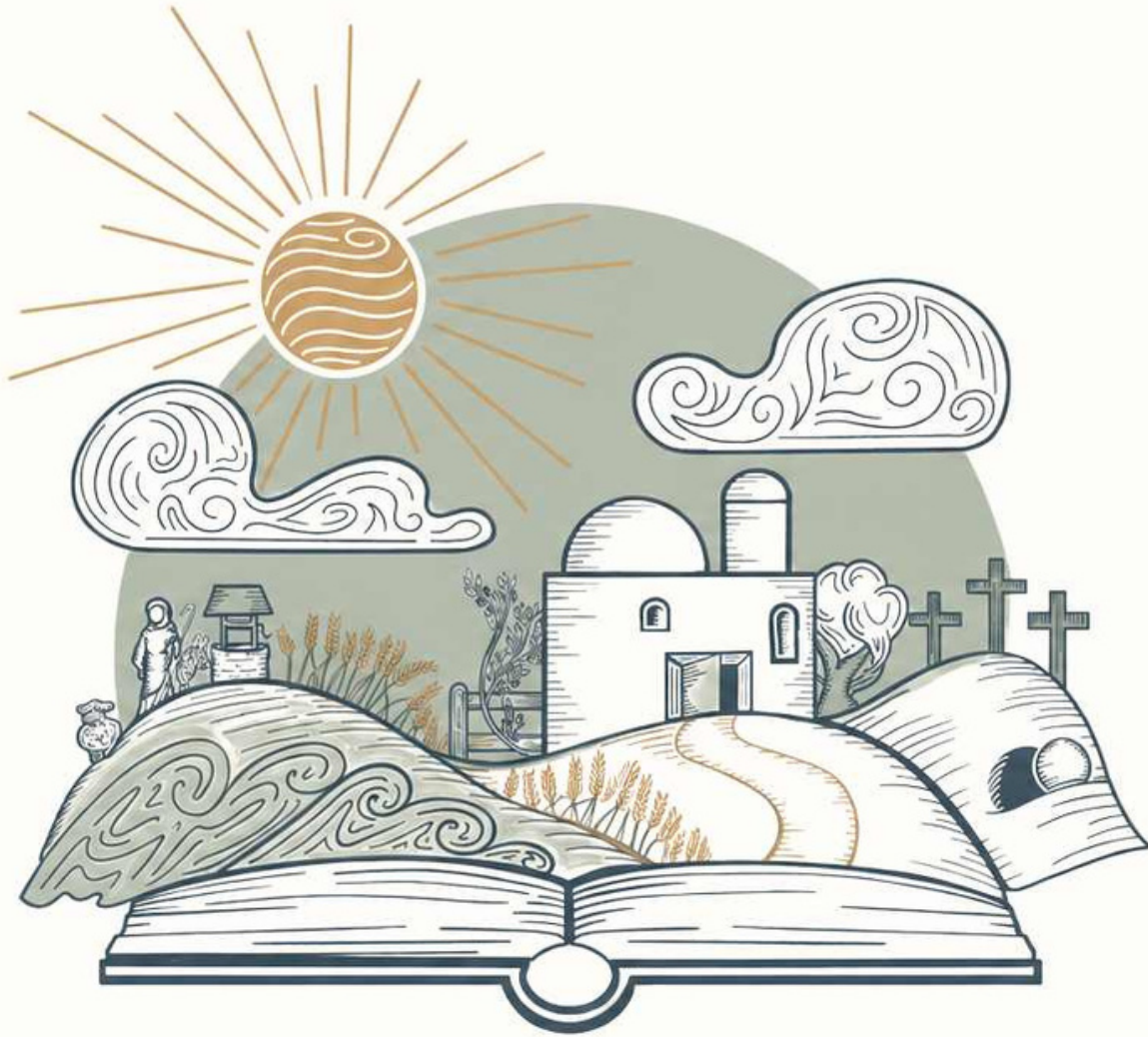


INTRODUCTION (JOHN 1:1-51)
SECTION 1: IDENTITY (JOHN 2-4)



BELIEVE

A STUDY IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

STUDY GUIDE & READING PLAN

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

Each week's questions will take you on a journey to study one passage of the book of John over the course of five days. These questions are designed to equip you with good Inductive Bible study methods, learning to:

- Observe the passage through the lens of the original audience
- Interpret the passage through the lens of Christ's full plan of redemption using the additional passages
- Apply the passage through the lens of a 21st Century follower of Jesus.

