

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 20

Days 218 - 226

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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 20:1</p>	<p>Events recorded in Matthew 27:62 - 28:15 reveal that the chief priests and Pharisees asked for security at the tomb to prevent any false claims of Jesus rising after three days, as he had said he would. In spite of all of their efforts, the tomb was standing wide open at the earliest possible time on Sunday morning, the third day after his death!</p>	<p>Later, the disciples remembered and recorded in Matthew 16:21, Mark 10:34, and John 2:19 that Jesus said he would rise on the third day. How did Jesus' trust in his Heavenly Father and knowledge of Old Testament Scriptures help him endure the cross?</p>
<p>John 20:2</p>	<p>Mary Magdalene mistakenly thought the authorities had taken Jesus' body away.</p>	<p>Does my devotion to Jesus make me infallible (incapable of being wrong)? Are any other Christians infallible?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:3</p>	<p>Peter and John, the author of this book, went to see. They did not know that Jesus was alive. They did not believe he had risen because they did not accept his earlier statements saying that he would rise from the dead! (We will see tomorrow in verse 9 that the reason was they didn't understand and believe the Scriptures that prophesied the resurrection.)</p>	<p>Put yourself in the place of not knowing that Jesus rose from the dead. Try to imagine believing that the authorities were not satisfied with Jesus' death but have now taken away or desecrated the body. How would you feel?</p>
<p>John 20:4</p>	<p>John, who wrote this account, got there first.</p>	<p>Why do I think John outran Peter?</p> <p>Do I have trouble believing any of Jesus' statements, promises, or commandments? Which ones?</p>

Day 218 ***Read John 20:1-4***

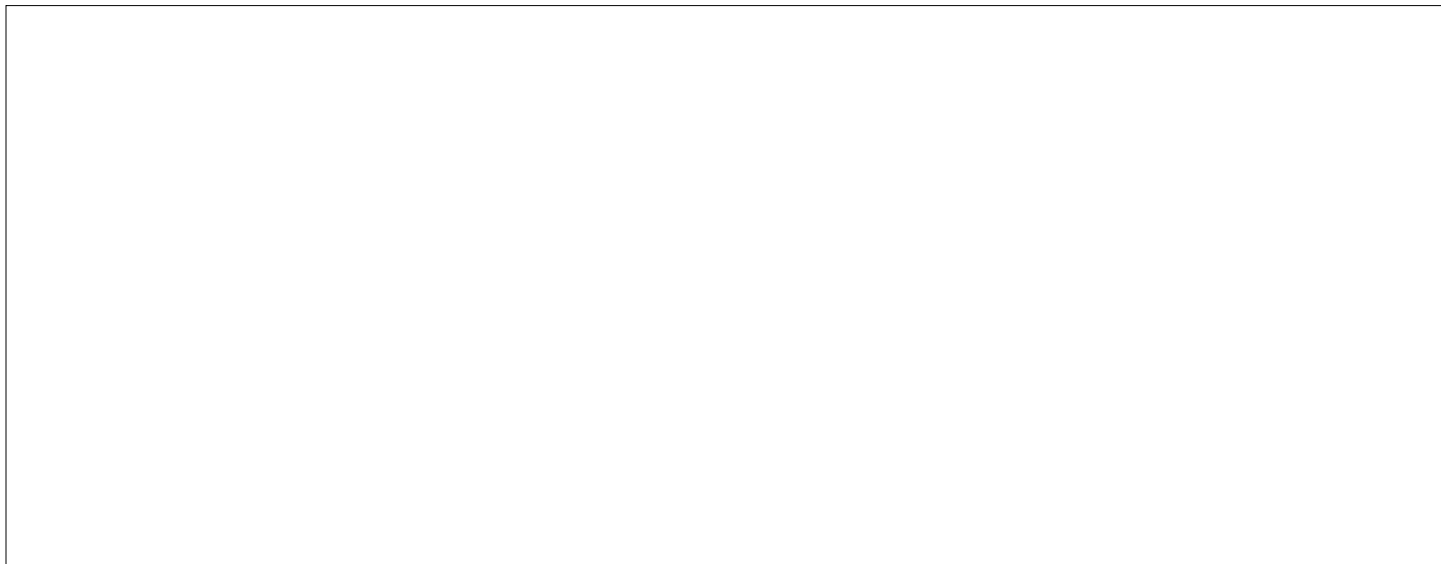
What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:5</p>	<p>John did not go into the tomb.</p>	<p>What would keep John, or me, from going in?</p>
<p>John 20:6</p>	<p>Peter went into the tomb first.</p>	<p>What compelled Peter, or might compel me, to go in?</p>
<p>John 20:7</p>	<p>Peter actually entered the tomb and saw that the head cloth was folded and laid aside, and that the linen strips were lying there.</p>	<p>What is the evidence that causes me to believe in Jesus' resurrection?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:8</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>John went inside, saw the evidence, and knew and believed that Jesus had risen from the dead even though he didn't understand before that it was going to happen.</p>	<p>What evidence might help others believe?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 20:9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 250px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus' enemies remembered that he had said he would rise on the third day, but the disciples didn't accept that it would happen! They did not understand Scripture such as Psalm 16:9-11, written a thousand years earlier by King David. Later, Peter understood and quoted Psalm 16 as proof that the Messiah had to die and be raised from the dead! (Acts 2:22-33)</p>	<p>What do I think Hosea 6:1-2 meant at the time it was written approximately 750 years before the crucifixion?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>What do I know it means prophetically, now?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

