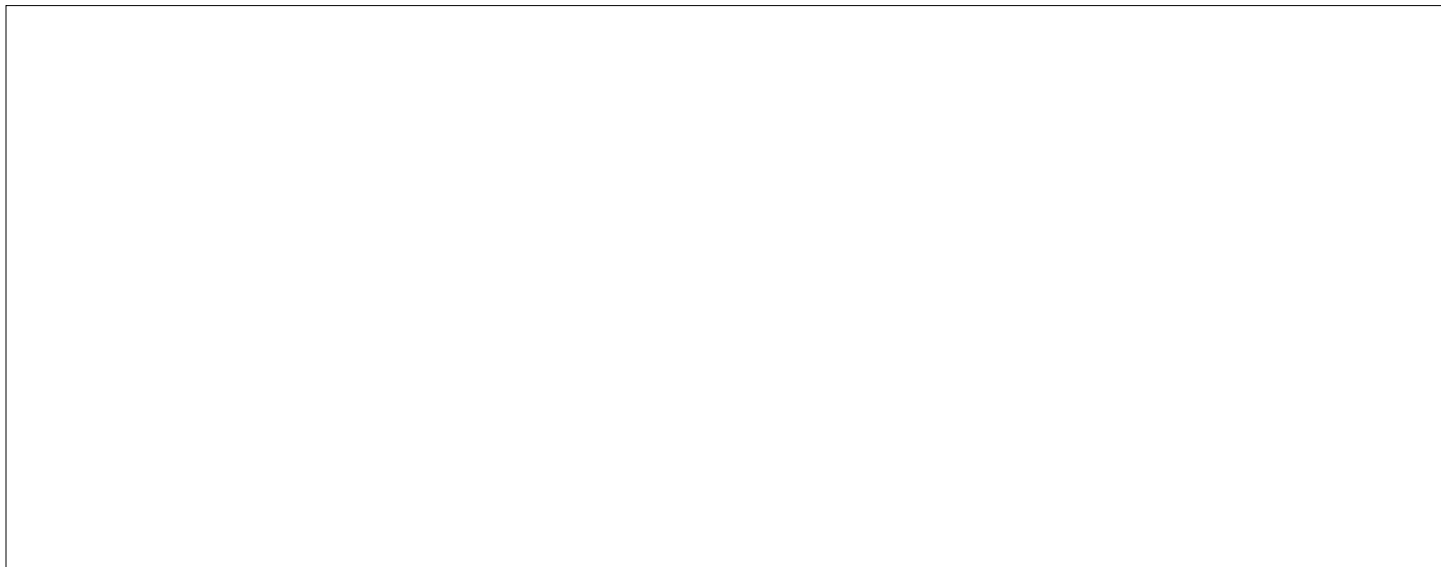
To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important 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 11:1</p>	<p>Illness is a part of being human. These three siblings all lived in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem, and they knew Jesus well.</p>	<p>Do I know someone who loves Jesus and is sick right now?</p>
<p>John 11:2</p>	<p>These three siblings recognized Jesus as their Messiah, and showed him honor and respect out of deep love and gratitude. They cared for him in response to his shepherd care of them. Mary has become famous because of how she treated Jesus.</p>	<p>How have I shown honor, love, and respect to Jesus, the great Messiah, for his shepherd care for me and others?</p>
<p>John 11:3</p>	<p>They knew that if one of them was sick, Jesus would want to know. They knew that Jesus could help their brother who was so sick, and that he would.</p>	<p>Have I asked Jesus to come and help one who is sick and needing him right now?</p>