KEY SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP:

1. **Observation Skills** – You will practice isolating the different parts of a passage and see how they relate to one another using basic grammar skills.

2. **Interpretation Skills** – You will learn how to use what you observed to discover the author's intent. You will also learn how to use the whole context of the book and cross-references in the Bible to check and deepen meaning and understanding.

3. **Application Skills** – You will be challenged to create faithful and specific applications that are in line with the author's original intent.

We urge you to make the most of this resource, devoting yourself to daily reading and prayerful study. Each time you sit down with God's word, you can follow this pattern:

Pray – Ask God to give you understanding and to transform you through his word.

Read – Read slowly and carefully. Use the daily study questions to continually add to your understanding.

Pray – Ask God to impress what you have read upon your heart. Pray for the opportunity to share it with someone else, and pray for others in our church as they seek to walk in this truth with you.

Share – Talk to someone else about what God is revealing to you through his word. This might be another member of your Gospel Community, a mentor, a disciple, or even an unbeliever.

Finally, we hope you will take advantage of all the resources available at www.oakhillfellowship.com/john. Find free online tools like Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias and Greek lexicons on biblestudytools.com.

INTRO

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30–31, ESV)

Not many biblical authors are as clear as John in stating their purpose for writing. He tells us exactly why this Gospel exists: that we would first BELIEVE, and then truly LIVE.

At first glance, BELIEVING can sound easy. “Sure, I believe I should eat right and exercise.” Or, “I believe my choices today shape my future.” It’s not hard to mentally agree with something when the evidence is clear. But do you really believe that you should eat right if you fill your diet with fast food and desserts? Do you really believe your choices shape your future when you excuse simple decisions away as trivial? John makes it clear in his gospel that this type of believing is not what he has in mind.

We can also get the wrong idea about what it means to “LIVE.” Many assume “the good life” means upward mobility, personal happiness, and maximum comfort. But John’s vision of life will confront and overturn those assumptions.

