# sermon notes and study booklet



The gospel of John



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

- 1. If God came into the world today, what would he say?
- 6. Read John 1:15-18. How do the following witness to the Son:-
- 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?
- a) John the Baptist?
- b) The law?

- 3. Read John 1:9-13. How is the word received by the world?
- 7. What does 'grace and truth' mean to you?
- 8. Why is it important to establish that Jesus comes from the Father?
- 4. What is required to be a 'child of God'?
- 9. If someone asked, 'How do you know God?', how would you respond?
- 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?
- 10. John will record 7 signs in his gospel. How does this introduction help us to interpret them?





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

- 1. What do people mean when they say: "I'm not religious."
- 6. If a person of Nicodemus' pedigree struggles to understand, then who can enter into new life?
- 2. Read John 3:1-21. Would Nicodemus be considered religious?
- 7. What is the purpose of Jesus being lifted up?
- 3. According to Jesus, what is required to enter the kingdom of God?
- 8. What role does religiosity play in becoming born again?
- 4. Why was Nicodemus surprised? Should he be surprised?
- 9. What does Nicodemus need to know about Jesus to have eternal life?
- 5. How might Ezekiel 36:25-27 have helped Nicodemus understand what Jesus means to be born of water and the Spirit?
- 10. How can we be sure we have been born again?





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

- 2. Read John 4:4-9. Why does the woman questions Jesus' request for water?
- 7. What conclusions can be drawn about worship and sacred places?

- 3. How can culture and history impact a person's acceptance of Jesus? Give some modern examples.
- 8. Jesus reveals that he is 'the Messiah'. What is meant by this?

- 4. Read John 4:10-15. Describe the woman's doubt.
- 9. For all who believe, Jesus offers 'living water'. What does this mean?

- 5. What is Jesus offering?
- 10. Do you feel parched (metaphorically) or hydrated? Pray!





### 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?
- 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?
- 3. What was Jesus' priority when he heard Lazarus was sick?
- 8. What kind of resurrection and life can Jesus give us?
- 4. Why was Jesus glad that he was not at Lazarus' deathbed?
- 9. How does knowing Jesus, as Martha did, change the way we grieve?

- 5. What was Martha's perspective of her brother's death?
- 10. How can we be sure of resurrection life?





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

- 1. What things can corrupt 'true justice'?
- 6. John 18:38-40. What was Pilate's verdict? Why then was Jesus crucified?

- 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?

- 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?
- 4. How does Jesus testify to the truth?
- 9. 'Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.', Lord Acton. Is power evil? Why do humans struggle with power?
- 5. Read John 8:31-32. How does the truth, that Jesus offers, set you free?
- 10. What is the irony of Jesus being called 'King of the Jews'?





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

- 2. Read John 12:12-16. What were the crowds acknowledging by their shouts? What did they expect to happen in Jerusalem?
- 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?
- 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?
- 8. What role do we play in announcing the coming of the king?

- 4. Read John 12:17-19. What attracted the crowd to Jesus? What were they looking for?
- 9. Why do some believe but others do not? (John 12:37-46)





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

- 2. Read John 20:24-25. What was surprising about the disciples statement, 'we have seen the Lord!'
- 7. Who does Jesus say is blessed? Why?

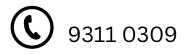
- 3. What does Thomas want to be convinced of?
- 8. It is not new for people to have 'belief barriers'. What barriers exist today?

- 4. Read John 20:26-27. How does the Lord treat Thomas and his scepticism?
- 9. How can you help sceptics in their unbelief? Think of manner, tone, discussion and evidence for the resurrection.
- 5. Read John 20:28-29. Thomas calls Jesus, 'my **Lord** and my **God**!' Discuss these two descriptions of Jesus.





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