



SIMPLY **JESUS**

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GENESIS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

purpose of this guide

SIMPLY JESUS - that is what the Gospel of John is all about. Jesus - who is He? Why did He come? What did He accomplish? And what does that all mean for me and the world I live in?

As we journey through this phenomenal gospel story, we will learn - whether for the first time or afresh - that Jesus is the Bread of Life that feeds us and the Light of the World that guides our steps. He is the Gate we enter through for salvation, and Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads, cares for, and protects. He is the Resurrection and Life - the only way we can know God, both now and forever more. He is the Truth we can trust and the Vine that brings us life to the fullest.

We pray this devotional will be a great blessing. Because when we learn about HE, it transforms ME, so that YOU can see how great HE is.

Each day will be divided into three sections:

1. The "HE" section which gives a truth we can learn about Jesus.
2. The "ME" section that applies that truth to our own lives.
3. The "YOU" section which helps us discover ways we can live out the truths that are changing us.

If you have any questions about this devotional, please contact Pastor of Discipleship, Kendall at Kendall.Lankford@genesisthejourney.com.

#SIMPLYJESUS

WEEK

ONE

january 30

*In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God, and the Word was God.
—John 1:1*

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY God.

ME:

If I want to grow in my relationship with God,
what am I willing to do to grow in Christ?

YOU:

Which people will be most affected when you
grow in Christ?

january 31

He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

–John 1:2-4

HE:

This is SIMPLY Jesus' world.

ME:

If this is Jesus' world, what role am I supposed to play in taking care of it?

YOU:

Are there some places you could serve as a Christian that would show Christ's love for the world and creation?

february 1

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

–John 1:5

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY witnessed.

NOTE: The Gospel is deep, but it doesn't have to be complicated.
Jesus saves. Be a witness.

ME:

Why is that simple message never old news?

YOU:

How might Jesus use you as a witness today?

february 2

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

—John 1:10-13

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY family.

NOTE: The Son came to earth to bring God's children back into His family. In a way, that makes Jesus our true older brother. Jesus is family!

ME:

What kinds of things do families do together?

How is the Church the best kind of family?

YOU:

What does it mean to be in the family of God?

Why should we bring other people into that family?

february 3

John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

–John 1:15

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY greater.

ME:

Why is it better for us that Jesus is greater than us?

YOU:

What things do people often find greater than Jesus?
How might your life convince them otherwise?

WEEK

TWO

february 6

This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah." "Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No," he replied. "Are you the Prophet we are expecting?" "No." "Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?" John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'"
–**John 1:19-23**

HE:

The best answer is SIMPLY Jesus.

ME:

How is your life demonstrating that Jesus is the answer?

YOU:

Who needs to hear your FRESH STORY today?
How might that answer their deepest questions?

february 7

Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"
–John 1:14

HE:

Our ministries derive from SIMPLY Jesus.

NOTE: John had a ministry that looked forward to Jesus and humbly stepped down when Jesus arrived. But at the heart of it all, the only reason he had a ministry was BECAUSE of Jesus. Jesus equipped and authorized John, just like He does for us.

ME:

Where are you called to serve?
How is Jesus at the center of it?

YOU:

What people has Jesus given you the authority to love, care for, and serve? How does your service point them back to Him?

february 8

*John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."
—John 1:26*

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY right in front of us.

NOTE: The greatest man that ever lived was standing right there, and no one even knew it.

ME:

Where do we miss Jesus? What would happen if we started noticing His power and presence more often?

YOU:

Where do your friends, family, and coworkers miss Jesus? How can you help point Him out?

february 9

This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

–John 1:28

HE:

Jesus SIMPLY cares about our space.

NOTE: John includes the location of this event to prove that the event actually happened. He is recording good history and showing us that God cares about the smallest of details.

ME:

What are spaces in your life that God cares about?
How is He meeting you there?

YOU:

How are you inviting other people to experience God in your spaces?

february 10

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel." Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

–John 1:29-34

HE:

The freshest story is SIMPLY Jesus.

NOTE: John excitedly shares his FRESH STORY with others. He had an encounter with God by meeting Jesus, and then happily shares it.

ME:

What FRESH STORIES is Jesus bringing into your life?

YOU:

How might God use me today to be a part of someone else's FRESH STORY?

WEEK THREE

february 13

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.
–John 1:35-37

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY worth following.

ME:

How does getting to know Jesus better make you want to follow Him? If you don't feel this way, what needs to change?

YOU:

How will the way you follow Jesus inspire others want to learn about Him? Who needs to be prayed for?

february 14

Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them. They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

–John 1:38-39

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY worth following.

