

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

JOHN

Volume I

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

JOHN VOLUME I: SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions Small Group Study. This three-volume, 21-week study on John is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. Here at Saddleback Church, we believe it's better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! All the episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. There are three ways you can access this podcast study on John:

1. Click on the link at the start of each session of this study guide.
2. Download the Drivetime Devotions app to your phone or tablet. Go to "Devotions" and select "John."
3. Go to drivetimedevotions.com/devotions/john.

HELPFUL TIP

Depending on your device settings, you may need to select the **PLAY BUTTON**  or the **UNMUTE BUTTON**  on the Drivetime audio player when it is fully loaded.

This is the first of three volumes in a 21-week study on the Book of John.

VOLUME 1: John 1–7, seven-week study

VOLUME 2: John 8–14, seven-week study

VOLUME 3: John 15–21, seven-week study



HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out, unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages on [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

HELPFUL TIP

For best experience on Android platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader.





A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

The questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses, and then you can ask the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.



WEEK ONE: John 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING IN

1. If you are just starting together as a group, go around the room and share your name, where you grew up and something about your life.
2. How would you like to see your belief strengthened as you study John together as a group?



KEY VERSE

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What light has Jesus brought to this world? What light has he brought to you personally? Verses 1–18
2. What is the significance for you in Jesus bringing both grace and truth? Verse 17
3. What encouragement or direction do you see in Jesus' baptism? If you've never been baptized as Jesus was, how could this group encourage you? Verses 19–34

4. Does the humility of John encourage you to be more humble? In what specific area or actions or relationships would you like to be more humble? Verses 19–34
5. Andrew brought his brother to Jesus; who would you like to help to meet Jesus? Verses 35–44
6. Do you ever feel like Nathanael, living on the edge of doubt but wanting to believe? In what areas of life do you experience this feeling? Verses 45–51



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

“The first thing” that Andrew did was to bring his brother to Jesus. In order to share our faith like Andrew, we must make sharing our faith a high priority. One of the greatest steps you can take to apply this in your life is pray for those people you want to see come to faith in Jesus. In this first session, have each person in the group give one name of a person you are praying will come to know Christ, and commit to pray for that list together through your study of John. You’ll be amazed at the opportunities the Lord opens up for you to be a witness and at the people who will come to faith because of your prayers together as a group.

WEEK ONE



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for those you just listed you want to see come to know Christ. Pray also for each other—that the Lord will strengthen your belief as you study through the Gospel of John.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above, and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK TWO: John 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING IN

1. Be sure to share each week whether you've seen the friends you are praying for move towards faith in Jesus.
2. What do you picture it would have been like to be with Jesus at a party?



KEY VERSE

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

John 2:15



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What miracle would you like to encourage Jesus to work? Verse 1-6
2. What seemingly ordinary step of obedience might God be asking you to take in the working of that miracle? Verses 7-10
3. Over what do you feel a righteous anger? Verses 12-16
4. What are you zealous for? Verses 17-18



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

Jesus cleansed the temple, and the Bible tells us that today WE are God's temple. This next week, focus on seeing yourself as a holy temple of the Lord and seeing your life as being a living sacrifice for God. Have a conversation with someone about this and be intentional in your habits like setting your phone to ring an alarm twice a day as a reminder that says: "I am a holy temple of the Lord!"



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray together about the miracles you discussed earlier and ask Jesus to do what only he can do. Make yourself available to him to do whatever he would ask you to do.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK THREE: John 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING-IN

1. Ask if anyone saw an answer to prayer this last week—either in the miracles you prayed for in the last session or in the lives of those you committed to pray for during the first week’s session.
2. How would you define success in your life, family, work and ministry?



KEY VERSE

“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.”

John 3:16



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How does the term “born again” help you to picture what it means to begin a relationship with God? Verses 1–3
2. Do you find admitting what you don’t know to be easy or difficult? Verses 4–15
3. Do you have a personal experience with hearing the truth of John 3:16 that you could share with the group? Why do you think this verse is the best-known verse in the Bible? Verse 16

4. Have you struggled at any point in your life with seeing God as simply judgmental? What helped you to begin to see his love? Verses 17–21
5. How does the humility of John challenge you personally? Verses 22–36



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Intentionally look for ways to practice humility this next week by looking for ways that you can serve others. If you are involved in a regular ministry, ask yourself how you might better practice a spirit of humility in that ministry.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray John 3:16 together as a group, for yourself and for someone who needs to know the love of Christ.

- *Father, thank you that you so loved me that you gave Jesus so that as I believed in Him I would not perish, but would have eternal life.*
- *Father, thank you that you so love (your friends name) that you gave Jesus for their salvation. I pray that they would believe in him, so that they will not perish but will have eternal life.*



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FOUR: John 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CHECKING IN

1. Talk about your experiences of looking for places to serve with humility from last week's study.
2. Can you remember who and where it was that someone first talked to you about the good news of Jesus' love?



