

## 90 DAYS THROUGH THE GOSPELS:

A Prayer - Care – Share Scripture Journey with Jesus

by Kathy Branzell

### **Introduction and Invitation**

#### 90 Days Through the Gospels: A Prayer-Care-Share Scripture Journey with Jesus

Welcome to the year 2020 and “90 Days Through the Gospels: Journeying with Jesus to Prayer-Care-Share.” How fitting to begin this year by saturating ourselves in the supremacy of Jesus by reading and learning His Words, will, ways, commands and promises written for us in the gospel scriptures. Many of you may have made a commitment or “resolution” to read your Bible every day and pray; this journey will help to make that hope a habit this year. We are so humbled and grateful that you joined us on this journey.

This is going to be an amazing journey that will help you live out life as a disciple-maker. Whether in a synagogue, by the sea, or walking down the street; Jesus modeled how to love God, love our neighbor and share the Good news of salvation. We can show love and make disciples every day, along the way to wherever we are going or whatever we are doing by following Jesus’ example. The gospels tell us that as Jesus was “passing through,” “on his way to do...”, or sitting on the shore enjoying the view; He prayed, He cared, and He shared the Kingdom message of salvation.

This journey was written to show us how simple it can be to be a disciple-maker every day by following Jesus’ model that is recorded in every chapter of the gospels. Every day you will read one chapter of the gospels beginning with Matthew and a short devotional prompt of how you can pray, care and share based on that chapter. It is simple to share the love and message of Jesus every day; giving help and hope to those who need it. A simple, “How are you doing?” can open an entire conversation that will teach you how to pray and how to care for them – sharing the message of Jesus will change them forever. Your life; your attitude, affection, availability, and affirmation will help show them what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Please pray with us and read Isaiah 9:1-7; looking forward to the coming Christ as we look forward to beginning our gospel journey in Matthew 1.

Prayer: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace – I look forward to what You will do; what You will teach me, and the doors You will open for me to share Your love and message on our journey with You these next 90 days. I commit to be faithful in this journey. I want You to saturate my life with Your Word and Your purpose. I seek to know You and make You known: be glorified in my life. Help me to focus – to give you my full attention as I read – and teach me to live a prayer-care-share lifestyle so that I can be Your witness, sharing Your love and message everywhere and every day.

## **John 1**

**Prayer:** Jesus, You are the Light and the Life of humanity; I praise You as my Creator and sustainer. I want to be a witness for you as John was; to share Your light and love with a dark and hurting world. You are the only Son from the Father and the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world; of all who would believe and receive You as Lord. Thank You! You are the Word I abide in and Your Word abides in me. Disciple me as I follow You.

**Care:** Jesus found Philip in Galilee and invited Phillip to follow Him. Philip went to find Nathanael to tell him and take him to meet Jesus. Despite Nathanael's skepticism, Philip urged Nathanael to "come and see." Jesus captivated and convinced Nathanael that He was the Son of God and promised that he would see "greater things." You encounter skeptics every day – don't give up on them or leave them "under the fig tree" to miss out on the great things Jesus has planned for them. Take time to tenderly urge them day by day to come and see who Jesus is and what He is doing in your life and other's.

**Share:** John the Baptist gave continual testimony to the greatness of Jesus to every crowd and individual he encountered. Jesus was the one who had been promised and was now present on earth to redeem His creation from the eternal consequences of sin and death. In verse forty, Andrew went to find his brother Peter and brought him to Jesus "the Messiah;" Philip brought Nathanael to see "the one Moses and the prophets wrote about." Who will you bring to meet Jesus? Who is He to you? How do you describe Him and your relationship to Him? Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to be introduced to Jesus; be prepared to share His message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 2**

**Prayer:** Jesus, like those jars of clay; You transform what is inside of me to something "good." You preserved the wedding celebration for Your friends, keeping them from the disgrace. Thank You for supplying all of our needs; for keeping us from shame when we are filled with Your Spirit. Give me the zeal for Your Body; the Church, that You had for Your house. Remove any unrighteousness from Your Church and draw us to serve You together in unity and love. Keep our motives pure and our hearts focused on You; that many would come to believe and worship You.

**Care:** Jesus had a zeal for the Temple; known at the time as the place where the presence of God resided even though the Ark of the Covenant was no longer there. The Temple was the place to worship; to lean, pray, and give sacrifices and offerings in thankfulness and respect to God. The church is a place for Jesus-followers to gather and worship; it is a place to pray, learn, serve and worship today. Invite someone to come and enjoy the worship and fellowship at your church. Tell them about the special ministry opportunities that are available and the many ways

you engage in sharing the love and message of Jesus with your community and the world. Let the zeal you have for your church be contagious and bring others into the Body of Christ.