Day 219 ***Read John 20:5-9***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>They didn't know what to think, so they left.</p>	<p>Do I leave before God brings understanding and blessing?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 20:11</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Mary Magdalene didn't know what to think, but she stayed.</p>	<p>Does my devotion to Christ cause me to remain, seeking him?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 20:12</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>God sent ministering angels to help Mary in her grief.</p>	<p>Am I looking for God's provision, comfort, and explanations in life? Why or why not?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:13</p>	<p>Mary's devotion to Jesus caused her great grief. Christ's great forgiveness had resulted in a great love for him.</p>	<p>How great is my love and devotion to Jesus?</p> <p>What are the obedience indicators in my life?</p>
<p>John 20:14</p>	<p>Jesus comes to those who mourn and grieve, to those who need him, to those who love him.</p>	<p>Am I looking for Jesus to come when I need him?</p>

Day 220 ***Read John 20:10-14***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:15</p>	<p>Mary was not looking at Jesus. Even though she was looking for him, she was not expecting him, so she wasn't looking at him. It is harder to recognize his voice if we are not looking at Jesus.</p>	<p>Am I looking at Jesus today?</p> <p>Am I expecting to hear and see him in my life today?</p>
<p>John 20:16</p>	<p>When Jesus says our names, we know his voice. When he has our attention, we turn to him and see him. Mary's relationship to Jesus was that of a student.</p>	<p>Does Jesus have my attention today?</p> <p>Do I think of Jesus as my teacher?</p> <p>Am I expecting to learn something from Jesus, my teacher, today? What am I expecting to learn?</p>

