

# MEET JESUS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Contents

About This Series.....	3
About These Studies.....	3
Meet Jesus with the World – John 1:1-18 .....	4
Meet Jesus with the Religious – John 3:1-21 .....	6
Meet Jesus with the Outsider – John 4:4-42 .....	8
Meet Jesus with the Grieving – John 11:1-45 .....	11
Meet Jesus with the Powerful – John 18:28-19:22.....	14
Meet Jesus with the Sceptics – John 20:1–31 .....	17
Appendix: Conclusion .....	20
Advent – Christmas is coming .....	21
Other Meet Jesus passages in John.....	21
References and Resources .....	22

## About This Series

How do you get to know someone you've never met? Ask their friends! Not only can they tell you about the person, but they can also share stories that bring them to life. As we hear what they say, it's like we were there, meeting them personally ourselves!

In this series we are going to be looking at a book written by a man called John. John worked as a fisherman until Jesus called him to leave his job and follow him. Over the next three years, John became one of Jesus' closest friends. John heard Jesus' wisdom, saw Jesus' miracles and felt Jesus' kindness. John was an eyewitness to all that he records in this account you hold. John wrote it so that we can meet Jesus too.

Yet John doesn't start where we expect – with a baby in a manger – because that wasn't the beginning. Instead, John takes us back, even before the creation of the world, to God himself. This is where our introduction to Jesus begins.

From these cosmic origins, we meet a man who is powerful yet approachable, purposeful yet empathetic, strong yet suffering, killed yet conquering. This is the man who has changed our world – are you ready to meet him?

John's whole book is well worth the read, but as there are only so many weeks left in the year (and in the lead up to the Meet Jesus event) there are six selected encounters in this booklet that will provide a good snapshot of who Jesus is. If you want more information about how we can trust what we read, watch this short video at: [uncover.org.au/john/whytrust](http://uncover.org.au/john/whytrust)

## About These Studies

These studies are in a simple format of 5 phases that each start with R. These phases are easily repeatable with any passage of scripture and with anyone, so that you can take this tool with you and share it with others.

The phases are: Retell, React, Reveal, Reason and Respond. They are designed to help you to observe (Retell, React), interpret (Reveal and Reason) and apply (Respond) the passage.

Depending on the size of your group and the passage length, some of these phases may need to be condensed or skipped, in order that we can arrive at Respond. Responding to God's word is a major reason why we look at the Bible, as we want it to shape our lives, not just entertain our minds. Please ensure that in your group you are always Responding with concrete, specific and achievable actions that arise from reading and understanding God's word.

## Meet Jesus with the World – John 1:1-18

*John introduces Jesus in the most astonishing way – not with the birth of a baby, but with the start of the world. Here we meet the Word who made the world, who came into His world as a human being to make God known. The scale of John’s story is bigger than we could have ever imagined.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

### Retell

*Retell the narrative. Note anything that is unclear or confusing.*

## React

*How are people reacting to Jesus?*

## Reveal

*What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting him) through words and actions?*

## Reason

*What reason might John have for including this event?*

## Respond

*What does John teach us about how to respond to Jesus?*

## Meet Jesus with the Religious – John 3:1-21

*In the darkness, Nicodemus – an important Jewish religious leader – comes to meet Jesus. He knows the astonishing things Jesus has been doing and he thinks Jesus must be from God, but he is uncertain. Jesus has some surprising things to say!*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup>“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup>“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

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## Meet Jesus with the Outsider – John 4:4-42

*Jesus intentionally seeks this outsider, a woman others avoided – she’s too scandalous! Jesus asks her for water to drink, but he has come to bring her something even better.*

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

<sup>11</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

<sup>17</sup> “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind



of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

<sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

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## Meet Jesus with the Grieving – John 11:1-45

*Jesus is confronted with the loss of a very close friend. Can he offer any hope in the face of death?*

