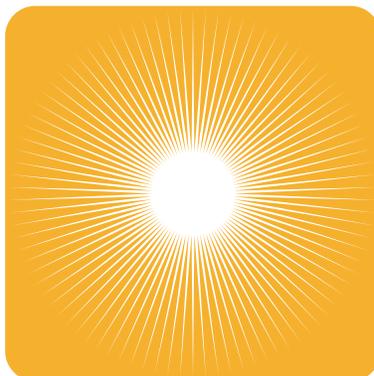
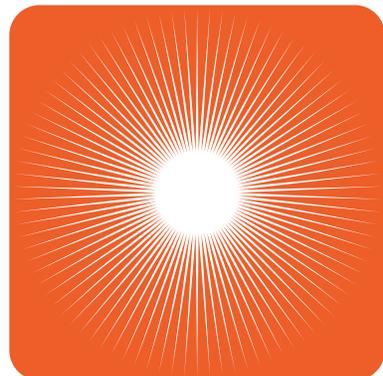
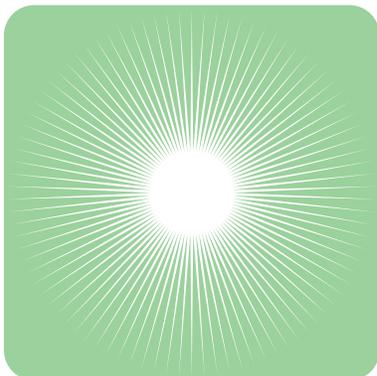
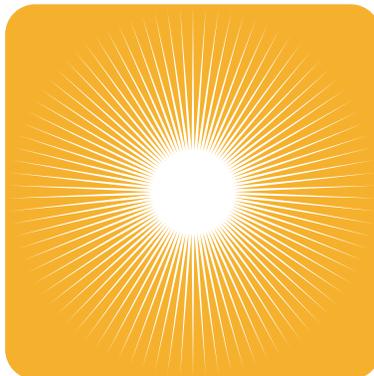
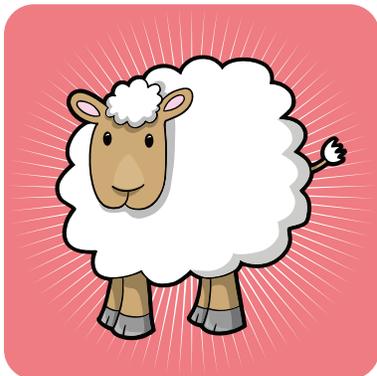


The Image of the Invisible God

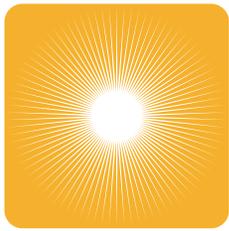
Book of John

Crossing Kids Family Devotional



He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:15



Week #1: John 1

Introduction:

If someone asked you, "Who is Jesus?" how would you respond?

What do you know/think you know about who He is?

Where do we find out who Jesus is?

**You might also have children draw/write a list as you discuss.*

A lot of us would probably say that we find out who Jesus is through God's Word/The Bible. The truth is, though, that most people—even Christians—don't always think the right things about who Jesus is. That's because we often turn Jesus into who we want Him to be rather than who He says He is in His Word. Sometimes we act like we want Jesus to be a Magic Genie in a Bottle—someone who gives us what we want or a taxi driver—someone who takes us where we want to go/follows our directions. We want Jesus to be a whole list of things that make our lives easy and make us feel good.

The bad thing about all of this is, that's not how the Bible describes Him and that's not why He came to Earth. One place in the Bible that shows us who Jesus is/what He was like is the book of John. We're going to read a chapter of this book each week and think more about that question, "Who is Jesus?" as we do.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 1:1-18.**

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the Word, He was with God in the beginning, He is God, Everything was made through Him, Life is found in Him, He is the light that shines in the darkness, He became flesh/human and lived among us, we receive grace through him)

Read: **John 1:18-34** or "Heaven Breaks Through" in The Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 200-207)

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; He is God's Son with whom God is well pleased.)

Read: **John 1:35-51.**

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (Lamb of God, Rabbi—teacher, the Messiah/Christ, Son of God, able to see/know all things.)

Making it Stick:

We've only read one chapter in John and already have a long list of things we know about Jesus already! Colossians 1:15 tells us, "He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." An image is another word for a picture. The book of John gives us many word pictures that tell us what God is like. Each week, we're going to keep track of these pictures by creating our sticker that shares what we learned during our reading. You can draw/write what John 1 says about who Jesus is.

Hang the Making it Stick (included on the last page) on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or another prominent place at your home. Practice the memory verse together as a family. You will be adding stickers to it each week.

Pray together.



Week #2: John 2

Introduction:

If you were going to go to a party, what types of things might you expect?

Imagine that you went to a friend's birthday party. They bring out your favorite kind of cake and begin passing it out. All of a sudden they realize there is only enough cake to feed half of the people there. You are one of the people who won't get a piece. How do you feel?

Today we are going to read a story about a party Jesus attended. Something very similar happens to the guests there. Just like the parties we go to, this party had special food and drink for the people who went to the wedding. In Bible times, wedding celebrations didn't just last for a few hours, but several days. On the third day of the party, there is a problem. Let's find out what this problem is and most importantly, how Jesus fixed it.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 2:1-12.**

Ask: What was the problem in this story? *(They ran out of wine.)*

How did Jesus fix the problem? *(He turned large stone jars of water into wine. This was the first time Jesus showed His power by performing a miracle.)*

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? *(He is all powerful, He is God, He cares about both the big and the little problems in our lives, He is the best wine saved for last, He is the greatest reason to celebrate.)*

Read: **John 2:13-25.**

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? *(He is angry when God's house is treated wrongly, He knew that the reason he came was to die and save us from our sins, He is all powerful, He knows all people and what is inside of them)*

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 2? Let's draw or write these on our Week 2 Sticker and practice our memory verse together.