**Share:** In the verses leading up to verse eleven, Jesus turns the water into very good wine. Verse eleven ends with, “and His disciples believed in Him.” Jesus continues to work in big and small ways every day. Whether giving peace and strength in unbearable circumstances or a miraculous healing of a terminal disease; Jesus is the Word of Creation, the giver of good gifts and the might behind each miracle. What is your story? How have you encountered the compassionate and powerful touch of Jesus? Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus not only changed water into wine, but He changes people too. The weak become strong, and the broken hearted are restored; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

### **John 3**

**Prayer:** Jesus, I know that no one can be forgiven and have eternal life without first following You. Thank You for making a way; the opportunity to be born again. I yield my life to Your will; fill me with Your Spirit so that I may delight You all of my days on earth until I enter into Your presence in heaven. Thank You for Your sacrifice; to come and to be lifted up so that the whole world could know You and choose to believe. Let me be Your instrument to exhort those who do not know You to come under Your wings and believe. Thank You for life.

**Care:** Nicodemus was an educated ruler and teacher of Israel who knew Jesus was sent from God, but did not realize at first that Jesus was God. Even though he came to talk to Jesus at night; Nicodemus had to take courage to go to Jesus and ask Him deeper questions. Jesus’ teachings had caused confusion and division among His followers and the Jewish leaders, but Nicodemus knew there was more to understand and respond to so he went to Jesus seeking answers. You are surrounded by people with questions about Jesus and the Church; remain approachable and receive their questions with compassion and humility. Be patient. Speak truth with love and do not get caught in heated quarrels or angry arguments. Always be willing to share what Scripture says as your reply to cultural quips or opinions.

**Share:** John 3:16 is perhaps the most quoted or well-known Scripture; “For God so loved the world...” Many people who resist God feel that God hates them; that they are unlovable or “too far gone” to be saved. Show and share God’s love by explaining that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God knew us; every thought and deed and loved us enough to send His one and only Son to redeem us. Yes, God is holy – there is a standard that He set; sin cannot stand in the presence of holiness, but He provided His own Son to triumph over our sin. God is love and His thoughts and actions reflect that love. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that God loves them deeply; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 4**

**Prayer:** Jesus, You came that all people would have the opportunity to believe and follow You. Help me to see and follow the model You gave us as You spoke truth with compassion to the woman at the well. There are so many people who are living in sin and shame; feeling like an outcast without hope. Incite me to share your message with love to those who are often overlooked or avoided. Help me to draw people to Your Word; to know that it is not too late for them to follow You as their Savior. Keep my eyes open for the wounded and the rebel; so that I might share Your salvation message with kindness and they would be moved to believe and follow You.

**Care:** Division between people groups has been going on for centuries; Jewish people would usually add many miles to their journey to and from Jerusalem just to avoid going through Samaria, but Jesus walked right to it. Division is not of God; we are meant to be a family under the banner of Jesus, but the enemy has stirred up pride, prejudice and preferences that separate us and often spawn hatred or even violence. Have you ever gone to worship or pray with people who are from a different culture or skin color? Make every effort to spend time with people who are NOT like you; broaden your group of friends and go to the neighborhoods that others avoid. Listen with an open heart to the needs and thoughts of all people and worship together in Spirit and truth.

**Share:** Verses forty-six through fifty-three tell the story of an official who came to ask Jesus to heal his child. He is challenged to believe before he sees the answer to his request; it stretches the man to believe that Jesus could and would heal his child without going with him to his home. Jesus is asking for faith in Him. Before the miracle, before the answer comes, before we SEE the work; Jesus wants us to place our affection and faith in Him and trust Him to do what is best for us. The official's child was healed at the moment he professed his faith, but we must understand and share with others that it is the One we put our faith in that is the One who will also sustain us and give us peace and comfort when we do not get the things we ask for in prayer. Faith says, "Jesus, You love me and You are God; hear the desires of my heart and do what is best for Your Kingdom and everyone involved." Faith professes that He can meet all of our needs. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is worthy of their faith and affection; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 5**

**Prayer:** Jesus, as You ministered to the man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years; help me to persevere in my prayers and faith. I know that You meet my needs and my

challenges can grow me and glorify You. Teach me Your ways, and let Your work in my life bring You great glory and honor. Open my eyes to those who are hurting and show me how I can help them. Show me how I can bring them to the comfort of Your living water as You stir their hearts towards You.

**Care:** It is tragic to think that the religious people did not rejoice in his healing but were angered that it happened on the Sabbath. We should rejoice and celebrate every time Jesus touches and changes a life. Ask someone you know who has been changed, healed or brought out of a difficult circumstance to share their story with you and then celebrate with them. Give God praise and thanks for His love. Make yourself available to assist someone who is unable to help themselves; show compassion and help them to find or keep their faith in Jesus.

**Share:** In verse twenty-four, Jesus clearly explains that whoever hears His word and believes He is the Son of God has eternal life. It is vital that you connect your loving lifestyle with your faith in Jesus; it is a response to the love and salvation He has given to you. Those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior need to hear the message of Jesus and be invited to follow Him. Every person will give an account of their life; Jesus will judge, make sure you have shared the message as well as the love of Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that they must make a decision about what they believe about Jesus; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 6**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for teaching us in so many ways. Thank You for asking questions and posing problems that we need to call on You in prayer for and then participate in the answer. Thank You for Your miracles, for the glory that came when You fed the 5,000 and saved a wretch like me. Thank You for being the Word made flesh; that every person can choose to be fed by Your Word and indwelt by Your Spirit. Fill me Holy Spirit; produce fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Fill my mouth with praise and not grumbling; let my heart be steadfast in faith.

