

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

LIFE
THROUGH
THE SON

Open it

1. What are some habits that you see or hear in your parents that you find yourself doing or saying?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 5:19–47.

2. What does the Father do and what does the Son do (5:19–23)?
3. What is required for someone to possess eternal life (5:24)?
4. What will happen one day to those who are dead when they hear the voice of Jesus (5:25–30)?
5. What testimonies about Jesus prove that He is the real deal (5:31–39)?
6. What is Jesus' assessment about the Jews (5:37–47)?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Perfect Submission

Read John 5:19–20.

This past summer was the Tokyo Olympics, and one of the events I enjoyed watching was Olympic rowing. I was always impressed by how the rowers rowed together in perfect unity. There are two positions in Olympic rowing: the Coxswain, who is in charge of steering the boat and calling out the stroke rhythm and the rowers, whose job is to listen to the voice of the Coxswain and row together in unison. In the same way, Jesus always perfectly listens and follows the voice of the Father. Our verses today talk about how Jesus does nothing by Himself, but only what He sees His Father doing! Jesus is equal with God the Father and in His very nature is God!¹ As the Son, Jesus willingly chooses to submit to the Father and chooses to do only what He sees His Father doing! He never rebels and does His own thing independent of the Father. Jesus obeys the Father not just because it's His duty to be an obedient Son, but also because he knows the heart of His Father! The Father loves the Son!²

There are a few different Greek words for love. The most common one we see is *agape* love, which is unconditional love that always has the best interest of others in mind. *Agape* is used in John 3:35 to talk about the Father's love towards Jesus. Here in John 5:20, the Greek word for expressing the Father's love for Jesus is *phileo* love, which is a love of deep affection. Not only does the Father have *agape* unconditional love for Jesus but, He has a deep affectionate *phileo* love for Jesus. In a similar way, the Father *agape* loves us because we were chosen and adopted to belong to Him and become His children before the creation of the world.³ God demonstrates His *agape* love for us by saving us. Ephesian 2:4–5 (NIV) says, “*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved.*” Because of God's infinitely great love for us, demonstrated by making us alive through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, we should want nothing more than to listen to His voice and do what pleases Him!

7. Read John 10:1–4. It says that Jesus is our Shepherd who is always speaking to us, his sheep. and that His sheep are familiar with His voice. How do we become familiar with Jesus' voice?

8. Why do we choose to disobey God when we know what He desires from us?

9. Do you hear the Father speaking to you today? What is He telling you to do?

¹ John 1:1–3, 14

² John 5:20

³ Ephesians 1:4–5

Day 3 — Today's Theme: What Happens After You Die?

Read John 5:21–30.

Almost everyone wonders at some time in their life what happens when you die. There have been several books and movies that talk about life after death. We even hear stories from people who were pronounced dead, and they say that they can remember what happened and where they were for those few minutes before returning to earth. We can't deny someone's personal experience, but our only definitive authority on what happens after you die comes from the Bible. The Bible makes it clear that when you die, both believers in Jesus and unbelievers' physical bodies will be buried in the ground. The believer's spirit goes immediately to be with Jesus.⁴ The unbeliever's spirit goes to Hades, a holding place of torment, agony and fire.⁵ One day the unbelievers will hear the voice of Jesus and their bodies will rise out of the grave (death) and be reunited with their spirit (Hades) and they ultimately will stand before the Great White throne judgment of Jesus where they are thrown into the lake of fire (hell).⁶ The believers will also hear the voice of Jesus and the dead in Christ (believers in the grave) will rise first to meet Jesus in the clouds, followed by believers who are living who will rise to meet Jesus in the clouds.⁷ When believers are with Jesus in glory, there will be no more tears or pain, but we will be dwelling with God in eternity.⁸

10. Are you afraid of death? Why or why not?

11. How do you respond when someone tells you a story about someone who died and went to heaven or even hell and came back to earth?

⁴ Philippians 1:21–23

⁵ Luke 16:19–31

⁶ Revelation 20:11–15

⁷ 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

⁸ Revelation 21:1–4

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Is Jesus the Real Deal?

Read John 5:31–40.

Drivers' licenses are important, not just to give you permission to drive on the road but also to give you an official government-issued ID. There are many instances where you will be asked to provide some sort of identification, like a driver's license to show that you are who you say you are! Jesus arrives on the scene, and He is claiming to be the Son of God! No, Jesus didn't whip out a Roman government-issued chariot license to validate who He is. He told people to examine three types of testimony. He told people to listen to the testimony of John the Baptist who prepared people for the coming of the promised Messiah, who we know to be Jesus. Jesus also told people to look at the works that He is doing that the Father has given him to do. Lastly, Jesus says that the Scriptures testify that Jesus is the Son of God! Even today, people don't believe Jesus is who He says He is! Jesus is 100 % God and 100% man. He is God in the flesh! And we too have not only the eyewitness testimony of John the Baptist and the twelve disciples, but over 500 eye witnesses of the resurrected Jesus.⁹ We can't witness the physical person of Jesus performing miracles today, but we can testify the life-transforming work of Jesus in our lives. We too have the Scriptures which testify to who Jesus is. The Bible was written over 1400 years, by over 40 authors from different walks of life, in different moods, on three different continents and three languages, and with all of these unique characteristics it is one continuous book. No other book in the world comes close to the support validating its authenticity.

12. Why do people today fail to believe who Jesus is?

13. Are you convinced that Jesus is who He says He is, that He is fully God and fully man, and that He paid the price for our sins through His sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection from the dead? Defend your answer.

⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:3–6

Day 5 — Today's Theme: Sameness

Read John 5:37–47.

Most jobs have a yearly review to tell you how you are doing. Even at school, you receive a report card which tells you how well you are performing in a class. Jesus gives an honest assessment of the Jewish leaders who are persecuting Him.¹⁰ He says that they have not heard the voice of the Father or seen His form, nor does His word dwell in them and they don't believe Jesus, the One He sent. They refuse to come to Jesus to have life. He said that they don't have the love of God in their hearts, and they don't accept him. They don't seek glory that comes from only God. Those are a lot of strong accusations against the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day who were supposed to be the ones closest to God and the ones who should have accepted Jesus with open arms! If you were to sit down with Jesus alone, one on one, what would He say about your heart? Would He say that you don't have the love of God in your heart like the Jewish religious leaders, or would He say that you have a deep love for Him? Maybe you are reading this and you are confident that you are close to Jesus! Keep on pressing on in your relationship with Jesus! Or maybe you feel that your heart is far from Jesus! Remember that God loves you unconditionally, and no matter how many steps you take away from the cross, it's only one step back—and that is repentance, confessing your sin, and turning your back on sin and coming back to God, just as the prodigal son did in Luke 15.

14. What causes “religious” people today to miss out on an authentic relationship with Jesus?

15. Read Luke 15:11–32. What caused the prodigal son to change his mind and come home to His Father?

16. Be honest! What would Jesus say about the condition of your heart? Would He say that you have the love of God in your heart or that your heart is distant from Him? If your heart is far from God, what would it take for you to kindle a love for God?

¹⁰ John 5:16

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