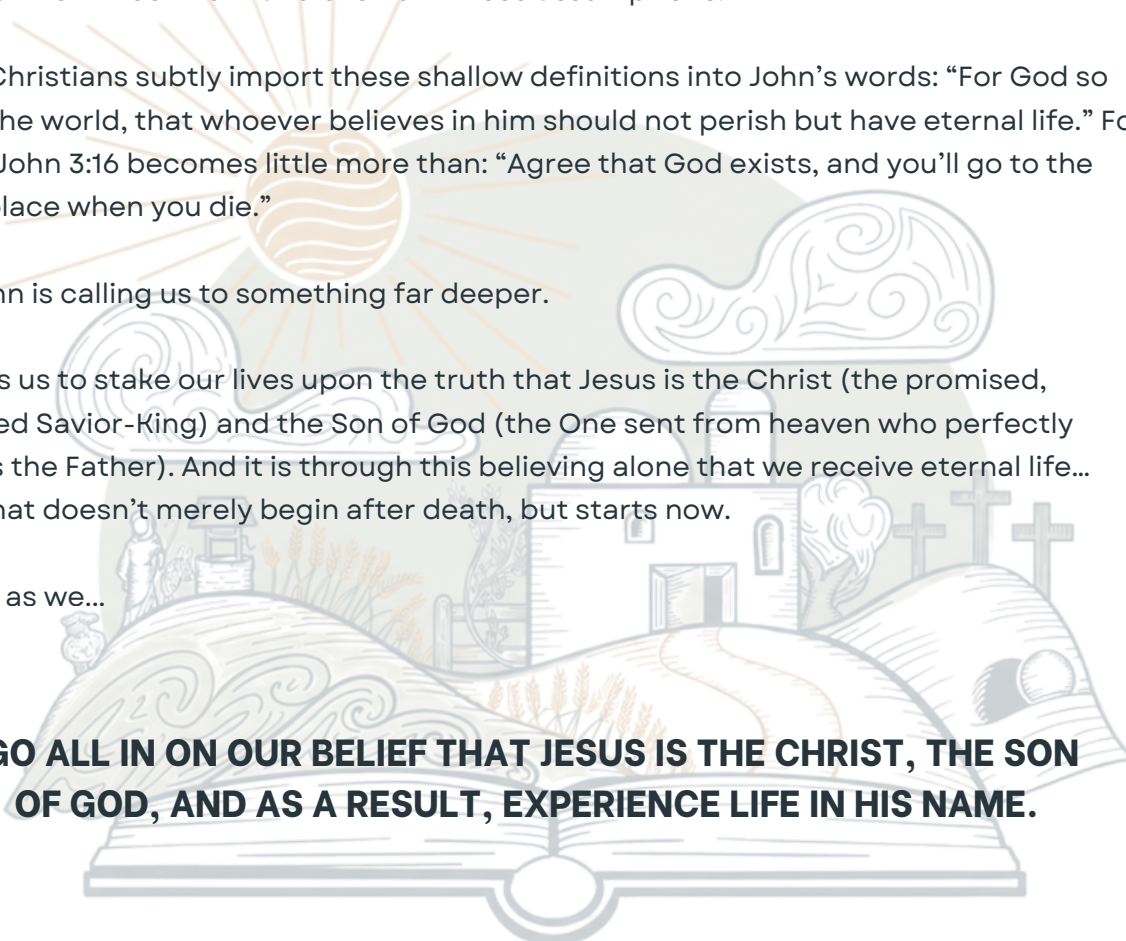
Many Christians subtly import these shallow definitions into John’s words: “For God so loved the world, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” For some, John 3:16 becomes little more than: “Agree that God exists, and you’ll go to the good place when you die.”

But John is calling us to something far deeper.

He calls us to stake our lives upon the truth that Jesus is the Christ (the promised, anointed Savior-King) and the Son of God (the One sent from heaven who perfectly reveals the Father). And it is through this believing alone that we receive eternal life... a life that doesn’t merely begin after death, but starts now.

Join us as we...

GO ALL IN ON OUR BELIEF THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AND AS A RESULT, EXPERIENCE LIFE IN HIS NAME.



EXAMPLE STUDY

Narrative or Dialogue

1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. 11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. 15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." 21 And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

EXAMPLE STUDY

1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- STRUCTURE

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
2. Put a | line between each scene. Put [brackets] around each time the dialogue changes to a new speaker, including what that speaker said. Select a different color ink for each speaker.
3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.

a. Retell the story in your own words.

Setting: Samuel's aging and his son's unfaithfulness to the Lord. (8:1-3)

Rising Tension: The elders of Israel's request for a King, Samuel's displeasure, and the Lord's instructions. (8:4-9)

Climax (Discourse): Samuel's warning against kings and how they will oppress and take away. (8:10-18)

Resolution: The people's rejection of Samuel's warning. (8:19-22a)

Following Action: The Lord gives Israel over to their desires. (8:22b)

b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?

There is dialogue between the people and Samuel and the Lord and Samuel, (in that order), defining the boundaries of the rising tension and resolution. The climax is all monologue from Samuel to the people.

Samuel's speech/prophecy foreshadows what is to come in the next section of the book.

c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story? Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

The people of Israel refused to obey the voice of God (their True King), and instead insisted on making a king for themselves - a choice that would enslave them.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

This chapter serves as the transition between the story of Samuel and the rise of the Monarchy under Saul, eventually preparing the way for King David, God's chosen anointed King who will represent him. It foreshadows the failures of Saul to be a truly just and righteous king and lays the backdrop for why God would choose his own human King.