**Care:** Philip had no idea how they could afford to feed so many people. Andrew was resourceful and found one boy with one lunch but how could that make a difference? Bringing what we have and putting it in the hands of Jesus will provide all that we need. Living a Prayer-Care-Share lifestyle every day puts us in the habit of praise, thanks, asking and giving what we have to help others even if we do not think we have much to give. What have you held back from giving because you did not think it would make much difference? An hour of time, a donation, your talent or experience? Do not believe that you have too little to offer or that someone who has more will make a bigger difference. Jesus specializes in glorifying Himself through the weak and small who have big hearts for Him.

**Share:** Verse sixty-six says that many of Jesus' followers turned back and no longer walked with Him. Do you know someone who has walked away from the Church or even God because they suffered a hurt, humiliation or experience that they did not understand? It is hard to believe that someone would walk away from God because of something a Christian said or did to them but it happens more frequently than you can imagine. Others leave because God did not answer a prayer the way they wanted and they suffered loss or pain. If you know someone who has turned their back on God because they think He has turned His back on them, go to them and express His love to them. Help them to understand His compassion and wisdom that plays out differently than humans think or imagine sometimes. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is worthy of their faith even when they do not understand His actions; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 7**

**Prayer:** Jesus, Your Name stirred division as You walked this planet and still divides neighbors and nations. Bring us under Your wings of authority and love. Cause Your followers to live as You modeled and commanded so that Your Name will bring unity and love, comfort and courage. I desire to obey Your commands; to live the days You authored for me and to fulfill Your plans for my life. Make me an instrument of unity; to bring people together to spread Your love and message to a hurting and angry world. Shut the mouth of the enemy as I open my mouth to give You honor and praise. Bring glory and honor to Your great Name.

**Care:** Nicodemus risked much to be discipled by Jesus, to seek just treatment for Jesus and then ultimately by asking Pilot for Jesus' body in order to give Him a proper burial. Nicodemus stood up against his fellow religious leaders, reminding them that the law required that a man be heard and facts be learned before a man could be judged. Who do you know that needs someone to stand up for them? Is someone being mistreated or misrepresented in gossip or by decision-makers? Do you know someone who has been condemned before anyone went to them to hear their side of the story? Go and listen to them; do not judge, but be a willing listener. Defend those who have been defeated without ever getting a fair hearing.

**Share:** The religious leaders were paid by the Roman government to keep the Jewish people submissive and passive. They lived in great luxury while others suffered, starved and were cruelly punished and crucified. Greed and power were at the heart of their actions; not obeying and praising God. Do not let your position or possessions rule your life; always humble yourself under the authority of God and trust Him with your job, relationships, and needs. Share Jesus' authority over your life as well as His love and forgiveness. Do not compromise for a promotion or cheat to get ahead; let your integrity shine where darkness tempts you to serve yourself. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is worthy of

obedience no matter the earthly consequence; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 8**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for loving me, and for forgiving me. Thank You for washing away my sins; for paying my sin debt in full. My life came at a great cost to You and my heart is filled with love and gratitude. You are the Light of the world; thank You for not leaving us in darkness. Let me be a light for you, testifying about Your love.

**Care:** The woman caught in adultery was guilty; they caught her in the act. There was no denying her guilt as she stood with Jesus, and the scribes and Pharisees called for her to be stoned to death according to the law. Do you know someone who has made sinful choices; someone who had an affair or got pregnant before she was married? Are they afraid to come to church; afraid of what people will think or say about them? Invite them to come with you to your small group or church service. Whether or not they have confessed their sin and asked for forgiveness is between Jesus and them, but you can give them the opportunity to meet or reunite with the One who can wash away the sin AND shame. Show the same compassion that Jesus gave to this woman.

**Share:** In verse thirty-four, Jesus says, “Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” So many times people think they are “just having a little fun,” or that they have their “bad habit” under control, but really the habit is controlling them. Addiction, debt, immorality, deceitful lips and other sins separate you from God’s blessing and enslave you to painful and dangerous consequences. You cannot claim to love Christ and live a lifestyle of sin; knowing and abiding in the Truth found in God’s Word will set you free from the slavery of sin and give you peace. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus will strengthen them to walk away from sin and set them free; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

## **John 9**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for glorifying Yourself in and through my life. In pain and victory, You have a plan for my life that impacts Your Kingdom. Do not let me be cold and critical like those who questioned the blind man who received the miracle but let me celebrate Your great works and blessings with everyone around me. Keep my heart warm and do not let me be jealous or legalistic. I ask Your healing touch on \_\_\_\_\_ (Someone you know who needs God’s help or healing) and show me how I can share Your love with them.

