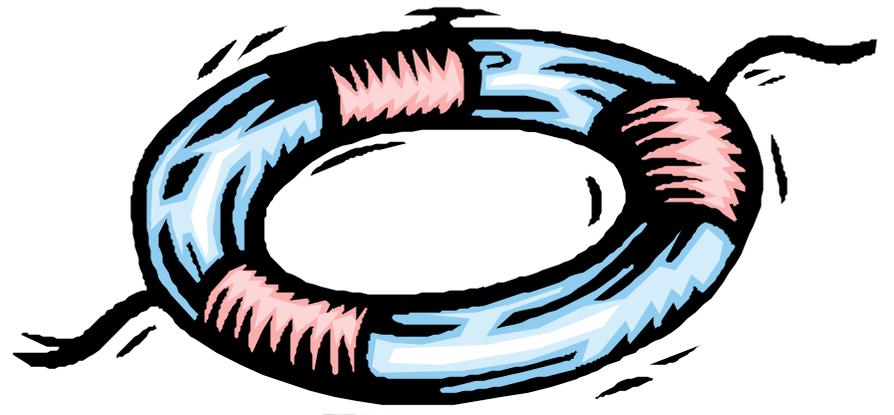


# Know Jesus Know Life



Central Productions

learning about what Jesus did  
7 Studies in John's Gospel  
John 5-11



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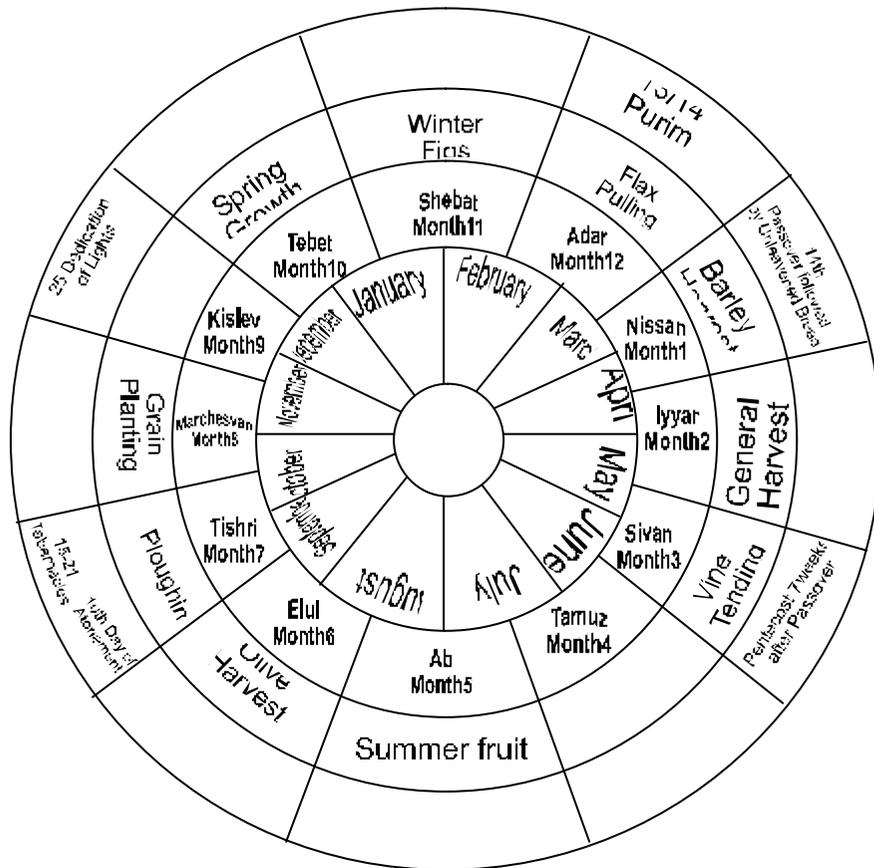
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# Calendar

## Prayer Points



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# John 5

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Jesus in this next large section seems to time his actions around the 'feasts of the Jews'

Jesus is moving back into dangerous territory previously he had exited Judea by the quickest route possible because of the interest of the Jews but now he is moving back. What should we expect?

1. Why would Jesus ask the lame man if he wanted to get well?
2. What were the blind, lame and paralysed waiting for?
3. What did the lame man expect would happen if he got in the water first? v7
4. How does Jesus' word/action operate as a response to the lame man's answer? v8
5. What is highlighted in the description of Jesus' healing? v9

## **Feasts**

The feasts were times of celebration. At the feasts the Jews acknowledged God as his Provider but recorded the Lord's unbounded and free favour to a chosen people whom he delivered.