Day 221 ***Read John 20:15-16***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:17</p>	<p>Jesus had died, then rose to life again that very morning, but had not ascended up to the Father yet. He would soon go. Ultimately, he would not be able to remain with them, but he needed to bestow the Holy Spirit to take his place with them when he ascended to sit at the Father's right hand.</p>	<p>How can we "hold on to" Jesus through the holy spirit?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:18</p> <div data-bbox="100 279 428 1180"></div>	<p>Mary knew that Jesus was alive again because she had seen him. John believed it from seeing the empty tomb, but none of the other disciples had seen him yet. Mary told them Jesus was alive and gave them his message.</p>	<p>How is it a blessing to believe even though we haven't seen Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 558"></div> <p>Can I go out, taking the words of the Lord Jesus to others, even though they haven't seen him?</p> <div data-bbox="789 625 1524 873"></div> <p>What is my responsibility toward those who have not believed or seen Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="789 940 1524 1188"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:19</p>	<p>The disciples were afraid of the earthly powers that arrested Jesus and put him on the cross. Jesus' answer to them the very day of his resurrection was "Peace."</p>	<p>Of what am I afraid today?</p> <p>If Jesus' message to me is "Peace", how do I appropriate it? How can I really have peace today?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:20</p>	<p>Jesus overcame all human weakness and sin, all earthly powers, and all ungodly spiritual powers. He overcame death. His wounds showed the disciples that it really was true. To truly be with Jesus when they thought that would never happen again, caused them great joy.</p>	<p>How does knowing that Jesus has all authority and power bring me peace?</p> <p>Does being with Jesus bring me joy? Why?</p> <p>Putting our faith in Jesus means the fact of Jesus' resurrection secures and ensures our own physical resurrection after we die. Life after our own resurrection will be amazing and glorious and without sin! How does this truth affect my fears and my joy today? (Isaiah 26:19)</p>

Day 223 ***Read John 20:19-20***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:21</p>	<p>Jesus repeated his message of peace. The mission given to Jesus' followers is similar to Jesus' mission from the Father.</p>	<p>Why is receiving Jesus' peace necessary in order for us to receive and carry out his mission of taking salvation to the world?</p>
<p>John 20:22</p>	<p>The Holy Spirit is essential to our peace and our ability to carry out our intended mission from Jesus.</p>	<p>What is the source of personal peace?</p> <p>Where do we go for direction and strength for the mission Jesus has entrusted to us?</p>

Day 224

Read John 20:21-23

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:23</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 837"></div>	<p>The Holy Spirit and our mission are related to our extending forgiveness and grace to others.</p>	<p>How is forgiveness related to my ability to carry out the mission of God that Jesus has entrusted to me?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 837"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:24</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 760"></div>	<p>Thomas was not present with other followers of Jesus. He missed the first appearance of Jesus to them.</p>	<p>What am I missing out by not being with other followers of Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="792 310 1523 760"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:25</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1423"></div>	<p>Thomas did not believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. He did not understand the Scriptures, remember Jesus' words, or believe the other disciples.</p>	<p>What were my reasons for not being with other believers when I have opted out in the past?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 764"></div> <p>Have I ever had a hard time believing any of the account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? Have I "seen" Jesus in the Gospel of John?</p> <div data-bbox="789 865 1524 1423"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:26</p>	<p>Thomas continued for a whole week in unbelief, but he was with the other disciples and did not miss out this time.</p> <p>Jesus, in his resurrected body, was able to come and go as he pleased, not as a ghost, but not as we exist restrained by matter.</p> <p>Jesus blessed them with God's peace again.</p>	<p>When have I been blessed, with other followers of Jesus, by Jesus presence through the Holy Spirit?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:27</p>	<p>Jesus knew what Thomas had said and thought. One of Jesus' purposes in coming to them was to help Thomas believe. Whatever Jesus' resurrected body was like, it was possible to see and touch Jesus' wounds from the crucifixion.</p>	<p>Do I have weaknesses that impede my belief? If Jesus knew Thomas' weaknesses, does Jesus know my weaknesses?</p> <p>What are Jesus' intentions toward me?</p> <p>What did Jesus say to Thomas and is saying to me?</p>
<p>John 20:28</p>	<p>Jesus' appearance was sufficient for Thomas to believe that: It was Jesus. Jesus had died, but was alive again. Jesus was the Messiah and his Master. Jesus was God himself.</p>	<p>What am I able to believe about Jesus?</p>

Day 225 **Read John 20:24-28**

What is my response to Jesus?