Pray together.



Week #3: John 3

Introduction:

Ask: When you think of a baby, what types of things do you think about?
(Have children share thoughts and/or create a list of words/pictures.)

Tonight, Jesus is going to have a visitor that comes to him late at night. He is going to ask Jesus a really important question and Jesus is going to respond in a way that seems very confusing to him. He is going to tell the man that in order to enter God's Kingdom we have to be born again—like a baby. Doesn't that sound strange? Let's read more together to see if we can figure out what he means.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 3:1-15.**

What do we know about Nicodemus? (He is a Pharisee which means he is educated, knows a lot about the Bible, moral, most likely known as a "good person" who loves God, a ruler/leader of the Jews, well respected by others, a listener, honest with his questions.)

What does Jesus tell Nicodemus? (You have to be born again to see the Kingdom of God.)

What does Jesus say?/What do you think he means? (Jesus doesn't mean that we physically turn into a baby again. He does mean that we all need a fresh start, just like a baby. We are all sinners in need of grace—even people like Nicodemus who go to church and are known as "good people." The Bible says that, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We don't just need God to fix one part of us, we need Him to create new life. We can't do this on our own. Just as a baby doesn't make the choice to be born/can't take care of himself, we need God to change our hearts to believe and trust in Him. It is only because of His grace that we are saved.)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (The ultimate sacrifice, the one who forgives our sins/creates life where there is none, our Savior.)

Read: **John 3:16-36.**

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (God's son, Savior, the light, above all, the source of eternal life.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 3? Let's draw or write these on our Week 3 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #4: John 4

Introduction:

Ask: When you think of water, what types of things do you think about? What does it do? What do we use it for? *(Have children share thoughts and/or create a list of words/pictures.)*

Tonight, we are going to meet yet another person whose life changes forever after she meets Jesus. She is very different from Nicodemus. She is a woman who has struggled with very public sin. Whereas Nicodemus was well respected/known around town as a "good person," this woman was very much the opposite. She was an outcast, someone people didn't like. She is also a Samaritan. Samaritans and Jews like Jesus usually did not mix. Jewish people looked down upon them because they were viewed as "unclean." Let's listen carefully to how Jesus treats this woman.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 4:1-45.**

Ask: What do we know about the woman? *(She is a Samaritan, an outcast, a woman who had sinned a great deal publicly. She is very different than Jesus.)*

What did Jesus say to the woman? How did He treat her? *(He asked her for a drink of water even though Jews and Samaritans didn't usually get along. He told her that she could have living water so that she would never thirst again.)*

What/who is living water? *(Jesus.)*

How did the woman respond? *(She believed that He was the Messiah. She shared the Good News with others. Because of this, many Samaritans believed in Jesus.)*

What does this tell us about Jesus? *(He is living water. He alone can satisfy what we thirst for/need. He knows everything. He can forgive anyone, no matter what they've done. He loves even those who others might condemn/view as different/unworthy.)*

Read: **John 4:46-54.**

Ask: What is the problem in this section? *(A very important man's son is sick and dying. He asks Jesus to come and heal him.)*

What does Jesus do? *(He doesn't come, but heals the son from a long distance away.)*

What does this tell us about Jesus? *(He is all powerful. He is a healer. He is miraculous. He cares about all types of people.)*

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 4? Let's draw or write these on our Week 4 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #5: John 5

Introduction:

Ask: For the last four weeks, we've read quite a few stories that tell us more about who Jesus is. What are some things we've learned about Jesus?

(He is a healer, He is the Son of God, He forgives sin, He is Living Water, He is the Light of the World, etc...)

Wow! Great remembering! Today in John 5, we're going to learn more about who Jesus is together. Let's start by reading about a man who was unable to walk for 38 years!

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 5:1-18.**

Ask: What do we know about the man? (He is unable to walk and has been for 38 years. He wants to be healed. He is alone and has no one to help him.)

What did Jesus say to the man? How did He treat him? (Do you want to be healed? Get up, take your mat, and walk. With kindness.)

Why did this make people upset? (He healed the man on the Sabbath. He called himself the Son of God.)

What does this tell us about who Jesus is? (He is the healer. He is God's Son.)

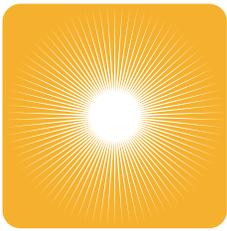
Read: **John 5:19-47.**

Ask: What does this tell us about Jesus? (He is God's Son. He is all powerful/can raise the dead. He does God's will. All of Scripture/God's Word points to Him.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 5? Let's draw or write these on our Week 5 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #6: John 6

Introduction:

What is a miracle? Who knows of a miracle that Jesus performed?

During Jesus' 3-year ministry on Earth, he performed more than 30 miracles. Each miracle that Jesus did while on earth doesn't just tell us something true about what He did, it also tells us something true about who He is. In fact, John 20:31 tells us exactly this:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Today we're going to read about a few of these miracles. While we read, let's think about what this miracle tells us about who Jesus is.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 6:1-15** or "Filled Full!" from The Jesus Storybook Bible p. 244-249.

Ask: What was the problem in this story? (There was a group of 5000 people that were tired and hungry after hearing Jesus talk all day. Jesus suggested that the disciples give them something to eat, but there was only a boy's lunch of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.)

How did Jesus fix the problem? (Jesus performed a miracle! He blessed the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Then he had his disciples pass them out to the people. After everyone ate plenty, there were still leftovers!)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the Bread of Life; He alone satisfies what we hunger for. He is what we need. He is all powerful. He's God's son.)

Read: **John 6:16-21.**

Ask: How would you feel if you were in a boat on a sea at night when strong winds began to blow? (afraid, nervous, worried, etc...)