**Care:** Sometimes illness or calamity is a result of sinful choices – sometimes, not all the time. As I struggled with a brain tumor for many years, it was always very hurtful to have a Christian suggest that my struggle was due to some unresolved sin in my life. The accusation often brought great emotional pain as I would ask God again and again to search me and cleanse me. Thankfully a wise friend reminded me that once God forgives a confessed sin it is gone, washed away in the blood of Jesus; no longer held against me. Sometimes people are sick just because we live in a broken world with finite, weak bodies of flesh. You may know someone who has been hurt by a “religious” person; go to them and apologize on behalf of your “family” for a person who spoke foolishness instead of faith and love. Help to bring healing to a wound from someone’s words.

**Share:** Verse twenty-two tells us that the blind man’s parents would not answer questions about their son’s healing because anyone who confessed Jesus as the Christ was put out of the synagogue. Can you imagine having a son who has been blind his whole life and then Jesus performs a miracle so he can see you for the first time and you are too scared to give Jesus glory? This situation gives you an idea of the sacrifice that Jesus’ disciples made when they confessed that He was the Christ. You probably know someone who is concerned or even refuses to accept Jesus as their Lord because they are afraid of what they will lose or have to “give up.” They may be more concerned about what friends and family will say or think, or if taking a stand for Christ will cost them their job. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that life with Jesus is more valuable and fulfilling than any relationship or position in the world; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

## **John 10**

**Prayer:** Jesus, You are the door by which we can enter the family of God and eternal life. There is no other way but You. You are the Good Shepherd; You guide, guard and provide for Your flock. You created and called us to You; You came to love and teach us and then laid down Your life so that we could have life and have it abundantly. I listen for Your voice, please speak to me to keep me on Your path of righteousness and love. Thank You for all that You have done for me; thank You that no one, no enemy, is able to snatch me from Your hand. I rest in You.

**Care:** Throughout Jesus’ life there were people who heard of His miracles and teachings but did not understand what He was saying. There was much division among the Jews as He would say things like, “the Father is in me and I am in the Father” and performed miracle after miracle. They argued about whether or not He was possessed, blasphemous, or if they should believe He was the Son of God? That division still exists today, and you may hear it on a daily basis; who is Jesus and what exactly do His followers believe and how should they behave? Be willing to lovingly and patiently answer people’s questions about Jesus and what it means to be a



Christ-follower. Show and tell them about the love of Jesus and why it is necessary for them to choose who will be Lord and shepherd of their life.

**Share:** In verse forty-two, we read that many believed in Jesus who had first heard about Him from John the Baptist. Most people who put their faith in Jesus, do so because someone else has told them about Jesus and shared about who He is and what He has done. It can be overwhelming to just open a Bible for the first time and try to figure out what it is saying. It can be intimidating to walk into a church service alone for the first time and not understand what is being done or said. Commit to walk with someone through Bible study, church, and prayer; be patient and willing to answer their questions. Do not be offended or frustrated; they do not know what they do not know. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who came to give abundant life; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

## **John 11**

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to remember that You love me even when You do not answer every request immediately or give me everything I ask for in prayer. Help me to remember that “No” also means “I love you,” when what I ask for is not Your best plan for me. I know that You love me as much as You loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus. You love every person that You created deeply and perfectly. I will remember that my pain and my sin breaks Your heart. I will remember Your tears as the loss, curse and consequences of death moved and troubled You to weep as You walked to Lazarus’ tomb. Thank You for Your compassion and love for me.

**Care:** Mary and Martha had a house full of people who were there to mourn with them and to console them. While there were people in that culture and time who came to mourn and cried with families because it was considered virtuous; we know that this family often played host to guests and were an active part of their community. In showing hospitality and love, we could assume that there were people there who loved and appreciated them too. Do you know someone who has suffered the death of a friend or a member of their family? Many people come to console them the first week or two but as the weeks and months go on they mourn alone. Check in on someone who has lost a loved one in the past year or two. Let them know that you still think about them and pray for them. Ask them to go get coffee or a meal and let them talk about their journey of loss; share memories or listen to their memories with your full attention and help celebrate their life as well as sharing the pain of the loss.

**Share:** Mary spent significant time at Jesus’ feet. We first read about her sitting at His feet listening and learning, then in verse thirty-two we find her at His feet weeping and proclaiming, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Mary was acquainted with Jesus’ authority and affection but she did not realize that it extended beyond the grave. In Chapter twelve the story continues and we find Mary at His feet anointing Him with expensive

ointment – worshipping Him – and as Jesus explains, preparing Him for death, for the service and sacrifice He came to give. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that it is important to spend time at Jesus’ feet, listening, learning, praising, praying and worshipping; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

## **John 12**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for modeling prayer for me. Thank You for showing me that I can cast my fear and grief, my needs and desires, and my questions about Your plans all at the throne of heaven and trust You. I will wait, walk and work in faith knowing that You are working all things for the purposes of Your Kingdom and that makes them good for me. Your soul was troubled even knowing that You had to be lifted up on the cross to fulfill the purpose of glorifying the Father and redeeming us. Thank You for laying down Your life for me.