## **Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover**

was established to commemorate the historical deliverance from Egypt

## **Feast of Tabernacles (Booths)**

remembers the time when the people wandered and dwelt in booths in the wilderness, the desert after the Exodus.

## **Feast of Dedication**

originally celebrated the winter solstice, but later commemorated the cleansing of the Temple

## **Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost)**

marks the end of the barley harvest. It was a celebration and thanksgiving of a redeemed people whom God had been delivered from Egypt and given them provisions by way of the grain harvest.

## Prayer Points

6. What questions does it raise?
7. What is significant about the timing of the miracle? v9
8. What did 'the Jews' accuse the 'no longer lame man' of doing? v10
9. What person was given this law in Exodus?
10. What is surprising about 'the Jews' next question? v12
11. What is shocking about the man's answer to 'the Jew's' accusation about breaking the Sabbath? v11
12. Why would Jesus have slipped away into the crowd?
13. What do you think Jesus is referring to when he says to the man 'stop sinning'? v14
14. What does the man's informing on Jesus tell you about how he responded to Jesus' warning? v15

22. What were the differing responses to the sign?

23. What was the Sanhedrin's concern?

24. What did Caiaphas mean by his prophecy and how did it really work out?

25. Is this a reversal of the spiritual statement with the physical interpretation?

26. Read v54-57 how does it set the scene for what will follow?

### **For Group Discussion**

How do we handle things when God seems tardy in responding?

15. How is this man a classic study of the nature of sin?

The Jews take the issue of breaking the law up with Jesus himself. It's important to recognise that Jesus healing so many people on the Sabbath wasn't because he forgot what day it was - Jesus was actively healing on the Sabbath because it was a demonstration of whom he was and what he was on about.

16. How does Jesus' response to the Sabbath breaking accusations demonstrate this? v17

17. How do you know he was understood? v18

In the following section Jesus defends himself against the charge of being a 'Sabbath breaker' and 'blasphemy'.  
Read v19-30

18. How might Jesus' 'father'/son apprenticeship under Joseph the carpenter, demonstrate a similar set of ideas in these verses in relationship to Jesus and God the Father?

19. What things has the Father shown Jesus and given him the task of doing?

20. How does the resurrection relate to the healing of the lame man and the Sabbath?

In v19-25 Jesus seems to be saying with his coming all that the Jews have longed for has come, judgement and resurrection, and in 26-30 that these hopes will be brought about by him in the future

Read v31-47

21. What is the major theme in this section?
  
22. Does Jesus testify about himself?
  
23. If he did what would happen?
  
24. What witnesses does Jesus have and what weight does he give them?
  
25. On whom did they base their accusation of Jesus as a law-breaker?
  
26. What is the irony in who their accuser is?

### **For Group Discussion**

How can we avoid being like the lame man who was healed?

Why does Jesus introduce the theme of the resurrection in such a prominent way in this section?

15. Do you think Jesus understood what he was about to do?
  
16. So why did he weep?
  
17. How limited did the crowd think Jesus was v37?
  
18. Read v38-44 aloud three times and then close your eyes and imagine it. Write down how it impacts you.
  
19. How do we know Lazarus was really dead?
  
20. How is the raising of Lazarus a climax of the plot of John so far?
  
21. What does this sign say about who Jesus is?

8. How might it work in our life?
  
9. Jesus is probably in Perea, (10v40) but tarries two days more before heading back to Judea. Jesus' heading back to Judea raises concerns about his safety, which he dismisses. What reason does Jesus give for returning?
  
10. The disciples response is a familiar pattern in John, describe it.
  
11. Verses 17-19 paint the scene very well– put it in your own words.
  
12. In the interaction between Jesus and Martha v21-27 do you think she displays insight into who Jesus is and what he is on about? How?
  
13. Do you think she understood really?
  
14. What is Jesus' response to Mary's questioning plea?

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# John 6

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We need constantly to avoid the mistake of reading the New Testament as if there was no Old Testament. Because as Jesus reveals his identity he is constantly drawing on ideas and themes of the story of God's people in the past. It is only as we understand his actions as the intentional employment of images of God's actions in Israel's past that we will understand the significance of what he is saying in the gospels and then move to what it means for us.