Why do you think Jesus said, "Don't be afraid." (That's exactly what the disciples were. They had just seen Jesus perform other miracles like Feeding the 5,000, yet just like us, they were afraid and struggled to trust Jesus.)

What happened after the disciples took Jesus into the boat? (They immediately arrived to the place they were going.)

Are there times in your life that you have been frightened or lost sight of Jesus? (Discuss together.)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (We can trust Him with our worries, we don't have to be afraid. He is trustworthy no matter what storms come our way.)

Read: **John 6:22-59.**

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the Bread of Life. He satisfies our greatest need. He is the one God sent and all we have to do is believe in Him.)

Read: **John 6:60-71.**

Ask: What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (Not everything He says is easy. He alone has the words of eternal life.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 6? Let's draw or write these on our Week 6 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Hang the Making it Stick (included on the last page) on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or another prominent place at your home. Practice the memory verse together as a family. You will be adding stickers to it each week.

Pray together.





Week #7: John 7

Introduction:

Let's think back to what we've seen Jesus do so far in the Book of John. What are some of the things we've seen and heard Him say so far? (He's walked on water, turned water into wine, fed 5,000 with only a little food, healed several people, etc...)

Yesterday we talked about how John 20:31 tells why all of these things and more were written down. Let's read it together again.

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

God gave us His word to help us believe and have faith that Jesus was who He said He was—God's Son. Having faith and trusting God can be difficult sometimes. Today, we're going to find out that we aren't the only ones that struggle with this. In fact, even the people who saw Jesus' miracles and even Jesus' brothers struggled to believe Him. Let's read more about this together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 7:1-36.**

Ask: Did everyone like Jesus? Why not? (No. Many of them struggled to believe Him. Some even wanted to kill Him. They found His teachings difficult and didn't understand who He was/why He came. They didn't believe he was God's Son even after all the miraculous signs He did.)

Read: **John 7:37-51.**

Ask: How did people respond to Jesus? (Some believed and found joy and life in His name. Some doubted. There was a great division over Him. Some even wanted to kill Him.)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (His teachings aren't always easy. He speaks the truth even when other people don't like it. He is the source of living water. He satisfies our greatest need.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 7? Let's draw or write these on our Week 7 Sticker and practice our memory verse together.

Pray together.



Week #8: John 8

Introduction:

Light is something that is all around us. What are some sources/types of light that you know of? How does light help us? (Have children share thoughts and/or create a list of words/pictures.)

Tonight, Jesus is going to have a visitor that comes to him late at night. He is going to ask Jesus a really important question and Jesus is going to respond in a way that seems very confusing to him. He is going to tell the man that in order to enter God's Kingdom we have to be born again—like a baby. Doesn't that sound strange? Let's read more together to see if we can figure out what he means.

Let's read where light comes from together.

Read: **Genesis 1:1-5.**

Ask: Where does light come from? (God.)

Why do you think it was the first thing God created? (Take responses.)

Light isn't just what God made/gives, it's who He is. Today, we're going to hear Jesus talk more about this.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 8:1-11.**

Ask: What do we know about the woman? (She had sinned a great deal publicly. Her life was in danger.)

What do we know about the Pharisees? (They brought her to Jesus because they wanted to test/trick Him. They didn't care about the woman, they just wanted to use her to bring Jesus down.)

How does Jesus respond? (With mercy, grace, love, and compassion. He forgives her sin.)

Read: **John 8:12-38.**

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will walk not in darkness, but in the light of life. He is the source of truth and life. He came to do God's will. He is not from this world. He forgives sin.)

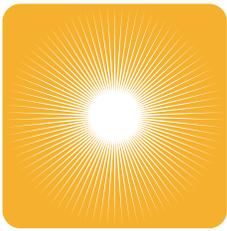
Read: **John 8:39-59.**

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is without sin. He is God. "Before Abraham was, I am." He is the one God promised many years ago.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 8? Let's draw or write these on our Week 8 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #9: John 9

Introduction:

In today's story, Jesus meets a man who had been blind since he was born. Jesus' disciples ask a question about why this man was born this way. They aren't sure where suffering or bad things come from. They wonder if this man did something wrong/sinned in order to deserve this. Jesus doesn't just help the man see for the first time today, He also helps His disciples and us see something really important about things that are difficult in our world today. Let's read more about this together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 9:1-41.**

Ask: What do Jesus' disciples ask? (Who sinned? This man or his parents? Why was he born this way?)

How did Jesus respond? (It wasn't this man's or his parent's sin. He was born blind so that God's work and glory would be displayed.)

What does this tell us about pain in our life/our world today? (While suffering comes from sin in general—living in a fallen broken world, we shouldn't assume bad things happen to someone because of something they've done wrong. God can still use it for good and for His glory. He can use it to teach us more about who He is. He is in control of all things, including pain and suffering.)

What did Jesus do next? (He covered the man's eyes with mud, told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam, and healed him.)

How did people respond? (Some people continued to doubt. Some people believed. Some people, like the Pharisees responded with hatred not just to Jesus, but to the man and his family.)

Earlier we read **John 8:12** where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

When Jesus heals the blind man, he is doing far more than just giving him physical sight. This healing points to a far greater problem that we all need to be healed of. Let's read more about this together.

*"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness."
Isaiah 42:6-7*

The Bible tells us that even those of us with perfect vision are blinded by sin. We are people walking in darkness. We need Jesus, who is the light of the world, to open our eyes and cover the darkness of our sin. This healing is a picture of what Jesus offers to each of us. He is the light that removes the darkness of sin and makes us free.

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He heals. He can do all things. He takes away the darkness of our sin. He cares about our suffering, pain, and what's important to us.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 9? Let's draw or write these on our Week 9 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #10: John 10

Introduction:

Ask: We've heard Jesus say the words, "I am" a lot lately. Quite often when He says this, He uses an image or a word picture to help us better understand who He is. Earlier He said, "I am the Bread of Life, I am Living Water, I am the Light of the world."