**Care:** It is important to read and follow Scripture in its full context. In verse eight, Jesus is not expressing that we should ignore the poor; He has been very clear throughout His ministry that we are to care for those in need. Remember in Matthew twenty-five He regards our care for “the least of these,” the hungry, thirsty, the stranger, those who need clothing and those in prison, to be considered as if we were caring directly for Him. What have you done to care for the least of these recently? Do you give or serve food to those in need more than once or twice each year? Have you ever written a letter of encouragement and prayed for a person in prison? Would you be willing to tutor or mentor the child of a person in prison, to help them to have a better life and to choose a different path than the example they have been shown? Do you give clothes and time to those in need? What feeds your soul? Where do you get joy serving? What passion has Jesus put in your heart to show and share His love? Put it on your schedule on a regular basis, look for ways to love every day.

**Share:** Verse forty-three is such a tragic sentence and sentiment, “for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.” Man’s affection and affirmation is fickle, it comes and goes, and can be based on their ego and needs being met. Jesus’ glory never fades; His love is perfect and forever. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that a life filled with Jesus’ affection is not based on their works, He loved us and died for us even before we were born; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

## **John 13:**

**Prayer:** Jesus, it amazes me that the disciples had no idea who would betray You because You treated them all with love and compassion. You did not have Your life taken from You – You gave up Your life to pay my sin-debt in full and restore me to life in the abundance of Your plans and love for eternity. Thank You for modeling humility; for showing us that if the Son of God is willing to wash feet, to forgive, to love with great sacrifice then surely as Your servant, a sinner saved by grace, I can do likewise. Help me to never “deny” my love and connection to You; let my life, my love and my lips always proclaim my love and testimony of Your goodness and glory in my life.

**Care:** Jesus got on the floor and washed the feet of His disciples. This was the job of the lowest servant of the house; but once again Jesus modeled the humility of our calling as servants if we want to be viewed as Kingdom “leaders.” Has pride caused a rift between you and someone you work with, go to church with or even someone who lives in your own home? Do you ever find yourself thinking that a chore or job is “below your pay grade” or beneath you? Humble yourself today and show others how deeply you care for them by serving them. Go out of your way to lift someone up; to make sure that you are walking, working and living life on equal ground in the love and grace of Jesus. Apologize and ask for forgiveness if you have put yourself “above” another person or task and let your deeds be an overflow of your love for Jesus.

**Share:** In verse thirty-four, Jesus gives a “new” commandment, “Love one another; just as I have loved you.” Loving one another was not a new command, God had always commanded to love your neighbor, but now Jesus was teaching them to love with the same unconditional love that He had modeled and was freely giving to them. He loved before He was loved in return. He was patient and taught with a kind heart and tongue. He was compassionate and did whatever He could to teach, care and share perfect love with those who were in need spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. Jesus said that people will know that we are His followers, His disciples, by our love. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus modeled and commissioned us to love, not hate, one another; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

## **John 14**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for the assurance that my heart need not suffer in trouble because I know and believe in You. Thank You for taking my burdens, my worry, my grief and pain and carrying them while You cause me to have peace in Your presence and faith in Your guiding and guarding hands. You are the way, the truth and the life; thank You for giving me access to the Father through You. Equip me, Holy Spirit, to do the “greater works” that Jesus authored for my life; You are all that is good in me and I can do all that You purpose for me through You. I love You deeply and desire to keep Your commandments. Focus my attention on the peace that You have already given. You are the Prince of peace, my Rock and my salvation.

**Care:** People are searching for peace in all sorts of places, products, possessions, positions and people; but it can never be found in any of these. Most people do not realize that peace has been pursuing them; peace, real peace, is only found in the loving arms of Jesus. Jesus is clear that He has given His peace to us; He did not leave us on earth in this culture to fight and suffer our way through on our own. He is with us always, His Spirit dwells with us and protects in in peace during change, challenges and chaos when we trust in Him. You know someone who worries a lot, their lives seem to go from one problem to another and fear is their constant companion. Be an encourager in their life; send them Scriptures to show them that peace is pursuing them and that Jesus rules over the ruler of earthly circumstances and cultural pressure and pain. Help them turn worry into worship in the calmness of Christ's care.

**Share:** In verses thirty and thirty-one, Jesus says, "the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me so that the world may know that I love the Father." The enemy has staked his claim on earth; culture is his country but it is a temporary occupancy. We have free will and you get to choose who you will follow and who you will obey. As a follower of Jesus, Satan has no claim on you, and as Jesus proclaimed, we must do as the Father commands so that the world may know. Our behavior testifies to who we believe in and that our hearts belong to Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus gave us His peace and His Spirit equips us with all that we need to thwart the enemy's schemes and live victoriously in this world and for eternity; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 15**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for calling me to abide in You and to abide in Your love. You did not leave me as a defenseless orphan but provide for me as I stay connected as a branch to You, the vine. Apart from You I can do nothing; but in Your authority, in Your Spirit, in Your will I can do all things that You appoint for me in Your purpose. Help me to keep all of my "appointments." My days are Yours, my schedule, my time, talent and treasures all belong to You; they come from You and bless me in order that I might bless You. I desire to bear much fruit to Your glory. Let my life delight You, today and always.