Day 121 **Read John 11:1-3**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:4</p>	<p>Jesus already intended to raise Lazarus, who may have been dead by the time this message got to Jesus. Lazarus had been entombed for four days when Jesus did return (John 11:17, 39), but Jesus knew from the beginning that it would end in resurrection and praise to God.</p> <p>Events that seem shattering to us are not beyond God's knowing, control, and healing. God is in control of the final outcome, and it is for good in spite of how it may look to us along the way.</p> <p>When God is glorified, Jesus is glorified.</p>	<p>What prayer has God delayed in answering?</p> <p>Have I asked God to reveal his plan or insisted on my own?</p> <p>Am I able to pray that Jesus Christ will be glorified?</p>
<p>John 11:5</p>	<p>Jesus loved them, but waited on the Father's direction.</p> <p>Jesus loves us, but works greater blessings in our lives than we can imagine.</p>	<p>What causes me to doubt Jesus' love?</p> <p>What assures me of his love?</p>
<p>John 11:6</p>	<p>God's delaying is not a result of not loving us. When Jesus delays his coming to us, it is so that he may work a greater blessing. We would rather have the answers to our prayers, our way, right now, but God sometimes has other plans. We need to trust him through the hard times and wait for his glory to be revealed.</p>	<p>How can I see God in my present circumstances, when he delays in answering my prayer?</p>

Day 122 **Read John 11:4-6**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:7</p>	<p>Jesus intended to go and raise Lazarus from the dead, even though his disciples did not know that Lazarus had died.</p>	<p>How do I know Jesus' intentions toward me are good?</p>
<p>John 11:8</p>	<p>From the human perspective, it would be best to avoid returning to the area of Jerusalem where there were so many who rejected Jesus.</p>	<p>How does God's perspective differ from my practical, human perspective?</p>
<p>John 11:9</p>	<p>Jesus was not intent on preserving his own life, but doing the will of the Father.</p>	<p>What good work is God asking me to do, to bring glory to Jesus and thus to God?</p> <p>Am I sure it is God's direction? Does it fit with God's light and love?</p> <p>Am I fearful?</p>

Day 123

Read John 11:7-10

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 11:10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	Those whose deeds require the cover of darkness are the ones who have difficulties.	How can I entrust myself to God's care and not stumble in darkness? <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:11</p>	<p>Jesus clearly knew that Lazarus was dead and that he would raise him from the dead. He told his great plan to his followers.</p>	<p>What situation in my life today does Jesus know more about than I?</p>
<p>John 11:12</p>	<p>We sometimes misunderstand and underestimate God's willingness to reveal himself and his greatness by his actions in our circumstances.</p>	<p>What situation am I currently seeing from a limited, earthly perspective and leaving God's power out?</p>
<p>John 11:13</p>	<p>The situation is much worse than we think, but God is much greater than we think!</p>	<p>What situation do I think will improve from a human perspective, but God may need to resurrect today?</p>
<p>John 11:14</p>	<p>Sometimes reality is hard for us to accept.</p>	<p>Am I in denial about something today?</p>

Day 124

Read John 11:11-15

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 11:15 	It is for us that God intervenes in life. It is for our trust in Jesus to grow, that God reveals his power.	How can I put my trust in Jesus? Have I asked God for his will to be done?

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:16</p>	<p>Based on the previous reaction of the ruling Jewish authorities in Jerusalem to Jesus, the disciples knew that there was a good chance Jesus would be killed.</p>	<p>Would I be willing to go and die with Jesus?</p>
<p>John 11:17</p>	<p>Lazarus had died some time ago, more than four days before. He was definitely dead. Seemingly nothing could help him now.</p>	<p>Does Jesus have to wait for me to acknowledge that my situation is hopeless, in order for me to give him the credit for the blessings in my life?</p> <p>Is any situation beyond resurrection if Jesus is involved?</p>
<p>John 11:18</p>	<p>This is a place Jesus stayed when he was teaching in Jerusalem. His three friends welcomed him into their home.</p>	<p>Would Jesus feel welcomed in my home? What could I do to make him more welcome in my home and family?</p>
<p>John 11:19</p>	<p>Many of the Jerusalem Jews had come out to mourn Lazarus and comfort his sisters.</p>	<p>Do I spend time with those who need comfort? Who could I offer God's comfort to today?</p>