Today, we're going to hear Jesus add two more, "I am" statements to this list. Before we read more about it together, let's brainstorm what we know about a few of these images.

What do you know about sheep? *(Take responses.)*

What do you know about shepherds? *(Take responses.)*

What do you know about doors? *(Take responses.)*

Wow! What great ideas you've come up with. Let's read more together to find out what each of these images have to do with who Jesus is.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 10:1-21.**

Ask: How is Jesus like a good shepherd? *(The sheep (us) hear and know His voice. He calls them by name and leads them. He goes before them and the sheep follow him. He gives them life and takes care of them. He protects them from danger. He lays down His life for the sheep. He goes and brings His sheep back into the fold.)*

How is Jesus like a door? *(Everyone enters through Him.)*

Why/how does Jesus give up His life? *(Willingly. No one takes it from him, but He lays it down because of His great love.)*

Read: **John 10:22-42.**

Ask: What does Jesus give His sheep? *(Eternal life. Protection—no one can snatch them from His hand.)*

How did people respond to Jesus? *(Many believed. Others doubted. The Pharisees continued to accuse him of blasphemy/wanted to kill him. They did not believe that He was God's Son.)*

What does this tell us about Jesus? *(He is our Good Shepherd. He gives us everything we need including eternal life and protects us.)*

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 10? Let's draw or write these on our Week 10 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #11: John 11

Introduction:

What does it mean to be a friend?

If something really terrible happens to someone you love, how do you typically respond?

In today's story, we are going to meet a family that Jesus loves. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus weren't just Jesus' followers, they were Jesus' friends. In fact, the passage we're about to read tells us that Jesus loves this family. Yet when Jesus' friend Lazarus is sick, he doesn't come to him immediately. Instead he waits a few days. By the time He arrives, Lazarus has died. Let's read more about what happens next together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 11:1-16**

Ask: How does Jesus respond when He hears that Lazarus is sick? (He says that this illness will not end in death. He waits two days longer before traveling.)

What happens to Lazarus? (He dies.)

How would you feel if you were the disciples at this time? How would you feel if you were Mary or Martha (Lazarus' sisters)? (Take responses.)

Read: **John 11:17-37.**

Ask: How do Mary and Martha respond to Jesus? (They respond honestly with their feelings, but still with faith and respect.)

How does Jesus respond to Lazarus' death? (He cries—He loves Lazarus and his family. He prays and raises Him back to life again.)

Why do you think Jesus waited/allowed Lazarus to die even though He saw the grief and pain His friends went through? (So that others would see and believe that He was God's Son. So that God's glory would be revealed in an even greater way.)

What does this passage tell us about Jesus? (He is the resurrection and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. He has power over everything—even death.)

Read: **John 11:-45-55.**

Ask: How do people respond to Jesus after He raises Lazarus from the dead? (Some people believe that He is God's Son. Others plan to kill Him because they don't want people to believe/follow Jesus.)

Read: **John 11:52.**

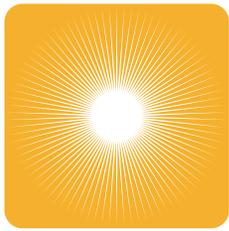
Ask: What does this say about why Jesus came to earth (To gather the children of God who are from every part of the world. That includes us!)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 11? Let's draw or write these on our Week 11 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Hang the Making it Stick (included on the last page) on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or another prominent place at your home. Practice the memory verse together as a family. You will be adding stickers to it each week.

Pray together.



Week #12: John 12

Introduction:

Let's think back to what we've seen Jesus do so far in the Book of John. What are some of the things we've seen and heard Him say so far? (He's walked on water, turned water into wine, fed 5,000 with only a little food, healed several people, raised the dead, etc... Said that He is the Resurrection and the Life, the Good Shepherd, the Living Water, etc...)

How have we seen people respond to Jesus so far? (Some respond with faith/worship. Others become angry/plan to kill Him.)

In today's passage, we're going to see these two responses unfold at the same time.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 12:1-8** or "Washed with Tears" in the Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 280-285).

Ask: How did Mary respond to Jesus? (She worshiped Him and showed Him her faith and love.)

What did she do? (Poured expensive perfume on His feet and wiped his feet with her hair.)

How did Judas respond? (Accused the woman of being wasteful.)

How did Jesus respond? (Told them to leave her alone and responded in love.)

Read: **John 12:9-26.**

Ask: How did other people respond to Jesus? (Some doubted and were angry. They planned not only to kill Jesus but Lazarus too. Others worshiped Him, cut off Palm Branches, and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel." Some didn't understand at that moment, including the disciples.)

Read: **John 12:27-50**

Ask: How did people respond to Jesus? (Some continued to doubt/not believe that He was who He said He was. Their eyes were blinded and their hearts were hardened. They loved the glory that comes from man better than the glory that comes from God.)

What does this passage say about why Jesus had to come? (He came into the world as light to rescue those who believe from the darkness of sin.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 12? Let's draw or write these on our Week 12 Sticker and practice our memory verse together.

Pray together for faith to believe.



Week #13: John 13

Introduction:

When you think of a King, what types of words/pictures/phrases do you think of? What does a King or really important person do with their time?

In today's story, we're going to discover that Jesus is a different kind of King. He came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. Let's read more about this together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 13:1-20** or "The Servant King" from The Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 286-289).

Ask: How does Jesus show love to His disciples? (He washes their feet. He even washes the feet of the people He knows will betray and deny Him.)

How does Peter respond? (At first he refuses to have Jesus wash his feet. Later, he asks for Jesus to wash all of him.)

Why does Jesus wash His disciple's feet? (To show them love but also show them how we should serve one another.)

Optional Family Activity: Take turns washing each other's feet as a family.

Read: **John 13:21-38.**

Ask: How does Jesus feel during this time? Why? (He is deeply troubled. He knows what is about to happen. He will be betrayed by one of His disciples. He will be denied by others. He will carry the weight of our sin and be separated from His Father. He will be beaten, rejected, and killed.)

