

# **sermon notes and study booklet**



**MEET  
JESUS**

**The gospel of John**

# SERMON NOTES



**MEET**

## JOHN 1:1-18 - MEET JESUS WITH THE WORLD

1. If God came into the world today, what would he say?

2. Read John 1:1-5. This begins the same way as Genesis 1:1 'In the beginning ...' What does this reveal about 'The word's' role in creation?

3. Read John 1:9-13. How is the word received by the world?

4. What is required to be a 'child of God'?

5. Read John 1:14. This passage reveals that 'the word' is the Son. How has God dwelt among his people in the past? How is this a climatic appearing?

6. Read John 1:15-18. How do the following witness to the Son:-

a) John the Baptist?

b) The law?

7. What does 'grace and truth' mean to you?

8. Why is it important to establish that Jesus comes from the Father?

9. If someone asked, 'How do you know God?', how would you respond?

10. John will record 7 signs in his gospel. How does this introduction help us to interpret them?

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## JOHN 3:1-21 - MEET JESUS WITH THE RELIGIOUS

1. What do people mean when they say: “I’m not religious.”

2. Read John 3:1-21. Would Nicodemus be considered religious?

3. According to Jesus, what is required to enter the kingdom of God?

4. Why was Nicodemus surprised? Should he be surprised?

5. How might Ezekiel 36:25-27 have helped Nicodemus understand what Jesus means to be born of water and the Spirit?

6. If a person of Nicodemus’ pedigree struggles to understand, then who can enter into new life?

7. What is the purpose of Jesus being lifted up?

8. What role does religiosity play in becoming born again?

9. What does Nicodemus need to know about Jesus to have eternal life?

10. How can we be sure we have been born again?

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## JOHN 4:4-42 - MEET JESUS WITH THE OUTSIDER

1. When people say (or think) 'that person will never follow Christ' what are they saying? What assumptions are they making?

2. Read John 4:4-9. Why does the woman question Jesus' request for water?

3. How can culture and history impact a person's acceptance of Jesus? Give some modern examples.

4. Read John 4:10-15. Describe the woman's doubt.

5. What is Jesus offering?

6. Read John 4:16-26. What is the woman's theological concern? How does Jesus answer it?

7. What conclusions can be drawn about worship and sacred places?

8. Jesus reveals that he is 'the Messiah'. What is meant by this ?

9. For all who believe, Jesus offers 'living water'. What does this mean?

10. Do you feel parched (metaphorically) or hydrated? Pray!

# JESUS

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## JOHN 11:1-45- MEET JESUS WITH THE GRIEVING

1. What brings you comfort when you grieve?

2. Read John 11:1-27. How would you describe the relationship between Lazarus, Mary, Martha and Jesus?

3. What was Jesus' priority when he heard Lazarus was sick?

4. Why was Jesus glad that he was not at Lazarus' deathbed?

5. What was Martha's perspective of her brother's death?

6. Read John 11:28-45. In the grieving process, is there a place to focus on how things could have worked out differently? (v21, 32, 37) Is that a helpful or unhelpful focus?

7. What does the raising of Lazarus reveal about Jesus?

8. What kind of resurrection and life can Jesus give us?

9. How does knowing Jesus, as Martha did, change the way we grieve?

10. How can we be sure of resurrection life?

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## JOHN 18:19-40 MEET JESUS WITH THE POWERFUL

1. What things can corrupt 'true justice'?

2. Read John 18:28-32. Discuss the power and limitations of:-

- The Jewish leaders;
- Pilate.

3. Read John 18:33-37. Was Jesus guilty of treason? Why or why not?

4. How does Jesus testify to the truth?

5. Read John 8:31-32. How does the truth, that Jesus offers, set you free?

6. John 18:38-40. What was Pilate's verdict? Why then was Jesus crucified?

7. How does this treatment of Jesus make you feel?

8. In what ways are the following people complicit in his murder:-

- The Jewish leaders;
- Pilate
- The crowd?

9. 'Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.', Lord Acton. Is power evil? Why do humans struggle with power?

10. What is the irony of Jesus being called 'King of the Jews'?

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## JOHN 12:12-20 MEET JESUS WITH THE CROWD

1. Queen Elizabeth III visited Australia 16 times. The crowds that lined the streets became notably smaller toward her final visit in 2011. What does this indicate?

2. Read John 12:12-16. What were the crowds acknowledging by their shouts? What did they expect to happen in Jerusalem?

3. Read Zechariah 9:9-12. What does the arrival of the king in Jerusalem signify? What would this mean to a community in exile?

4. Read John 12:17-19. What attracted the crowd to Jesus? What were they looking for?

5. How do the Pharisees interpret the crowd's response?

6. Read John 19:5. How do the two crowds compare?

7. If Jesus visited today, what would the crowds of Sydney be calling out?

8. What role do we play in announcing the coming of the king?

9. Why do some believe but others do not? (John 12:37-46)

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## JOHN 20:1-31 MEET JESUS WITH THE SCEPTICS

1. Generally speaking, is the population becoming more or less sceptical? Are they becoming more gullible?

2. Read John 20:24-25. What was surprising about the disciples statement, 'we have seen the Lord!'

3. What does Thomas want to be convinced of?

4. Read John 20:26-27. How does the Lord treat Thomas and his scepticism?

5. Read John 20:28-29. Thomas calls Jesus, 'my **Lord** and my **God!**' Discuss these two descriptions of Jesus.

6. What is faith? (Hebrews 11:1). Is it necessarily 'blind'?


7. Who does Jesus say is blessed? Why?

8. It is not new for people to have 'belief barriers'. What barriers exist today?

9. How can you help sceptics in their unbelief? Think of manner, tone, discussion and evidence for the resurrection.



PO Box 6009  
MALABAR, NSW, 2036

 9311 0309

 [info@oceansideanglican.org.au](mailto:info@oceansideanglican.org.au)

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[www.oceansideanglican.org.au](http://www.oceansideanglican.org.au)