Day 125 **Read John 11:16-19**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:20</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>We don't know why Mary stayed at home. There are many possible reasons.</p>	<p>What keeps me from meeting Jesus?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 11:21</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Actually, Jesus' physical absence did not limit his power or God's will, nor does it today.</p>	<p>How powerful do I think the name of Jesus is today?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 11:22</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Martha expressed complete faith in Jesus' power.</p>	<p>Does God still give what Jesus asks?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 11:23</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus' response was immediate and complete.</p>	<p>Do I accept and am I looking for the answer to my prayer?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>How does my behavior reflect that reality?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>

Day 126

Read John 11:20-24

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:24</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 665" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 183px;"></div>	<p>We may rest assured that our loved ones who die in Jesus will someday be resurrected. If we belong to Jesus, we will someday be resurrected to be with Jesus. (I Thessalonians 4:13-17)</p>	<p>What will it be like to be resurrected at the last day?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 457" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 84px;"></div> <p>Can I rest in such a promise? (I Thessalonians 4:18)</p> <div data-bbox="789 495 1524 674" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 85px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:25</p>	<p>Jesus is Life. Putting our trust in the one who has victory over death means that we will live again.</p>	<p>Can I entrust those whom I love to Jesus' care until the resurrection? (II Corinthians 5:6-8)</p>
<p>John 11:26</p>	<p>When we are resurrected at the end of time, Jesus' followers will never have to experience death again. Jesus raised Lazarus to show that he can and will raise us all when he comes back. Jesus arose from death and so will we if we believe in him. (I Corinthians 15:20-23)</p>	<p>Do I believe that I will live forever with Jesus, in a resurrected body, without fear of death or change?</p>
<p>John 11:27</p>	<p>Martha truly knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and that he was the Son of God. She knew that he had the power and authority to do whatever he chose to do. He even has power and authority over death.</p>	<p>How do I feel about death? What reassurance am I seeking from God about death?</p> <p>What is God saying to me about fearing death? Should I be afraid?</p>

Day 127 **Read John 11:25-27**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:28</p>	<p>Jesus calls us out of our grief and mourning and confinement in this world, to come to him.</p>	<p>Is my perspective today narrowly confined to my present circumstances in this world?</p>
<p>John 11:29</p>	<p>Knowing that Jesus does care about us and wants us to be with him, helps us to accept his care and love.</p>	<p>Do I believe that Jesus cares about me?</p>
<p>John 11:30</p>	<p>Martha went so eagerly to meet Jesus that she met him on his way.</p>	<p>When Jesus calls to me, how quickly and eagerly do I respond?</p>
<p>John 11:31</p>	<p>Mary knew that she needed to talk to Jesus. Other people may not understand devotion to Jesus because they may not know him and have not experienced his shepherd care for them.</p>	<p>Where and when do I meet with Jesus?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:33</p>	<p>Jesus is moved and troubled by our grief.</p>	<p>What grieves or concerns me right now?</p> <p>Does Jesus know about it?</p>
<p>John 11:34</p>	<p>Jesus immediately responded with a question related to their faith in him. Jesus could have raised Lazarus from any distance and probably knew where his tomb was, but their response may indicate their faith in Jesus.</p>	<p>Do I believe Jesus can bring good out of my current situation, even if it looks like it's too late?</p>
<p>John 11:35</p>	<p>Perhaps Jesus was greatly moved by the displays of faith. Or, perhaps he was moved by the lack of understanding and lack of faith he saw in some hearts.</p>	<p>Why does what I believe matter? Does what I say to Jesus matter?</p>
<p>John 11:36</p>	<p>It was true that Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, but the other truth was that these three siblings believed Jesus. They were about to see the power of God.</p>	<p>What would the power of God look like in my current situation?</p>