**Care:** There are so many people in the world who think they have to "make it on their own." They are overwhelmed at the burden of believing that life depends on them; that any success, provision, and purchase comes at their own hard work and hands. They lay awake at night wondering where their next big deal, big break or the money for their next bill will come from. They are constantly compromising or manipulating people and situations to get on top or make the most money. Sadly, they do not know that they are a broken branch; snapped away from the true Vine that has overcome the world and oversees all of our needs. Who do you know that is in a constant state of "wheeling and dealing?" Who is the person in your life that thinks

they are a “self-made” man or woman? Pride comes before a fall; they may already be falling, look for signs of pain and pressure in their lives and be the one to go and encourage them with Jesus’s love and message. Do not judge them, do not hold anything against them that they have said or done in the past; go and be the one who loves them as the Vinedresser prunes their pride and makes way for new growth for His glory.

**Share:** Many people miss the point in verse two that even the fruit-bearing branches are pruned so that they might bear more fruit. The Vinedresser prunes all of us so that we will bear more glory to Him. Discipline is a part of discipleship; Peter learned many lessons from Jesus’ rebukes as well as His stories and miracles. Jesus prunes the twigs off of the branches that might steal the essential nutrients” needed for the branch to sustain healthy fruit. As zealous followers of Jesus, we sometimes take on more than we are supposed to; we say, “Yes” when we should say, “No,” and we steal other people’s blessings by robbing them of the opportunity to bear fruit He appointed for them and not us. Jesus created us with a Kingdom purpose that it is vital we pursue, but we must be careful to be productive without taking on more than He planned for us. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus does not desire for our branch to be covered with empty limbs and twigs. Help them to let go of the guilt or pride of having too many twigs as God prunes the areas that are distracting and draining them from His purpose; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 16**

**Prayer:** Jesus, Thank You for Your promise that I will see You, I know that I will live in Your presence forever. For now, I live on earth, abiding in You and for Your purposes, but I rejoice that I will one day live in Your presence where there is no pain or persecution. You never promised us a life in this world without tribulation but You told us to take heart because You have overcome the world. Troubles will still be a part of my life but they will not define nor destroy me. All things can be used for Your glory; to testify to Your faithfulness and power. Tests strengthen our faith as we resolve to trust You, trials teach us how to minister to others; they prepare us for compassion and understanding. I live knowing that my sorrow will turn to joy and that my joy will be complete in You. I love You Jesus, thank You for loving me always and forever.

**Care:** There are some people who begin their journey as a follower of Jesus thinking that life will be free and easy now that they are a Christian. The enemy is furious that he has lost the battle for their soul, and culture will not applaud their new found faith. It will not take long to be reminded that we still reside on a broken planet even though our citizenship is in heaven. Jesus never promised paradise on earth, as a matter of fact He warned several times that this world would hate us because they hated Him first. You probably know someone who is a Christ-

follower and is confused or even angry with God because of a test, trial or tragedy that has happened in their life. Go and show the love and care of Christ to them. Help them to understand that tests bring a testimony and that trials are allowed in order to strengthen our faith, not break it. Satan still prowls to and fro looking for someone to devour, but in Christ he cannot consume us. Encourage others not to forfeit their joy and victory that can only come from remaining steadfast in faith when the winds of this world try to knock us down.

**Share:** In verse twenty-four, Jesus' statement must be viewed in the context of several teachings and themes tied together as He addresses His disciples and prepares them for His death. This one verse could be a sermon series, but in short, what we pray or ask "in Jesus' Name" is connecting what we say and ask to our relationship with Him. In that time and culture it would be understood that friends and family had a common sharing of things in common as their hearts shared common will and affection for one another. No one would ever ask or desire something that would disparage or bring harm to someone with whom they shared a common heart or relationship. Jesus is not a genie in a bottle waiting to grant us our every desire as we end a prayer with His name. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to understand that in our deep and abiding love for Jesus, with His Spirit dwelling in us, our prayers will be filled with the desires that flow from the life and mind of Christ, for His glory and gain; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 17**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for praying for Your disciples. Even now You stand at the right hand of the Father and give intercession for me. I believe in You because of Your Word and the Scriptures written by the inspiration of Your Spirit and the eye-witness account of Your disciples. My heart is broken by the lack of unity among Your followers; let our life and love for You be the bond that we need to *complete* Your Great Commission and not *compete* in members, money and numbers of ministries. Cause us to labor together, to show the world Your love in us by our love for one another. Let us see and understand Your plan for Your glory and remove any selfish pride that divides us. Let me be an instrument of Christian unity in my community.