KEY VERSE

“Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:14



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Who do you need to open—or reopen—channels of communication with? Verses 1–9
2. How do you experience the “living water” of Jesus in your daily life? Verses 10–18
3. How does Jesus' conversation with this woman cause you to reaffirm or to reevaluate the way that you talk to those who have not yet become followers of Jesus? Verses 19–30

WEEK FOUR

4. Where in your family or business or around the world could God give you the faith to begin to see the fields as being “ready to harvest” for belief in Jesus? Verses 31–42
5. Where in your life do you need to do what this man did and “take Jesus at his word”? How could this group encourage you in taking that step of faith? Verses 43–54



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Take some time to write down this week how you would describe to someone who has not yet believed the “living water” that Jesus has sent into your life. Try to write down a two to three minute description—praying that God will open the door for you to tell someone this Good News.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the people that you are asking the Lord to bring into relationship with Jesus.

Pray also that God would increase one another's faith, specifically asking God to strengthen each of you to “take Jesus at his Word,” in the areas you may have discussed earlier.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FIVE: John 5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING IN

1. Did you have an opportunity to write out your story of faith this last week? What did it do for you personally to write it down? Did you have an opportunity to share it with someone?
2. In what circumstance or relationship do you need God's help and hope right now?



KEY VERSE

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

John 5:24 (NLT)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Is there some area of your life where you saw "your solution" get in the way of God's solution? Verses 1-7
2. How is God giving you an opportunity to trust him, maybe even at a point of frustration or a place where you are feeling weak or even helpless? Verses 8-15

WEEK FIVE

3. How do you feel assured by Jesus' promise that believers have already "passed out of judgment into life?" Do you feel free of the fear of judgment? Verses 16–30
4. The Gospel of John identifies five witnesses to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God: John the Baptist, works of Jesus, word of the Father, Scriptures, and Moses. Which of these speaks most powerfully to you? Why? Verses 31–47



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

Much of this chapter is about assurance—assurance of God's help, assurance that we have passed out of judgment, assurance that Jesus is the Son of God. One of the keys to building our assurance is meditating on God's Word. This week, take some verses from God's Word that give you assurance and write them on cards that you place where you can read them through the day—on the stand beside your bed, in your car, at your workspace. This week's key verse, John 5:24, would be a good verse to start with!



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for one another, that God would give you strength to trust him, even in those places where you feel frustrated or weak.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK SIX: John 6



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING IN

1. Share any differences that you saw in your life this last week as you focused on the assurance of God's love.
2. Talk about what you feel it would have been like to be part of the crowd the day of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000.



KEY VERSE

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 6:10-11



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How could you measure a problem you are facing right now by God's abilities instead of just by your abilities? Verses 1-7
2. How does the truth that "little in the hands of Jesus becomes much" encourage you? Verses 8-14
3. Is there a circumstance where your fear might be keeping you from seeing that Christ is even there? Verses 15-21

4. How could your focus move from physical to spiritual, from man to God, from temporary to eternal? Share ideas of what helps you to change your focus. Verses 22–59
5. How have the words of Jesus been spirit and life for you recently? Verses 60–71



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

Jesus wants us to last in our faith—to continue to be faithful to God’s call and direction. One of the keys to lasting is found in the encouragement that we get from other believers. Few of us will last alone, many of us can last together. Talk about how you can encourage each other as a group in your faith and growth.

Specifically, you might talk about how you can encourage each other to look at the alternatives to Jesus honestly, listen to the words of Jesus regularly and confess your trust in Jesus openly.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time to pray for one another, that you would last and grow stronger in your faith. You might try going in a circle and praying for the person on you right, so that each person is prayed for individually.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK SEVEN: John 7



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CHECKING IN

1. Did you have an opportunity to see the little you put into Jesus' hands becoming much this last week?
2. Describe a time when you were very thirsty, and what it felt like when you got something to drink.



KEY VERSE

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."

John 7:37



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen that there is a difference between God's will and God's timing? Verses 1-10
2. Do you struggle with judging by mere appearances? What helps you to stop? Verses 11-24
3. How are you encouraged knowing you don't have to chase after popular opinion? Verses 25-31
4. How do our religious solutions confuse us? Verses 32-36

5. What do you thirst for in your relationship with God? Verses 37–44



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

During the next week, focus in worship on the truth that it is Jesus alone who quenches your deepest thirst.

- *As you think of something you want, use that thought as a reminder to pray, “Jesus, I know that you quench my real thirst.”*
- *As you don’t get something that you really wanted, use that as a reminder to pray, “Jesus, thank you that you quench my real thirst.”*
- *As you do get something that you wanted, use that as a reminder to pray, “Jesus, I look to you as the one who quenches my real thirst.”*



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time to share the needs that you are facing this week, and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week’s study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

JOHN VOLUME I: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

NEXT STEPS

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: JOHN VOLUME II SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download the next seven-week study to continue your study through the book of John.



DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: PHILIPPIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this four-week study through the book of Philippians. This study will help you learn the eight places where joy is won or lost.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER AGAIN WHEN IT'S ALL FALLEN APART

Walk through Pastor Tom Holladay's book together with your small group for seven weeks, and follow the study guide provided with the book. This study will help teach you principles for rebuilding your life.