Day 129 **Read John 11:33-36**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:37</p>	<p>Some were willing to believe that Jesus could have prevented Lazarus' death.</p>	<p>What could God prevent in my life?</p>
<p>John 11:38</p>	<p>Jesus was moved by their grief and by expressions of faith, limited and accusatory as they were.</p>	<p>What have I blamed God for not preventing?</p>
<p>John 11:39</p>	<p>Jesus knew what to do to accomplish Lazarus' resurrection, but our understanding is bound by the laws of this world.</p>	<p>Is there a way out of my limited understanding of the situation?</p>
<p>John 11:40</p>	<p>Sometimes we are not even able to comprehend what true belief implies. The glory of God is beyond our human experience.</p>	<p>Can I ask God to reveal his glory to me?</p>

Day 130 ***Read John 11:37-40***

What do I want to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:41</p>	<p>Jesus thanked the Father for already hearing his request.</p>	<p>What prayer have I prayed that I can thank God for already hearing?</p>
<p>John 11:42</p>	<p>Jesus knew that our hard hearts need to be shown his Sonship and power. Sometimes we need to speak out loud the prayers of our hearts so that others may know that the answer comes from God.</p>	<p>To whom am I asking Jesus to reveal himself?</p> <p>Have I voiced my prayer? Can I?</p>
<p>John 11:43</p>	<p>Jesus commanded Lazarus to come back from death into life.</p>	<p>When in my life have I experienced Jesus' command to come back to life, spiritually?</p> <p>Who else in my life needs to experience Jesus' command to come back to life spiritually, to be made alive toward God?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:44</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 701"></div>	<p>When Jesus gives life, nothing can withhold the life he gives and there is no room for death. Those who are alive in Christ need not carry the trappings of death. (John 5:24)</p>	<p>Am I holding onto the death from which Jesus has delivered me?</p> <div data-bbox="792 310 1510 701"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:45</p>	<p>Jesus knew that many would believe through this miracle.</p>	<p>Can I trust Jesus to accomplish what is good in his wisdom?</p>
<p>John 11:46</p>	<p>Those who reject Jesus often act out in opposition to Jesus.</p>	<p>Who among my acquaintances or in the world is currently either experiencing or causing opposition to Jesus?</p>
<p>John 11:47</p>	<p>Unbelief is not necessarily due to lack of evidence that Jesus is Who he says he is. Some who see miracles are still opposed to Jesus.</p>	<p>Are people around me denying Jesus even though they have seen miracles in his name?</p>

Day 132

Read John 11:45-48

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 11:48 <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	In this case, unbelief was related to retaining personal position, power, and gain.	Are those around me resisting Jesus because of the “threat” to their own power? Am I? <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:49</p>	<p>Caiaphas totally rejected the possibility of the nation of Israel following Jesus.</p>	<p>What causes the rejection of Jesus, by any group, that I see today?</p>
<p>John 11:50</p>	<p>Caiaphas' final and total rejection of Jesus meant that he needed to be rid of Jesus, which led him to seek Jesus' destruction. Jesus was still willing to give his life for the people in obedience to his Heavenly Father.</p>	<p>How do I react to those who violently oppose Jesus? Am I greater than my teacher, Jesus? (Matthew 5:39)</p>
<p>John 11:51</p>	<p>God loves the Jewish people so much that he intended for Jesus to give his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the Jewish nation...</p>	<p>Why is the gospel "good news" for Jewish people?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:52</p>	<p>and for the sins of all peoples. God's plan was to provide one way for forgiveness and salvation for all nations. The body of Christ is now all people of all nations who are forgiven and brought back into relationship with God and with one another. Since the fall in the Garden of Eden and the scattering of all people because of the Tower of Babel, we have been dispersed because of our great potential to sin. In Christ we are united because of our great potential for godliness.</p>	<p>Is the body of Christ living up to its potential?</p> <p>Am I living up to my potential? What would greater godliness look like in my life?</p>