**Care:** Jesus cared enough for His disciples to pray for them. He even prayed for those of us who would eventually believe in Him because of their testimonies. Two-thousand years later, Jesus still desires for His followers to be one as He and the Father are one. Pray for the people in your church and in ministries you serve with; then pray also for the churches and ministries throughout your community. Go to them and start planning ways you can work together to share the love and message of Jesus. It does not matter whose church someone joins after they are saved, what matters is that they are a new member of our family in Christ no matter where they worship on Sunday. Division keeps Jesus-seekers at bay; no one wants to get involved in a

family feud; but when love and service flows from our common love and relationship to Jesus it draws people closer with curious hearts.

**Share:** Jesus was speaking to His disciples and then He began to pray aloud for His disciples. Imagine the power of hearing Jesus pray; imagine hearing Jesus pray for you. One of the greatest gifts you could ever give to someone is to pray for them audibly while you are with them. There is great encouragement in hearing someone lift you and your needs into the hands of God and asking Him to bless you. There is great affection and affirmation in hearing someone pray for you to receive what you need, know that you are loved and appreciated, and to feel the delight of the Father on your life. Our prayers do not have an expiration date, they out live us. Jesus' prayer in John 17 is as fresh on the Father's heart and ears as it was the night Jesus spoke it. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to hear you pray for them and to be prompted to pray for others as well as for themselves; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 18**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for fulfilling the purpose that You came to complete; to preach the Kingdom message, disciple Your followers and ultimately to lay down Your life and pay the debt of my sins so that I might live to glorify You. You could have slipped away into the wilderness, You could have called down legions of angels to defend You, in one breath You could have crushed those who came to harm You, but You surrendered Your life to save me. I pray that my life and love will testify that I love and belong to You. I pray that I never deny You in word, attitude or deed. Empower me with Your Spirit to express Your love everywhere I go and to everyone that I meet. You are my King.

**Care:** Jesus taught all day at the Temple and then went to the same garden to rest in the evening. He was not hiding, He was teaching in plain sight but the chief priests and Pharisees sent a band of soldiers with torches and weapons to seize Jesus in the cover of darkness. Jesus was passed from Annas to Caiaphas to Pilate while those who had cried, "Hosanna" a few days earlier slept; unaware of what was happening. All of the disciples scattered except for John and Peter, and as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus three times during Jesus' greatest time of need. Someone you know has been deserted by friends and/or family. Abandonment issues and fatherlessness is at epidemic proportions and people are left to wonder why the person who was supposed to love and protect could possibly leave them and not be a part of their life. Consider becoming a mentor, coach or tutor for a child who does not have two parents in their life. Pray about becoming a foster parent for those who have been deserted or handed over for adoption. Look for someone who needs a faithful and faith-filled friend and then share the love and message of Jesus with them.

**Share:** In verse thirty-eight, Pilate asks Jesus, “What is truth?” Many people wonder that same question today. We hear quips about truth being relative and having “my truth,” but just because you believe something does not make it true. What God says is Truth; Scripture is Truth. Jesus said that He was the way the truth and the life. We are to listen to Truth, live Truth and testify to Truth; no earthly gain is worth living under a lie. Fake ideals, fantasies and fraudulent values will not lead to a fulfilling life. Know what it means to live with a Biblical worldview and be prepared to share Truth based on God’s Word, will and ways. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know “what is truth;” be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 19**

**Prayer:** Jesus, as Your followers began to stir on that Friday morning in Jerusalem, word must have been spreading of the night’s events and your impending crucifixion. As Pilate poked at the pride of the Jewish leaders and they in turn preyed upon Pilate’s insecurities with Caesar; the whole scene was filled with evil as the father of all lies probably watched and smiled with eager anticipation of Your death. I cannot imagine the horror in the hearts of Your mother Mary, all of the women who were with her that had followed You, and Your other followers. I am so thankful to know the rest of the story in the next two chapters, but the torture You endured on that Friday is more than I can fathom. Thank You. May I never forget what You did to draw me to You. May I never take for granted the forgiveness that You bought for me. May I never forget the cost You paid, the pain You endured, the excruciating journey from the beatings in Pilate’s courtyard, the weight and agony of the cross you bore as you walked to Golgotha, the anguish You suffered hanging on the cross with punishment of the sins of the world, the wrath of the Father against those sins being poured out on You as You hung and died. Thank You.

**Care:** Pilate wanted to keep the peace during Passover in Jerusalem. His job and his standing with Caesar depended on it. He was brutal, He did not have any hesitation to shed blood, but he was obnoxiously insecure when it came to the authority above him. You may know someone who compromises and rubs the egos of those around them just to keep the peace and their position. They may seem to be strong and secure, but with a closer look you see that they are always vying for positive attention and displacing negative attention on others to make themselves look good. Get to know them better; point out their gifts and talents given to them by Jesus and help them to find their security and worth in Him. Do not build on their pride, but show them the strength of meekness and the leadership quality of humility, integrity and honesty.