What does this passage say about who Jesus is? (He is the true Servant King. He loves us so much that He was willing to endure the greatest pain of all so that we could be rescued from our sin. He is the perfect example of love.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 13? Let's draw or write these on our Week 13 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #14: John 14

Introduction:

If you knew that you were going to die/not see someone that you loved for a really long time, what would you want them to know?

What would make this conversation hard?

Why is it difficult for us to think about?

During the last 13 weeks, we've read and learned a lot about Jesus. We learned that He is a Healer. We've seen Him perform countless miracles. We've learned that He is both God and man. He had friends. He ate meals. He loved people and even cried. During the next few weeks, we're going to hear some of the final things Jesus says to His disciples before He dies. Let's listen carefully to what He wants us to know about who He is/why He came.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 14:1-14.**

Ask: What does Jesus tell His disciples? (Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and also in me. He tells them that He is going to prepare a forever home for them in heaven. He tells them that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him.)

Is this difficult for the disciples? (Yes. Even though they lived and worked with Him everyday, they continued to struggle with the things He said. They still couldn't quite understand what He was saying.)

Optional Family Activity: Listen to "A Place for You" on the Forever Home CD from Crossing Music. Have children dance or draw images of what they picture when they hear the words.

Read: **John 14:15-31.**

Ask: What does Jesus promise His disciples? (That He will give them another Helper to be with them forever—The Holy Spirit. That He will not leave them as orphans, but will come back. He promises peace that is perfect—not the kind of peace the world gives.)

What does this passage tell us about who Jesus is? (He is the only way to Heaven. He gives peace. He loves us and was willing to rescue us even though it cost Him everything.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 14? Let's draw or write these on our Week 14 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.





Week #15: John 15

Introduction:

Have you ever worked in a garden or grown a plant?

What types of things do plants need to grow? (sun, water, good soil, etc...)

If you go to an apple orchard and pick an apple off of the tree, will the apple continue to grow? Why not? (It is separated from the tree/the source of life that gives it the nutrients it needs to grow/be healthy.)

During the last few weeks, we've heard Jesus make a lot of "I am" statements. We've heard him say, "I am the Good Shepherd." "I am the resurrection and the life." "I am the Light of the World." "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." "I am the door."

Today, we're going to hear Him say that He is the vine in John 15. Before we read it together, what do you think this means? (Take responses.)

Just as a bunch of grapes can't continue to grow/bear fruit if it's separated from the tree or an apple can't continue to grow if it's separated from a tree, we can't bear fruit apart from Jesus. Let's read more about this together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 15:1-17.**

Ask: What does it mean to bear fruit? (Helping others, sharing the Gospel with others, advancing God's work in the world.)

What does this passage say about bearing fruit? (We can't do it on our own/apart from Jesus. We must abide in Him and His love.)

Why did Jesus tell us these things? (So that our joy might be complete and full. So that we know our need/dependence on Him. So that we can love each other well.)

Read: **John 15:18-27.**

Ask: What does this passage tell us about Jesus? (He is the source of all life. He does not promise us an easy life. People hated him and didn't understand who He was. The same is true for those who follow Him. He promises a Helper—His Holy Spirit. Much of what Jesus says/teaches, isn't easy.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 15? Let's draw or write these on our Week 15 Sticker and practice our memory verse that we just read together.

Pray together.



Week #16: John 16 and 17

Introduction:

During the last few weeks, we've heard some of the final things Jesus told His disciples before He died on the cross. What were some of those things? (That He would come back. That He would give them His peace. That He would send a Helper—the Holy Spirit. That He is the Way, the Truth, the Life and the only way to the Father/heaven. That He is the Vine and we are the branches. We are completely dependent on Him, etc...)

Today, we're going to hear some more of the final things Jesus told His followers together. Like much of what Jesus taught/said, some of these things are difficult/challenging.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 16:1-24.**

Ask: What does Jesus tell His followers in this section? (That He has to go away for a little while, but that He will send a Helper to them. Their sorrow will turn to joy.)

What will the Helper/Spirit do? (Guide them in all truth.)

Read: **John 16:25-33.**

Ask: Did the Disciples understand what Jesus was saying? (No. They were confused by what He said.)

Read: **John 16:25-33** one more time.

Ask: What promise does Jesus give us? (That in this world we will have trouble, but that we can take heart because He's overcome the world.)

Read: **John 17.**

Ask: According to this passage, why did Jesus come? (To bring eternal life to all who know God and believe that He sent Jesus. To accomplish the work God gave Him to do, including the cross. To bring glory to His Father.)

What does Jesus pray for his followers? (Not that God takes them out of the world, but that God protects them from the evil one. That God would make them holy in truth and that they would be unified/one. He prays for the world to come to know and believe in Him. He prays for God to be glorified.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 16 and 17? Let's draw or write these on our Week 16 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Hang the Making it Stick (included on the last page) on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or another prominent place at your home. Practice the memory verse together as a family. You will be adding stickers to it each week.

Pray together.



Week #17: John 18

Introduction:

What does it mean to betray someone? (To be disloyal, fail to protect someone in their time of need, break someone's trust/confidence, etc...)

Have you ever felt betrayed by someone? Why does it hurt so badly? (Take responses.)

In today's passage, Jesus will be betrayed by some of his closest friends. Today's story will lead us to the saddest event in all of human history—the crucifixion of Jesus. Let's read more together.

Bible Discussion:

Read: **John 18:1-11** or "A Dark Night in the Garden" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (p. 294-301).

Ask: What happened when Jesus was in the garden? (Jesus went to pray. Judas told the leaders who were plotting to kill Jesus where he would be and betrayed him into the hands of those who would put him to death. Peter cut off one of the servant's ears and Jesus healed it. He willingly surrendered Himself over to the men.)

