



Galloway
CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES.

Gospel of John
DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

The Power of a Shared Experience

Shared experiences have great power to impact our lives. That motivates this effort to create a preaching series that is paired with daily scripture readings and weekly follow-ups to the sermons. Every day we'll read the same scriptures that will lead up to each week's message. Then, you can use the study guide as your personal devotion, but I hope you will take it a step farther. I hope that you will gather with a partner or several people to form a small group and discuss the scripture, the sermon and your lives to draw each other into deeper expressions of faith in Jesus.

Join me in this series that, together, we may encourage one another and receive from God the power to believe and to love his Son, our savior, Jesus!

Pastor Roy Gearhart

That You May Believe!

Weekly Sermons can be heard on our website:

www.gallowaychurch.org

The full study guide is also available to view or download from our website.

Sermon notes can also be viewed with the You Version Bible app. Open the "Events" tab and search for Galloway UM Church.

Weekly Small Group Study Guides are formatted to follow four steps: welcome, worship, word and witness.

Welcome: time to get acquainted with each other with ice breaker games or answering fun questions.

Worship: bringing the focus on Christ Jesus through music, quiet moments, devotions and prayer.

Word: working together to live in the truth of God's Word by studying the Bible together and striving to apply it in your lives. Open discussions invite questions about the Bible and your life situations. Encouragement and hope are the goal.

Witness: practicing ways to share Jesus with others.

Studying Your Bible

John says that the reason he has written this gospel is to share the amazing things that Jesus did so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. Over the next seven weeks, leading up to Easter, we are going to read scriptures daily from the gospel.

One excellent way of engaging the scripture is to use the "SOAP" method. We are providing this journal to encourage you to use SOAP daily to study your Bible.

What is SOAP?

"SOAP" stands for four words that describe the process of listening to God through the Bible. You'll be surprised how the act of writing out these four thoughts will allow you to hear more from God. Here's how to do it:

1. **S**cripture - Read the verses for the day listed on the page. As you read, be alert for a verse that stands out to you more than any others. If there wasn't one that stood out, just pick one verse to meditate on. *Write that verse down in this journal, word for word.*

2. **O**bservation - Write down what you notice about the verse. For example, what is the main point? Who is doing what? You can also try writing out the verse in your own words.

3. **A**pplication - Write out in one sentence what you will do in response. You may start with: "I will..."

If you have a hard time coming up with an application, Rick Warren has a list of helpful questions:

S - Is there Sin to confess

P - Is there a Promise to claim?

A - Is there an attitude to change?

C - Is there a Command to obey?

E - Is there an Example to follow?

P - Is there a Prayer to pray?

E - Is there an Error to avoid?

T - Is there a Truth to believe?

S - Is there Something to praise God for?

4. **P**rayer - Spend a moment talking to God about what is on your mind. Write down what you prayed for. It will build your faith to see how God answers it!

Devotional FAQs

What do I do if I don't understand what I've read?

Ask God in prayer to help you understand. Also, you can ask a fellow believer for their take. Try someone in your small group.

What happens if I miss some days?

Well, what happens if you miss a meal? Catch the next one!

What version of the Bible should I read?

One that you can understand. We use the New International Version (NIV) and the New Living Translation (NLT) frequently at weekend services, but there are many good versions.

Note: some version are "translations" (like NIV, ESV, NKJV, NLT) and some are "paraphrases" (The Message, The Living Bible). Basically, translations are "word for word" from the original languages. They are particularly good to use for study. Paraphrases are "idea for idea." They are particularly good for devotional reading.

How much time should I take?

It's better to do a little each day than wait for a large chunk of time to open up. If you are just starting, aim for 15 minutes per day, and build from there as you can.

February 14, 2018 - Ash Wednesday

John 20:30-31

S

O

A

P

February 15, 2018

John 1:1-9

S

O

A

P

February 16, 2018

John 1:10-14

S

O

A

P

February 17, 2018

John 2:1-11

S

O

A

P

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Water Into Wine For Mom

Who and why of faith / who and why of God's love.

Lined writing area consisting of 21 horizontal lines.