1. When and where does this action take place?
  
2. Where do these ideas congregate in the Old Testament stories?
  
3. Read v5-6. What do you think Jesus was testing the disciples about?
  
4. How was Philip approaching the problem? v7
  
5. How much could the people be given even with large resources of eight months of wages? v7

6. How is Andrew's response different and yet the same to that of Philip's?
  
7. There is no doubt that the mention of the 'grass' in verse 10 could be an indication that this is an eye witness account but it may also be a key to what is going on here. Where else in the Bible does it mention green grass or green pastures?
  
8. How might Psalm 23 help us understand this account of Jesus' ministry?
  
9. What did Jesus do?
  
10. How do we know that Jesus provided more than the disciples were able to ask or imagine? v12-13
  
11. What might the 12 baskets symbolise?
  
12. How did 'the people' respond to this astounding sign?
  
13. Why?

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# John 11

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1. Find where Bethany is on a map in a bible atlas if you have one.
  
2. Why would John mention something here, which is going to happen later v2?
  
3. John's introduction of Martha and Mary almost assumes we know them. How might this be so?
  
4. What did Martha and Mary expect would happen once the message had been sent?
  
5. How is Lazarus described v3?
  
6. How is Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus' sickness parallel his answer to the disciples' question in 9v2?
  
7. How does v5 work in the context?

10. Why is Jesus so elusive? Look back and note how many times he escapes their attempts to get him.

### **For Group Discussion**

Who are the other sheep mentioned in v16?

14. Why did Jesus withdraw?

15. What didn't they understand?

16. Read verse 16-21. What similar ideas does this passage have with the first Passover as well as Psalm 23?

17. From this action who is Jesus saying he is?

Emperor Tiberius A.D.14 to 37. Herod the Great owed his kingship to Rome and its Emperors. One way of flattering the imperial ego was to build temples to the Emperors. This would not have been a popular move in Galilee so the next best thing was to name something after him – like a lake or a town.

The crowd realises that Jesus has slipped through their 'net' despite their watchfulness and begins a search of the area v22-24.

18. The people find Jesus on the other side of the lake and ask, "When did he get there?" Jesus' response seems a little disconnected from the question but we have seen in a number of other places where Jesus deals with the real problem rather than the presenting one. Where else has questions raised by others been answered in this way?

19. With Nicodemus and the Woman of Samaria, Jesus turns the conversation to who he is and what he is on about. How do verses 26-29 follow the same pattern?

20. What is strange about the request the crowd makes in verses 30-32?

21. By what steps does Jesus lead the crowd to the disclosure of his identity v32-35?

22. How do the crowd respond to the call to do the work of God v36?

23. In verses 37-40, how does Jesus describe his mission?

24. In John's gospel knowing Jesus' true origin is essential in believing him and acknowledging his authority. How do the Jews dismiss the claim of Jesus that he came down from heaven?

25. What significance might there be in the multiple use of the word 'grumble'?

Verses 43-51 form a very tight piece of argument. Jesus implies that their unwillingness to believe is because the Father has not drawn them. If the Father drew them they

5. What light does the Ezekiel passage shed on the situation Jesus is in?

6. In v19 we are told that the 'Jews were again divided' flip back and see how many times this has been mentioned. What does it say about Jesus' ministry?

7. What is the Feast of Dedication?

8. What does Jesus attribute the Jews' inability to believe that he is the Christ v26-29?

9. As Jesus become clearer in his self-revelation the opposition becomes more strident and murderous. How does Jesus defend his claim to be 'one' with the Father?

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# John 10

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As background to this weeks study read Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34.

1. Why should the Jews have understood the figure of speech v1-6 that Jesus was using?
2. What relationship does it bear to chapter 9?
3. Verses 7-18 therefore become an explanation of v1-6. What is Jesus saying about who he is and what he is going to do?
4. Who are to be identified as the negative characters in the parable?

would trust Jesus his sent one. Knowing and believing in God's sent one is a matter of eternal life and resurrection. The bread in the previous Exodus didn't bring life they died. But if anyone eats the true bread – Jesus they will live forever.

26. What is eating Jesus flesh and blood a metaphor for?
27. How do the disciples – a larger group than the twelve – respond to this teaching v60?
28. How does Jesus respond – does he ease off and soften his stance?
29. How do the disciples respond?
30. Why would Jesus do this?
31. How does Peter's response show us how identity and duty are interdependent?