Read: **John 18:12-44.**

Ask: How did Jesus' other followers react when Jesus was arrested? (They were sad, confused, scared, and scattered. Peter denied Jesus three times.)

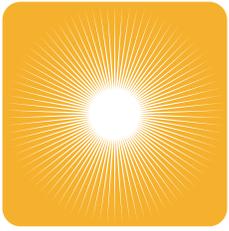
How did Jesus respond to the rulers who questioned him? (He told them that He was the Son of God. He did not argue or fight back. Like a lamb who is silent before his shearers, he did not say a word. He told them that He was a King who came into this world to bear witness to truth and that His kingdom is not of this world.)

How did the people respond to Jesus after He was arrested? (They spit on Him, mocked Him, and asked for a guilty man—Barabbas—to be pardoned instead. They yelled out and told Pilate to crucify Jesus.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 18? Let's draw or write these on our Week 17 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Pray together.



Week #18: John 19

Introduction:

When you think of a King, what types of words/pictures/phrases do you think of?

In today's story, we're going to discover that Jesus is a different kind of King. He came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. Today's story in many ways is about the saddest day in all of human history. In fact, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* calls this "The day the sun stopped shining." Let's read more about it together.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 19:1-41** or "The Sun Stops Shining" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (p. 303-309).

Ask: How does Jesus show his great love for us? (He willingly lays down his life. He endures the greatest pain of all so that we can be brought back to God.)

Why did Jesus die on the cross? (Our sin separates us from God. Someone had to pay the price/penalty for sin. Jesus is the only one who could do this. He lived a perfect life and was completely without sin. He suffered and died a terrible death on the cross so that everyone who believes in Him could have new life forever with Him in heaven some day.)

What does this tell us about Jesus? (He loves us so much. He willingly suffered in our place. He viewed bringing us back to God as something whose joy exceeded the pain.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 19? Let's draw or write these on our Week 18 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Pray together.



Week #19: John 20

Introduction:

Last week's story told us of the saddest day in all of human history. Jesus was betrayed into the hands of people who mocked him, beat him, and put him to death on a cross. The best news is that the story didn't end in that moment. In many ways, the story was just beginning. Let's read more about this together.

Bible Discussion:

Read: **John 20** or "God's Wonderful Surprise" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (p. 310-317).

How did Jesus' followers respond to the empty tomb? (They were shocked. Mary thought that someone had taken Jesus' body away and was heartbroken until she discovered that He had risen. The disciples were shocked and overjoyed when Jesus came to share a meal with them. Thomas doubted until Jesus revealed Himself to him.)

How does the empty tomb affect our lives? (Sin and death no longer have power over us! Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in Him will live forever in heaven with Him, even if they die.)

What does this tell us about Jesus? (He is all powerful! He has power over everything—even death itself. He conquered sin and death because of His great love for us.)

Optional Family Activity: Make Resurrection Rolls by using the recipe at <http://homegrownmom.com/creating-family-times/resurrection-rolls-an-easy-easter-treat/1689>

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 20? Let's draw or write these on our Week 19 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Pray together.





Week #20: John 21

Introduction:

Last week, we saw that even death itself is no match for Jesus. He rose again victorious from the grave.

Bible Discussion:

**You might decide to split the reading up over several days or read it in one section depending on time/what works best for your family.*

Read: **John 21:1-14.**

What is the problem at the beginning of the story? (The disciples are fishing but aren't catching anything.)

What does Jesus do? (He tells the disciples to cast their nets over to the right side of the boat. The disciples do not recognize that it's Jesus, but do so anyways and catch a miraculous number of fish.)

How do the disciples respond? (They realize it was Jesus! Peter swam to meet Jesus and the others immediately followed. They ate and talked with Jesus.)

Read: **John 21:15-19.**

What does Jesus ask Peter? How many times does He ask Him? What else does He ask Him to do? ("Do you love me?" 3 times. Feed His sheep.)

Why do you think He asks Him 3 times? (Because Peter denied Jesus 3 times. In this moment, Jesus helps Peter to understand that He is forgiven, loved, and will be greatly used by God regardless of what happened in the past.)

Read: **John 21:20-25.**

What does this passage tell us about the Book of John/Bible? (There are many other things that Jesus did. They are too countless. If they were, the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.)

Making it Stick:

What are some of the things we learned about Jesus in John 21? Let's draw or write these on our Week 20 Sticker and practice our new memory verse together.

Pray together.

Week #1: John 1



Week #2: John 2

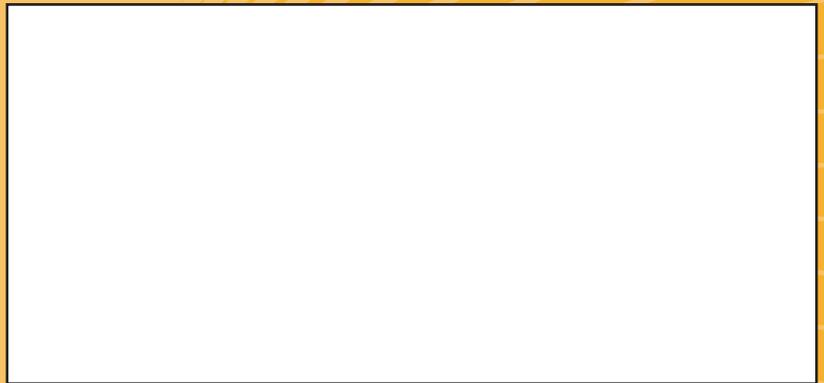


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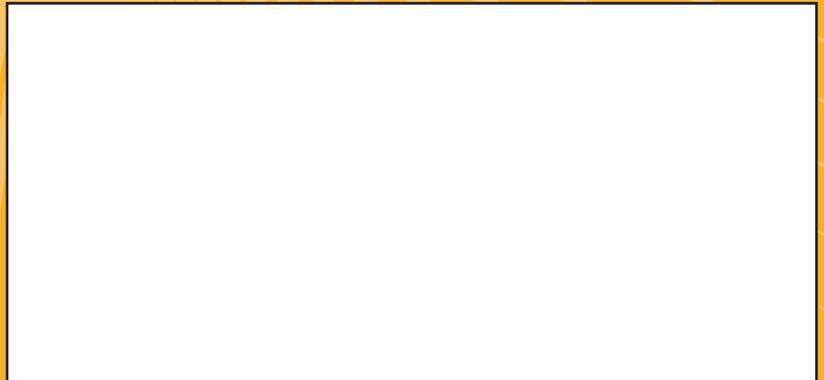
John 1-5

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.