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

<sup>8</sup> “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## Retell

*Retell the narrative. Note anything that is unclear or confusing.*

## React

*How are people reacting to Jesus?*

## Reveal

*What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting him) through words and actions?*

## Reason

*What reason might John have for including this event?*

## Respond

*What does John teach us about how to respond to Jesus?*

## Meet Jesus with the Powerful – John 18:28-19:22

*Jesus has been betrayed by a friend and arrested by the Jewish religious leaders for his claim to be the Son of God. He now meets the Roman Governor, Pilate, the man who has the power to sentence Jesus to death. Yet who is the one really in control?*

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

<sup>30</sup> “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. <sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

**19** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

<sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

<sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,<sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.<sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

<sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).

<sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

<sup>15</sup> But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

<sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.<sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.<sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

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*What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting him) through words and actions?*

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*What reason might John have for including this event?*

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## Meet Jesus with the Sceptics – John 20:1–31

*Jesus' friends and followers saw him die and helped with his burial. They were afraid and confused. But then they meet a man who says he is Jesus, the same Jesus who was crucified days before. How could this be true?*

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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*What does John teach us about how to respond to Jesus?*

## Appendix: Conclusion

At the end of his gospel, John tells us that he selected his material to help us understand who Jesus is and what he came to do:

**“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” – John 20:31**

What do you make of Jesus? Is he just a great man? Or simply a religious reformer? Or is he something more? John was convinced that Jesus is the only one who can forgive all our failures and give us life eternal. Jesus does this by suffering death in our place, taking God’s judgement for our sins. And Jesus came back to life, victorious over death because he was who he claimed to be – God’s good and perfect King who reigns over the world forever.

It may be that you’ve only recently met Jesus and become convinced that these things are true. If you want to receive the life that Jesus offers, you can speak to God now using this simple prayer. It might seem ‘too easy’, and you might feel you need to do something more. But as we’ve seen, words are powerful. Words reveal God to us, they enable us to meet Jesus, and words can restore our relationship with God. Saying ‘sorry’ is a simple but profound acknowledgement of our guilt before God. Saying ‘thank you’ expresses trust that God does indeed forgive us in Jesus.

**Heavenly Father,**

**I am sorry for ignoring and rejecting you, preferring the darkness of sin over your wonderful life and truth. Please, Lord, forgive me. Thank you that Jesus died so that I can be forgiven. Thank you that he rose again so that I can receive new life now and in eternity. Please fill me with your Spirit so that I always honour Jesus as the true King who reigns forever.**

**Amen.**

Whether or not you prayed this prayer, there may still be some things you are unsure of. Keep asking questions and humbly seeking answers. Tell a Christian friend you know or find a Church near you that explains the Bible well. Following Jesus is something we do together. And knowing God through the Bible is a lifelong journey.

If you have gone through all six sessions, you could start over and read the whole book from the beginning!

## Advent – Christmas is coming

Christmas is coming up, and during this time the traditional Church calendar would observe Advent. This would mark the start of a new Church calendar and means “coming” or “arrival”. Advent starts from the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas and is a period of time when the Church wouldn’t only remember Jesus’ first coming, but also look forward to His second coming.

For the rest of the year your Life Group is welcome to look at any Biblical topic or passages you may be interested in studying. Below are the passages set for Advent from the 1995 Prayer Book. Your group is welcome to look at all four passages each week, or simply the Luke passages, or something different altogether.

### First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-38

### Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-14	Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:1-11	Luke 3:1-6

### Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

## Other Meet Jesus passages in John

You can also spend the rest of the term look at other passages in John, in keeping with the preaching program:

Meet Jesus with the Seeking – John 1:35-51

Meet Jesus with the Divided – John 7:25-44

Meet Jesus with the Blind – John 9:1-41

Meet Jesus with the Anxious – John 14:15-31

## References and Resources

This whole series is based on Uncover John developed by UCCF: The Christian Unions and has been adapted in partnership for AFES use.