**Share:** This is the message of Christ that must be told. It is wonderful and necessary to show the love of Christ to people in your community and around the world; but it is essential that you tell them the story of the sacrifice that Jesus made for them. Every person must hear the Scriptures in order to believe them. Truth cannot be known and understood unless someone



shares it, explains it and disciples others through it. Jesus suffered greatly because He loved us more than we can ever understand. The Creator of the universe hung on a tree He created to pay the debt He required in order to not lose us for eternity and so we could live in victory. There is nothing offensive about this story. Someone you know or will meet today needs to hear this story today; be willing to share it with someone every day that the world might know and believe in Him and be saved. Be prepared to share what these verses mean to you in your life.

## **John 20**

**Prayer:** Jesus, You told Your disciples that You would rise on the third day but they could not comprehend until they saw You standing among them. Oh the joy that must have flooded that room! Thank You for Your patience as You pursue us even when we doubt like Thomas. Thank You for Your patience as You reach and teach us; for the wisdom, knowledge and understanding that comes from You alone. Thank You for sending Your Spirit to reveal Your Word to our hearts and minds that we can grow in our knowledge of You and obey Your will. Thank You for defeating the enemy in my life; for securing me in Your hands, never to be snatched away. Thank You for defeating death; that those who believe in You will not feel the sting of death but slip from life on earth into life in Your Kingdom. I believe!

**Care:** Imagine what it must have been like for Thomas during the eight days between Jesus appearing to all of the other disciples and the women, and when He finally appeared again to Thomas. Their excitement and chatter must have filled that room every day and night, but Thomas just could not believe until he saw for himself that Jesus had risen. The phrase “doubting Thomas” has carried through two-thousand years, and you probably know a “doubting Thomas” or two among your friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers. Don’t give up on them; continue to share the love and message of Jesus with them. Help them to “see” Jesus by using the many apologetic resources available that give historical, scientific, archaeological, and extra-biblical literature proof of what the Bible teaches. Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself in ways that will open their heart to believe.

**Share:** John writes in verses thirty and thirty-one that Jesus said and did many more things that are not written in his book; but he has written all that he did in this book, “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.” Salvation is not a death-destination decision; it is a life-giving, life-living decision. Where does your hope come from? What do you value and why? Why are you here? What is life really about? Scripture answers those questions; what God breathed is meant to instruct and inspire you to live victoriously in the love and authority of Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs life-giving answers; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

## **John 21**

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for revealing Yourself throughout the forty days before You ascended to heaven. Thank You for the witnesses who testified even unto death that all that they saw and said was true. Thank You for Your apostles whom You sent out to share Your message with boldness and love. Thank You for sending Your Spirit to empower and equip me to do Your will, to bear much fruit in my life. Thank You for Your Word – my Bible – that teaches me how to live in Your ways and to go and make disciples in my neighborhood, my community, where I work, learn, shop, dine, work out, hang out, and the remotest places on earth. Keep me in Your Word as this *90 Days Through the Gospels* project ends here in the last chapter of John. Prompt me to find a new study or to start this one again, and take me deeper still in Your Word and love.

**Care:** Jesus had some relational repair work to do with Peter after Peter's denials on the night of Jesus' arrest. Peter had wept in despair, and even though Jesus had risen from death, Peter had returned to what was familiar before Jesus called him to follow Him. Peter went back to fishing, and how touching it was that Jesus went back to the Sea of Galilee and replayed a familiar scene, "Cast your nets to the right side." Peter threw himself into the lake this time to get to Jesus. As they finished eating, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Now there have been books and series preached about the significance of this section of Scripture, but for today, notice that Jesus wanted Peter to feed His flock; to care for the Good Shepherd's sheep. Once again, Jesus is affirming that if you love Him, then you will go love the people He loves. Remember this every day as you move on to your next Bible study or daily devotionals; be willing to feed His sheep with all that you have learned the past 90 days through the model Jesus provided and taught in the gospels.

**Share:** Now that you have read all four of the gospels you are at least acquainted with the life and love of Jesus. Re-read them and continue on the journey by reading through Acts. John finishes his book by telling us that Peter saw John following them as Jesus was sharing with Peter about what to do, and what would become of his life. Peter looks back and asks Jesus, "What about John?" Jesus replies that His plans for John do not concern Peter; in essence He is telling Peter to focus on his own life of obedience in love and ministry. There are people who do not understand why bad things happen to good people or why sinful people seem to get away with so much and have great wealth or success. We all need to know that the only concern we have in the lives of others is to be obedient to love them as Christ loved us; to pray, to care and to share the love and message of Jesus with everyone just as Jesus did throughout the gospels. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to learn how to live a prayer-care-share lifestyle; be prepared to share this message with them and share this devotional series with them.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us. For more information about living a Prayer-Care-Share lifestyle visit our website for information, resources, ideas and coaching at:  
[go2020usa.com](http://go2020usa.com) and [Nationaldayofprayer.org](http://Nationaldayofprayer.org)