32. If you were reading John's gospel for the first time how would you react to the news that Jesus was going to be betrayed by one of his disciples?

### **For Group Discussion**

How does this passage show us the danger of not reading the Old Testament?

How does this study show us the unhelpfulness of not keeping the person and work of Jesus Christ together?

14. In v27 onwards the man born blind becomes a scathing critique of the unwillingness of the authorities to believe and an advocate for Jesus. How?
15. Given Jesus' statement in 9v3 what does the statement by the authorities in v34 demonstrate?
15. Jesus is obviously behind the scenes watching those he has dealt with (v35) he comes to the man born blind and makes the challenge to believe. How does the man demonstrate an extra ordinary degree of insight into who Jesus is?
16. What do you think 'worship' means in this context?
17. How does Jesus summary of his ministry fit this story so well?

### **For Group Discussion**

What can we learn about sickness and its relationship to sin?

What does this story teach us about the nature of the signs?

7. When we compare the lame man with the blind man what does the blind man know that the lame man doesn't?
8. In what way is the man's answer in v12 reminiscent of one of the major themes in John's gospel?
9. What occupies the Pharisees attention concerning the sign v16?
10. What conclusion do the Pharisees draw from this miraculous sign about Jesus' place of origin v16?
11. In all of this we will see a process of coming to know who Jesus is on behalf of the blind man. Who does he think Jesus is when asked by the Pharisees v17?
12. Read v18-23 in what ways is this an indication of the mounting animosity between Jesus and the authorities?
13. What is brilliant about the 'blind' man's answer to the Pharisees' editorial comment about Jesus?

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# John 7-8v12

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1. What is the Feast of the Tabernacles about? (Deut 16.13)
2. Jesus has previously moved to Galilee when he has been threatened in Judea, but now there is a level of opposition appearing not only in Galilee but in his own family. What reason do Jesus' brothers give as to why they expect him to go to Jerusalem v3-5?
3. What is 'the world' in John's gospel?
4. How does Jesus respond to his brothers' taunt and what reason(s) does he give?
5. How important is the idea of 'the right time' in John's Gospel?
6. What impact has Jesus made on the 'world' of Jerusalem v10-13?
7. In the middle of the Feast Jesus begins to teach. His teaching provokes questions as to its origin. Where does Jesus' teaching come from v16?

8. The boast and confidence of the Jews in the Law of Moses was empty, why v19?
9. In what way did Jesus raise a man to life?
10. Verse 25-31 is all about origin again. How do these verses show a familiar failure to see properly?
11. What is the irony of v27 that we see because we have read the first few verses of John chapter 1?
12. In what way does Jesus' conversation about the future parallel the difficulties with origin?
13. How do the authorities respond to the people beginning to believe in Jesus v32?
14. Verses 33-36 have the familiar ring of a statement by Jesus about a 'spiritual' reality and a misunderstanding by his readers at a physical level. What does Jesus mean?

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# John 9

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This is one of the best stories in any of the gospels.

1. In chapter 8v12 who did Jesus say he was?
2. Read the whole of chapter 9 and then read chapter 5v1-15 write a list of comparisons and contrasts.
3. Why do the disciples ask this question?
4. What is the significance of Jesus' answer for this man and his parents?
5. When is the night coming that Jesus speaks of in v4?
6. Why would Jesus heal this way v6-7?



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# John 8v13-59

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Inn this section Jesus shifts his attention to the light that he brings.

1. Is the idea of Jesus being the light of the world new to us or have we heard it before? Read chapter 1.
2. The Pharisees pick up on Jesus previous statement about not testifying about himself (John 5 v31) and challenge him about the validity of his testimony. How does Jesus discount their objection?
3. Where Jesus has come from and where he is going is crucial to any understanding of what Jesus is on about. Why?
4. What is the irony within v19-20?
5. In v21-30 Jesus is saying things to the Jewish nation that are incredibly offensive. What are they?

6. What is the 'lifting up' Jesus is talking about?
7. In v31-41 we see that there is a faith that is deficient. How does Jesus expose its weakness?
8. Jesus' origin has been questioned throughout John's Gospel. Now it is Jesus turn to question theirs. How do they display that Abraham is not their father?
9. How do they display that God is not their Father v42?
10. How devastating a critique is v43-47?
11. Being called a Samaritan probably means Jesus was seen to have a stance against the temple. Why could people think that?