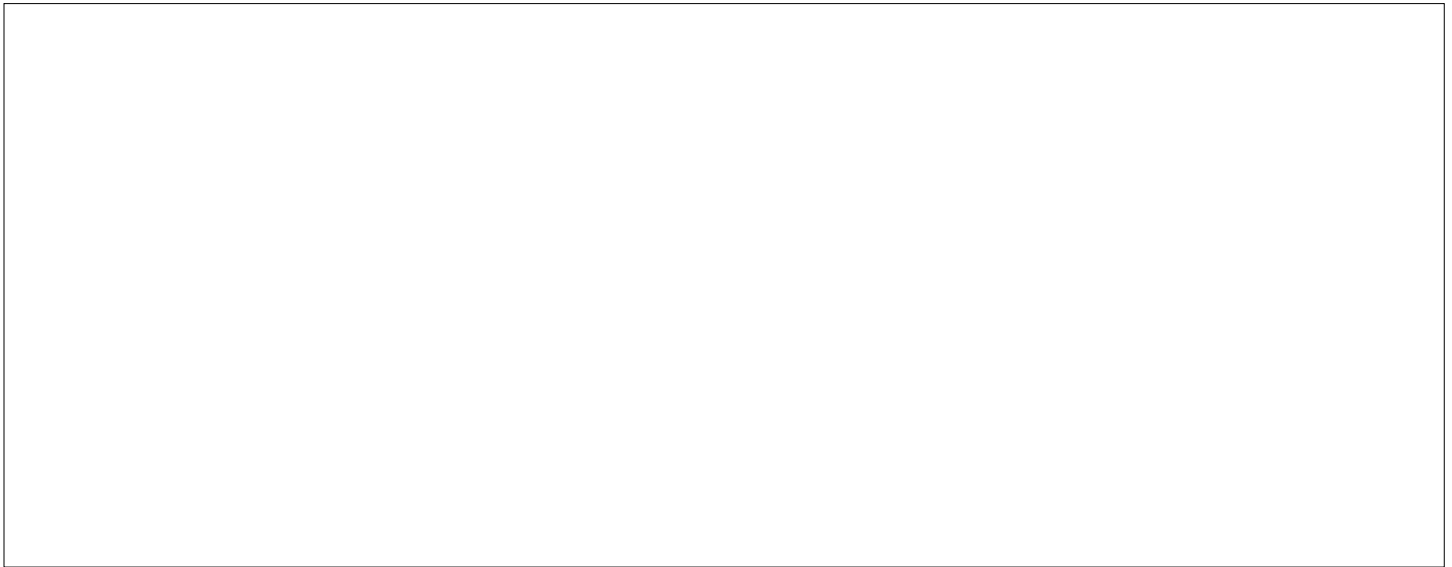
What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:53</p>	<p>Once the decision was made that it was better to be rid of Jesus than to have him drawing people after him, the next step logically was murder.</p>	<p>Is there anger or malice in my heart toward anyone? (Matthew 5:21-24) What should I do about it? Here is my plan to be reconciled in a way that blesses that person rather than harms that person:</p> <p>Is there anger in my heart toward God? What should I do about it?</p> <p>Am I surprised by the anger or malice others have?</p>
<p>John 11:54</p>	<p>Jesus' time was not yet completed on earth. Sometimes it is appropriate to withdraw.</p>	<p>Is there a situation from which I need to withdraw?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 11:55</p>	<p>When it was time for the observance of Passover...</p>	<p>What do people see me doing habitually?</p>
<p>John 11:56</p>	<p>the people knew that Jesus would normally be there.</p>	<p>Where do people normally expect me to be?</p>
<p>John 11:57</p>	<p>God's purposes are completed in his time and in his way even when it looks as though evil triumphs.</p>	<p>Am I afraid? What do I fear?</p> <p>To whom should I take that fear?</p>

Day 134 **Read John 11:53-57**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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