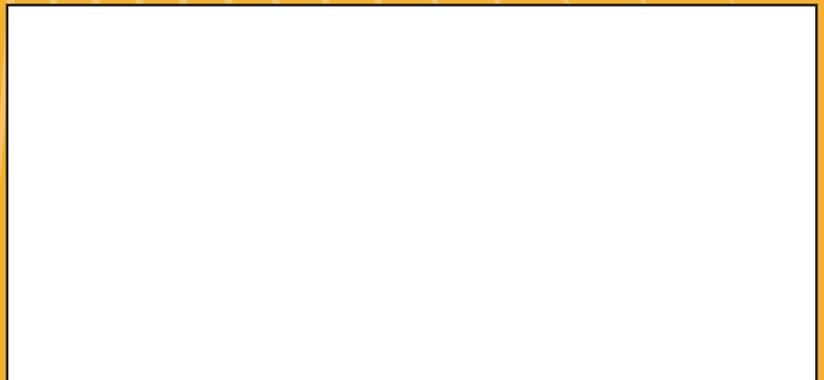
John 3:16-17



Week #3: John 3



Week #4: John 4



Week #5: John 5

Week #6: John 6



Week #7: John 7

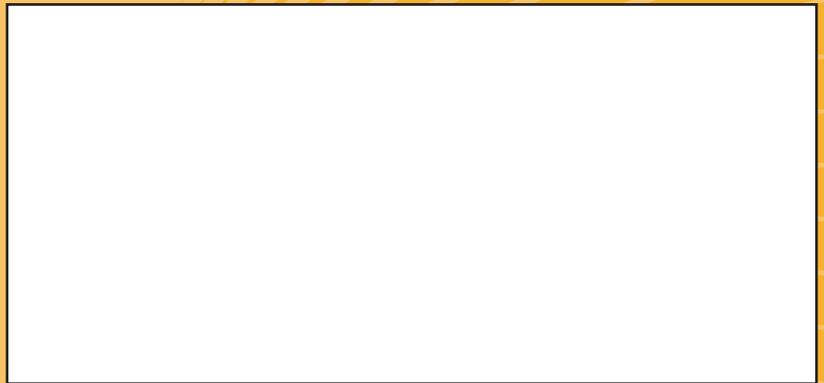


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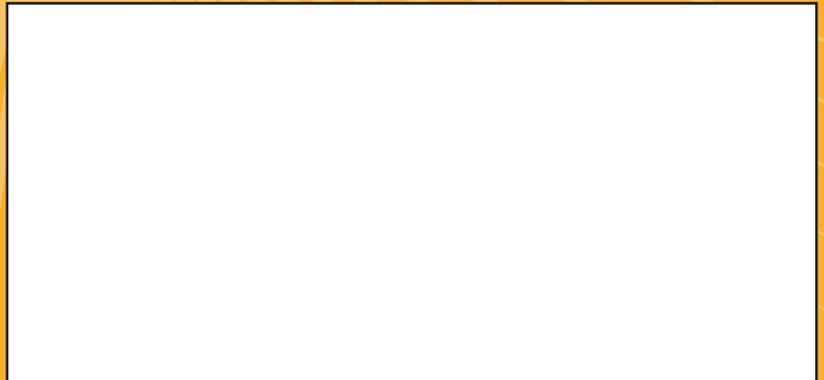
John 6-10