The depravity of Israel has been on display throughout the book, through the worthlessness of Eli's sons to now the worthlessness of Samuel's sons. They do not want to be set apart as God's people but rather want to be just like the other nations who they presumably esteem to be more powerful and better set up for long-term prosperity.

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

The Kingdom of God and of his Christ is unlike the kingdoms of this world. They incite war while he brings peace. They tax while he provides. They enslave, while he brings freedom.

The theme of enslavement to a King/Kingdom is captured in many of Paul's writings. Just as King David will deliver them from the enslaving rule of Saul that they endured by their own choices, so King Jesus delivers us from the enslaving rule of sin.

In this text, the good news of God's reign is a backdrop for the WARNING against submitting to other masters.

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

This chapter is set in the context of Deut. 17:14-20, the laws according to which Israel may ask for a king. God had already made provision for a human king to be in Israel, and had a plan for what he should be like.

Ultimately, Saul becomes the black curtain against which the beauty of David's reign shines, and ultimately against which the beauty of Christ shines. Christ is not the king we would naturally choose, but he is the King we need.

DAY 5: APPLICATION-MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

Primary Audience: When Israel sought to be just like the nations of the earth, it did not go well with them. God and God alone was a more-than=sufficient king, but they did not believe this to be true, much to their own hurt.

Personal: It is not worth allowing myself to be controlled by another in order to be accepted or feel secure "just like everyone else." I can either choose to submit myself to Christ, the King who gives freedom, or I can choose to submit myself to the enslavement of fleshly masters (either spiritual or tangible).

EXAMPLE STUDY

Didactic

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16

14 ¶1a. I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that. 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. ¶b 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

¶2a. He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

"I" = Paul
"you" = Timothy
"we" = Either Paul/Timothy
or the whole church
"He" = Jesus Christ

EXAMPLE STUDY

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: “1,2, etc.”
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label “a,b,c, etc.” and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action – if it is an implied “you,” write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

1a - Paul is writing so that Timothy would know how each one ought to behave in the church

1b - The mystery of godliness is great

2b - The cosmic work of Jesus is the great mystery of godliness.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

1 - Timothy must ensure that each member of Christ's family knows how they must behave for the sake of the confession that produces that behavior.

2 - The cosmic work of Jesus is the way the church can behave as she ought.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

Timothy, it is essential that you know how each person must behave in the church to protect and preserve the gospel truth that transforms us.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

BEFORE: Paul just finished writing about the qualifications for elders and deacons. A number of the qualifications include the "household life" of the leaders.

AFTER: Paul contrasts those who depart from "the faith" and those who "believe and know the truth."

THEMES - Later in chapter 4 and even more in chapter 5, Paul advocates for relationships in the church that look like family relationships (especially brother/sister language)

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

The confession references many aspects of the work of Christ that creates the "mystery of godliness" -

MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH = Incarnation

VINDICATED BY THE SPIRIT = Righteous Life, Death, Resurrection in the power of the Spirit

SEEN BY ANGELS = Witness of the Heavenly Beings of the Church

PROCLAIMED AMONG THE NATIONS/ BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD = Advancement of the Gospel Through the Church

TAKEN UP IN GLORY = Current Reign

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

GODLINESS -

CREATION - The Lord created man and woman "in his own image-likeness" (i.e. to be godly) They were to be his family.

FALL - Man and woman depart from the truth and fail to behave in any reflection of godliness.

REDEMPTION - Jesus came to redeem a people for himself who would be restored to reflect his godliness

FUTURE RESTORATION - One day the church will be fully godly as Christ is - the "hymn" in this writing will have an ultimate fulfillment.

DAY 5: APPLICATION-MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

AUTHOR'S MESSAGE - Timothy, make sure the church knows how they are supposed to relate as a family so that the powerful, transforming truth of the gospel can be seen for what it truly is.

IMPLICATION - I must know how to relate to others in the church, and do so in the power of the gospel.