Small Group Study: *Water Into Wine For Mom*

Welcome:

Have you ever run out of gas, been short of cash at the check out or helped someone else who was in that kind of situation?

Worship:

Take a few moments to listen to worship music.

Offer a prayer to center all on Christ's forgiveness and love.

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 20:30-31, John 2:1-11

OBSERVATION

- What does John say his purpose is in writing the Gospel? (20:30-31)
- When Mary told Jesus that the wine had run out, what did Jesus say? (2:4)
- How did Mary respond? (2:5)
- Then what did Jesus do? (2:6-11)
- What did Jesus mean when he said that it wasn't his time? (2:4)
- Does he explain why he created the wine, even though it was not his time?

APPLICATION

1. What does Mary teach you about faith by the way she put the problem in Jesus' hands?
-

2. Is it difficult or easy for you to put your needs in God's hands that way?

3. What does it tell us about God's character that, even though it was not his time, Jesus provided wine for his mother?

4. Turning water into wine saved the hosts from embarrassment, but it was not a matter of life and death. What does that tell you about God's concern for our needs, both big and small?

PRAY with each other for needs that you struggle to put in God's hands.

Witness:

Invite someone to share an experience when they put a problem into God's hands. Ask them to share where they found the faith to do so and how God answered.

Is there someone you could invite to join you in this study? Lift them up in pray and take a step of faith-invite them.

February 19, 2018

John 2:12-17

S

O

A

P

February 20, 2018

John 2:18-3:3

S

O

A

P

February 21, 2018

John 4:43-54

S

O

A

P

February 22, 2018

Matthew 8:5-13

S

O

A

P

February 23, 2018

John 4:1-26

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

February 24, 2018

John 4:27-42

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *Take My Word For It*

Welcome:

What is the biggest promise you have ever made or that has been made to you, not including marriage?

Worship:

Read Psalm 119:105-107, 114, 147-148 - all about trusting.

Pray as you begin time in the Word.

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 4: 43-54

OBSERVATION

- Where did these events happen?
- Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus? (4:45; 2:23-25)
- Who was Jesus talking about when he said a prophet was without honor in his home and complained about those who repeatedly required signs in order to believe? (4:44, 48)
- Who came to Jesus for help?
- What did Jesus ask him to do?
- How did the man respond? (4:50)
- How long until he received an answer? (4:50-53)

APPLICATION

Last week, Mary put a problem in Jesus' hands and waited. The official had to take Jesus at his word and go with only his promise.

1. How can you know when to step out in faith and be obedient?

2. How do you respond when God makes you wait for an answer or answers in a way that is not the plan you pictured?

PRAYER

Are you praying for someone to be saved, to be healed or to receive guidance for a decision and find yourself waiting? Is there some way God is calling you to step out in faith to share Jesus with that person, to invite them to faith, to express love and caring for them? Pray with each as you seek his answer.

Witness:

Invite someone to share an experience when they had to step out in faith to follow God.

February 26, 2018

John 6:1-15

S

O

A

P

February 27, 2018

John 6:16-24

S

O

A

P

February 28, 2018

John 6:25-31

S

O

A

P

March 1, 2018

John 6:32-42

S

O

A

P

March 2, 2018

John 6:43-59

S

O

A

P

March 3, 2018

John 6:60-70

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *A Meal Is NOT Enough*

Welcome:

Talk about food. Invite each one to answer just one of these questions:

What is the best meal you've ever had?

What is your favorite meal or favorite place to eat?

Worship:

You can give each person a piece of bread or roll. They can hold it or eat it. Discuss together the way people ate bread in the Bible compared to now. We treat it as a side dish. For them it was hearty - truly a whole grain, no sugar added, main element in their diet. Say the Lord's Prayer and talk about the importance of "our daily bread".

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 6

OBSERVATION

- After feeding the 5000, the crowd followed Jesus. When they found him, how did he greet them? (6:26-27)
- What did Jesus tell them God wanted from them? (6:28-29)
- What did they ask Jesus to do for them? (6:30-31)
- Jesus says seven times that he is the Bread of Life or Bread from Heaven. (6:32-33, 35, 38, 41, 48, 51, 58) Does he say he literally wants them to eat his body and drink his blood?