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

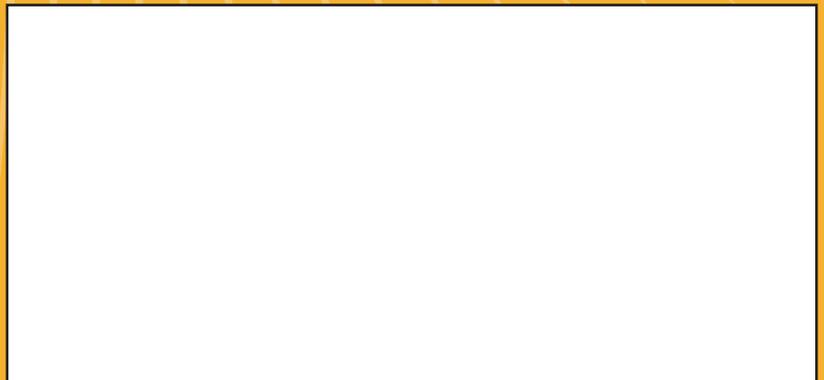
John 6:35



Week #8: John 8



Week #9: John 9



Week #10: John 10

Week #11: John 11



Week #12: John 12

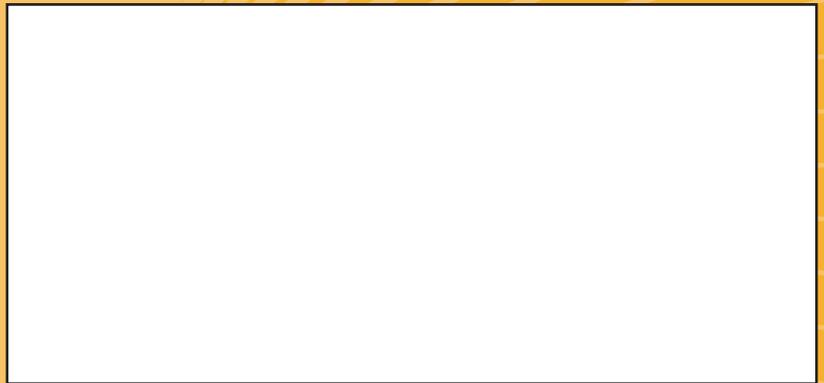


Making it Stick

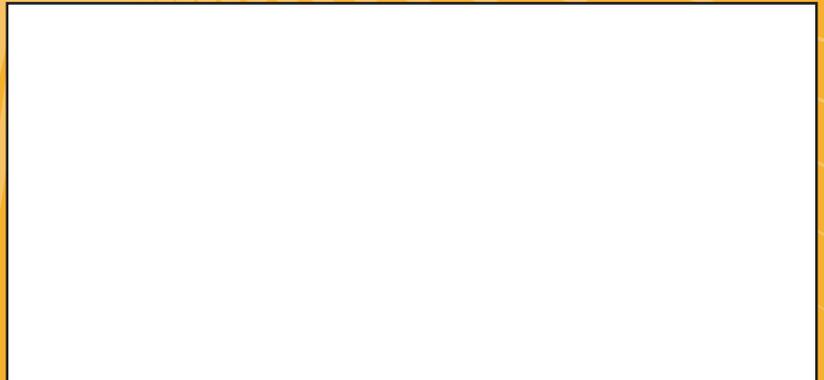
John 11-15

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

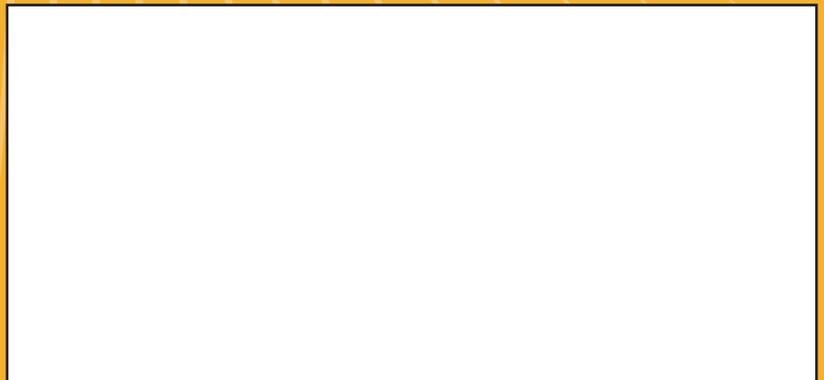
John 11:25-26



Week #13: John 13



Week #14: John 14



Week #15: John 15

Week #16: John 16/17



Week #17: John 18

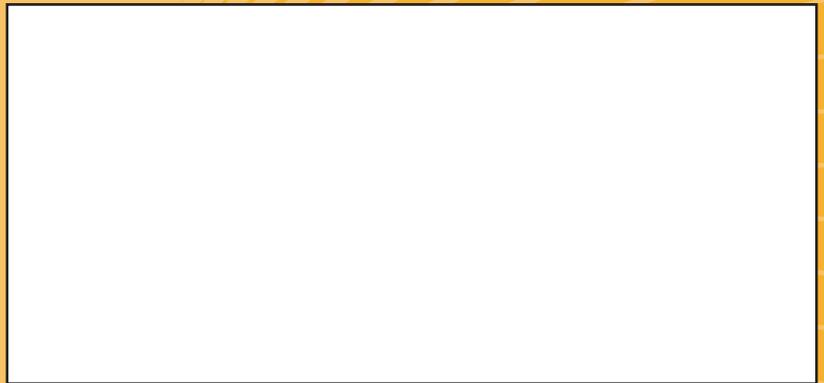


Making it Stick

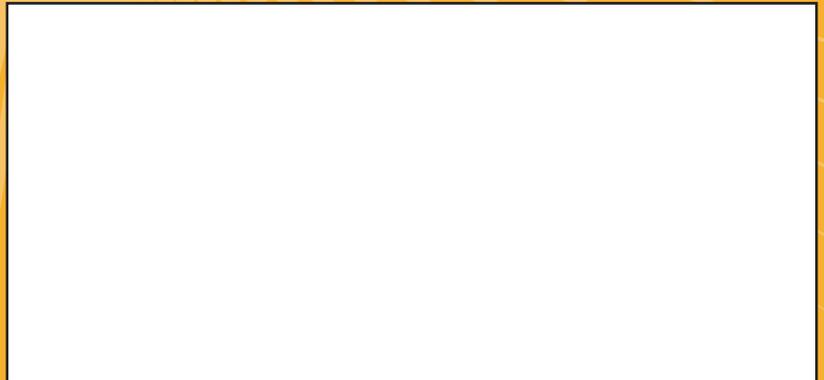
John 16-21

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.

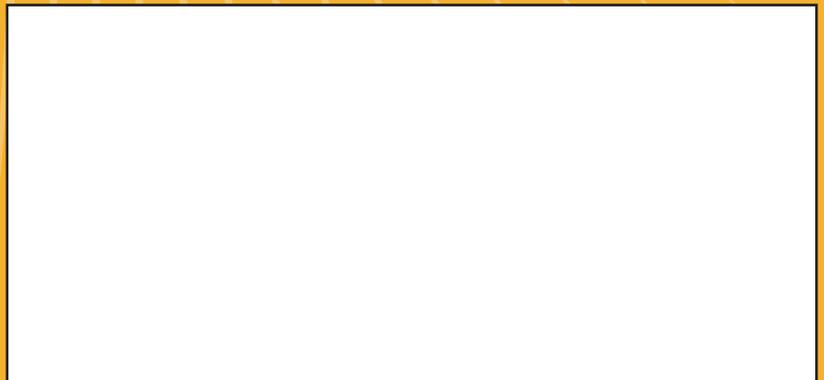
John 20:31



Week #18: John 19



Week #19: John 20



Week #20: John 21