APPLICATION - This week, I will text the other members of my G.C. reminding of these gospel truths and telling them how important they are to me as my brothers and sisters in Christ.



WEEK 1

John 1:1-5

JOHN 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

WEEK 1

JOHN 1:1-5

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: “1,2, etc.”
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label “a,b,c, etc.” and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied “you,” write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced?
How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 2

John 1:6-18

JOHN 1:6-18

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

WEEK 2

JOHN 1:6-18

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: “1,2, etc.”
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label “a,b,c, etc.” and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied “you,” write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced?
How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 3

John 1:19-34

JOHN 1:19-34

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

WEEK 3

JOHN 1:19–34

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
2. Put a | line between each scene.
3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.

a. Retell the story in your own words.

b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?

c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story?
Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 4

John 1:35-51

JOHN 1:35-51

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

WEEK 4

JOHN 1:35-51

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
 2. Put a | line between each scene.
 3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
 4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
 5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
 6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
 7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.
- a. Retell the story in your own words.
- b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?
- c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story?
Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 5

John 2:1-12

JOHN 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

WEEK 5

JOHN 2:1-12

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
 2. Put a | line between each scene.
 3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
 4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
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- c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story?
Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 6

John 2:13-25

JOHN 2:13-25

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

WEEK 6

JOHN 2:13-25

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
 2. Put a | line between each scene.
 3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
 4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
 5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
 6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
 7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.
- a. Retell the story in your own words.
- b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?
- c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story?
Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 7

John 3:1-15

JOHN 3:1-15

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

WEEK 7

JOHN 3:1-15

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
2. Put a | line between each scene. Put [brackets] around each time the dialogue changes to a new speaker, including what that speaker said. Select a different color ink for each speaker.
3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
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7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.
 - a. Retell the story in your own words.
 - b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?
 - c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story? Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 8

John 3:16-21

JOHN 3:16-21

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

WEEK 8

JOHN 3:16-21

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: “1,2, etc.”
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label “a,b,c, etc.” and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied “you,” write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced?
How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

JOHN 3:22–36

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison).

25 Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” 27 John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.”

31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

WEEK 9

JOHN 3:22-36

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: “1,2, etc.”
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label “a,b,c, etc.” and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied “you,” write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced?
How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 10

John 4:1-26

JOHN 4:1-26

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

WEEK 10

JOHN 4:1-26

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
2. Put a | line between each scene. Put [brackets] around each time the dialogue changes to a new speaker, including what that speaker said. Select a different color ink for each speaker.
3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
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5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.
 - a. Retell the story in your own words.
 - b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?
 - c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story? Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

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How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

JOHN 4:27-42

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 33 So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

43 After the two days he departed for Galilee. 44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) 45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

WEEK 11

JOHN 4:27-42

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
 2. Put a | line between each scene.
 3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
 4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
 5. Highlight or underline the climax (the point of no return) in red.
 6. Highlight or underline the resolution (how the main conflict or problem resolves) in blue.
 7. Highlight or underline the following action / new setting in green.
- a. Retell the story in your own words.

b. What other clues does the author use to give you hints about the main point of this scene (repetition, character development, comparison/contrast, dialogue, etc.)?

c. What do the climax and resolution tell you about the main point of the story?
Summarize the author's emphasis in this scene.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION-CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION-GOSPEL CONNECTION

To what specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) does the scene(s) point? What function does this serve in the scene(s)?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION-*BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 12

John 4:43-54

JOHN 4:43-54

43 After the two days he departed for Galilee. 44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) 45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

46 So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you

see signs and wonders you will not believe." 49 The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. 51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

WEEK 12

JOHN 4:43-54

DAY 1: OBSERVATION- *STRUCTURE*

1. Read the whole scene(s) through to get a feel what is happening.
 2. Put a | line between each scene.
 3. Highlight or underline the setting (who, where, what) in yellow.
 4. Highlight or underline the rising tension (the main conflict or problem) in purple.
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How does this passage relate to the scene(s) before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

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DAY 5: APPLICATION-*MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

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