APPLICATION

1. Why do you think so many disciples turn away from him?
-

2. Why does Peter refuse to leave Jesus? (6:68-69)

3. Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Bread of Life offering words of life. Jesus is not a side dish or garnish to life. He is the essential food for life. So, is Jesus your source of life or just an add on who helps you get through?

4. Is Jesus your favorite meal or just one of your favorites?

5. Do you need him everyday or just as an occasional treat?

PRAYER

Pray with each other. Be honest about how important Jesus is to the way you live.

Witness:

Invite someone to share how they have grown from a casual Christian to a surrendered believer following Jesus.

Do you know someone who is hungry for Jesus? Can you invite them to dinner with you?

March 5, 2018

John 5:1-15

S

O

A

P

March 6, 2018

John 5:16-30

S

O

A

P

March 7, 2018

John 7:1-13

S

O

A

P

March 8, 2018

John 7:14-24

S

O

A

P

March 9, 2018

John 7:25-44

S

O

A

P

March 10, 2018

John 7:45-52

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *Stuck And Going Nowhere*

Welcome:

Ask each one to briefly share where they would go, if they could go anywhere in the world.

Worship:

Set a bowl of water in the middle of the group and give each one a small stone. Ask each one to think of themselves by the pool like the man in the Bible. The stone represents the thing(s) holding them back. As each person prays silently and meditates about what the stone represents, play a worship song in the background then say a prayer inviting Christ to lead

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 5:1-18, 7:21-24

OBSERVATION

- What does the Bible tell us about the man Jesus healed?
- Was he a good man?
- Was he full of faith?
- Why was he laying by the pool day after day?
- Why had he not been healed?
- Is there any clue why Jesus chose him to be healed?
- Does the man believe in Jesus before or after he is healed?
- Why does this healing cause conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees? (5:9-20; 26-18; 7:21-24)

APPLICATION

Many people are stuck in life. The man came to the pool

for healing everyday even though he couldn't get in. The Pharisees were so focused on what they should not do on the Sabbath that they could not allow healing by God to happen on the Sabbath day. They were both stuck.

1. Is there anything holding you back from being the person God would have you to be?

2. You might say that you have a physical limitation, your past holds you back, you have been hurt, etc. What if that stumbling block can be overcome? Are you ready to move forward?

PRAYER

God may need to help you to see that an obstacle can be overcome when he takes command. Think of that stone as that obstacle and place it in the bowl.

Witness:

Invite someone to share an obstacle that held them back and reveal how God overcame and moved them forward. Pray with one another to get unstuck.

Would you have helped the man into the pool? Who can you help this week to get closer to God for healing and new life?

March 12, 2018

John 9:1-12

S

O

A

P

March 13, 2018

John 9:13-17

S

O

A

P

March 14, 2018

John 9:18-23

S

O

A

P

March 15, 2018

John 9:24-34

S

O

A

P

March 16, 2018

John 9:35-41

S

O

A

P

March 17, 2018

John 12:37-43

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *Spiritual Blindness Can Be Cured*

Welcome:

Blind fold a volunteer or let each person take a turn. Give the blind folded person an object(s) they have to identify by touch alone. Have fun.

Worship:

Sing or read the words to verse one of "Amazing Grace." Pray for God to open each one's spiritual eyes to see more clearly his truth and to then live it.

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 9

OBSERVATION

- When a man was born blind, the disciples assumed that someone was being punished for sin, but what did Jesus say? (9:1-5)
- Some Pharisees (Jewish leaders) opposed Jesus. They accused Jesus and the man born blind of being sinners in order to dismiss the healing and the faith of the healed man. How did the man defend Jesus to them? (9:30-33)

APPLICATION

1. What does it mean to be blind spiritually? (9:35-41)

2. Is spiritual blindness simply confusion or misunderstanding?

3. Why does Jesus say that those who claim to see remain guilty of sin? (9:41)

4. How can spiritual blindness be cured?

5. Do you ever feel trapped in some stubborn resistance to God?

6. Do you long for the kind of freedom and fearless faith expressed by the man who was healed?

PRAYER

Spiritual blindness is a stubborn resistance to God that makes us unteachable and unwilling to be led. Pray with each other to not only recognize, but also to do God's will.