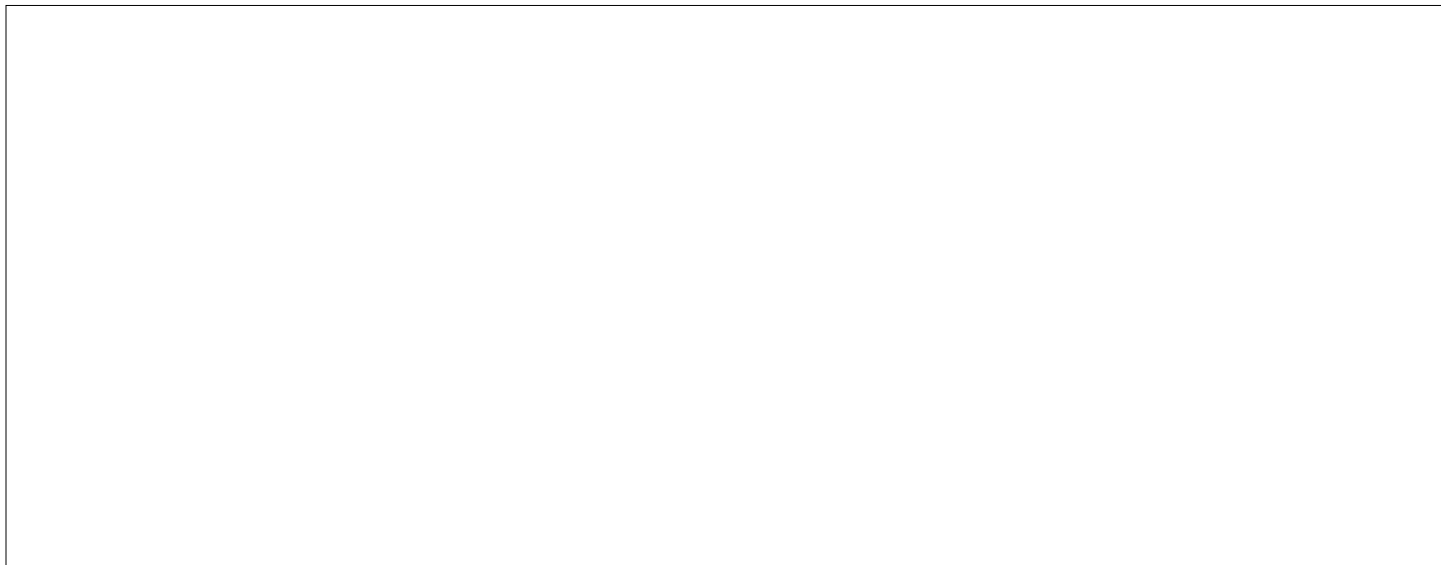
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:29</p>	<p>Jesus told Thomas that we are blessed, we who have not seen Jesus with our eyes but believe that he is the crucified Messiah, the Son of God and Son of Man, alive again.</p> <p>Jesus said he would rise on the third day and he did. (Review Isaiah 53:10-12; Psalm 16:9-11)</p>	<p>How important is Jesus' resurrection? (Romans 1:1-4; John 11:25)</p> <p>What difference does the resurrection make in my life? (Romans 6)</p> <p>What difference does the resurrection make in my death (I Corinthians 15:20-23)?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 20:30</p>	<p>John could have written volumes about Jesus life and death and resurrection. He and his friends saw and heard it all.</p>	<p>How important is it that this book in the Bible is a primary source written by an eyewitness?</p> <p>Based on what I have read in this book of John, what kinds of things was Jesus busy doing and saying? Why did he do them?</p>
<p>John 20:31</p>	<p>John's purpose in writing down the things he put in this book are to help us know that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. If we believe what he and others recorded about these events, we gain life. It is in the name of Jesus that God gives life forever.</p>	<p>What have I gained from reading John's account of Jesus?</p>

Day 226

Read John 20:29-31

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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