NOTE: Jesus tests us and questions our motivations to see what we really want.

ME:

Why do you want to follow Jesus?

YOU:

Do you know someone who is wanting or not wanting Jesus for the wrong reasons? How might God use you in their life?

february 15

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").
—John 1:40-42

HE:

Our qualifications are SIMPLY Jesus.

NOTE: Andrew had been waiting for the Messiah for years and was thrilled when He arrived. But even though he had only known Him for a few hours, he still felt qualified to share that good news with the people he cared most about.

ME:

Do you feel qualified?

YOU:

Does that lead you to share Christ with the people you love? How do you intend to grow in this?

february 16

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity." "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!"

—John 1:43-48

HE:

Jesus SIMPLY knows you.

NOTE: Among the things this passages teaches, one thing is that Jesus knew each of us before we knew Him.

ME:

If we are fully known, why do we often try to hide?
What would happen if we remembered He already knows everything about us?

YOU:

The world treats Christians like the "nothing good that comes from Nazareth". What would it take to change their opinion? What part might God be calling me to play?

february 17

*Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."
–John 1:50-51*

HE:

Jesus SIMPLY challenges (but not with simple challenges).

ME:

Why do you believe in Jesus? What about believing in Jesus is still challenging?

YOU:

Why is it good that Jesus challenges us?
Is it appropriate for us to challenge one another?

WEEK

FOUR

february 20

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.

—John 2:1-2

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY relational.

NOTE: Jesus was highly relational - He even attended weddings, parties, and various other celebrations. He was not a wallflower. On many occasions we see Jesus being the very life of the party.

ME:

How is loving Christ like a celebration?

YOU:

To what places are you willing to go in order to pursue others like Christ?

february 21

The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, that's not our [biggest] problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

–John 2:3-5 (emphasis added)

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY focused.

NOTE: Mary was trying to help cover the social embarrassment of running low on wine, but Jesus was trying to get her focused on something bigger! He performed this miraculous sign to point forward to His wedding day, when He would give His blood for the people who had ran out.

ME:

Why is it necessary to be singularly focused on Christ?

Why is this difficult?

YOU:

What benefit will others gain by seeing you live with focus?

february 22

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

—John 2:6-8

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY intentional.

NOTE: Jesus was being intentional. He found ways to best communicate big truths.

What he did:

- Performed the miracle at a wedding
- Used stone jars (used for cleansing people before entering the temple)
- Turned water into wine (mirroring when God turned the water into blood), benefiting the entire wedding party without them doing anything to earn it

What it pointed to:

- His "wedding" is coming where He will make the Church his bride
- His bride won't be washed with water but with His blood
- Jesus' blood gave all the benefits of God's forgiveness to us without us having done anything to earn it

He uses everything (even ordinary things) to point us back to Him.

ME:

What ordinary things has Jesus used to remind you of Him?

YOU:

What ordinary things could you use to point others to Christ?

february 23

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

–John 2:9-10

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY worth savoring.

NOTE: Families would have served enough expensive wine to numb everyone's senses and then serve cheaper wine to save money. Not Jesus. He treats these people to best wine they have ever tasted, even when they could not possibly appreciate it. Much the same is our salvation. Like the finest wine, Jesus must be savored.

ME:

Could it be said that you are savoring Christ?
What habits and rhythms do you have in place
to thoroughly enjoy Him?

YOU:

When others look at your life, what would they
say you savor?

february 24

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him. After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.
–John 2:11-12

HE:

God's glory is SIMPLY Jesus.

NOTE: When Jesus reveals His glory, He honors His Father. When Jesus reveals His glory, people start believing.

ME:

What does it mean to give Jesus glory?

How can you give Jesus glory today?

YOU:

Who are you praying would see Jesus' glory today so that they could begin believing?

WEEK

FIVE

february 26

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple.
–John 2:13-14

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY zealous.

NOTE: Zeal is righteous anger that rises up when God is dishonored.

ME:

When is zeal necessary and right? What kinds of things is it appropriate to get angry about?

YOU:

How might other people interpret zeal?

february 27

He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

–John 2:15-16

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY counter-cultural.

NOTE: When it comes to honoring God, Jesus wasn't politically correct. He was counter-cultural.

ME:

At what points does my life part ways with culture?

YOU:

How might we balance boldness and godliness?

What opportunities are there for you to practice this?

february 28

*Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures:
"Passion for God's house will consume me."
–John 2:17*

HE:

Jesus is SIMPLY passionate.

ME:

What types of things do people do when they are passionate about God's house?

YOU:

Who is someone you could invite to church this week?

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