Witness:

Starting a new life in Jesus is sometimes called an awakening. Invite someone to share about the time when they awakened to faith in Jesus.

Is there someone in your life who has closed their heart to God? Pray specifically for them this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to open their spiritual eyes. Watch for a chance to invite them or someone else to Church for Easter or to your small group.

March 19, 2018

John 11:1-16

S

O

A

P

March 20, 2018

John 11:17-27

S

O

A

P

March 21, 2018

John 11:28-37

S

O

A

P

March 22, 2018

John 11:38-44

S

O

A

P

March 23, 2018

John 11:45-57

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

March 24, 2018

John 12:1-11

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *Lazarus Must Die!*

Welcome:

How important is winning to you? Share a time in your life when you worked hard, studied hard, and put in the time to succeed, pass the test, to win.

Worship:

Read Revelation 2:1-11. Pray that our Lord Jesus will keep us on track and lead us to victory over sin.

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 12:1-19

OBSERVATION

- After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, two events occurred revealing those who believed in him and others who rejected him.
- At the dinner, who expressed faith in Jesus and who rejected him (see what Judas did after the dinner - Mark 14:10-11).
- Who celebrated Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and who rejected him?
- Why did religious leaders decide that Lazarus must die? (12:9-11, 17-19)

APPLICATION

The religious leaders became so desperate to win that they not only claimed that Jesus deserved to die, but they also plotted to kill Lazarus because his resurrection was convincing many to believe in Jesus.

1. Have you ever been attacked like this?

2. Have you ever been so desperate to win an argument that you would say any hurtful thing you could?

3. Have you ever cheated, shaded the truth, gossiped about a competitor, took something because you thought you deserved it... in order to win?

PRAYER

Be open and honest with one another. Pray with each other for forgiveness and for victory that comes from faith in Jesus.

Witness:

Invite someone to share a story of Christ's victory in their life. It might even be a story of repentance and restoration or of discovering how to live with integrity, trusting Christ in a competitive environment.

Easter time is a great opening for driven people to meet the Savior who had the biggest come back victory of all time! Ask them to come and let God amaze them!

March 26, 2018

John 13:1-17

S

O

A

P

March 27, 2018

John 13:33-38

S

O

A

P

March 28, 2018

John 14:1-14

S

O

A

P

March 29, 2018 - Holy Thursday

John 14:15-27

S

O

A

P

March 30, 2018 - Good Friday

John 19:1-16

S

O

A

P

March 31, 2018

John 19:25-37

S

O

A

P

Small Group Study: *An Unbelievable Truth!*

Welcome:

Let each one share a memorable April Fool Joke that they have been party to.

Worship:

Read I Corinthians 15:1-20. Pray with thanksgiving for the resurrection and for the witness of God's Word.

Word:

SCRIPTURE John 20

OBSERVATION

- When Jesus arose from the dead, the disciples seemed surprised and had to be convinced. Look at Peter and John (20:3-9), Mary Magdalene (20:10-16), a group of disciples (20:19-20), and Thomas (20:24-29). What convinced each one of them that Jesus was risen?

APPLICATION

The Christian faith is not blind whimsy. It is built on the testimony of those who witnessed the works of God. It is an unbelievable truth. So, make a list of the things that may have been or that are still cause for uncertainty or doubt.

Now, make a list of the things that have led you to believe in Jesus. If you are not certain, make a list of potential evidence.

PRAYER

Share questions or circumstances that may make you or someone you know struggle with doubt. Pray with each other for those who struggle to believe in Jesus.

Witness:

Invite someone to share their experience of conversion to faith in Jesus.

People who believe in and love Jesus need to be willing to talk with and listen to people who are not believers. Pray for openings to talk with others about Jesus. Be respectful. Don't feel that you must convince them. Listen well and clearly share who Jesus is to you and live with love and integrity. God will do the rest.