

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

JOHN

Volume III

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

JOHN VOLUME III: SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

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

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

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

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

HELPFUL TIP

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

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

VOLUME 1: John 1–7, seven-week study

VOLUME 2: John 8–14, seven-week study

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



HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

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

HELPFUL TIP

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





A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

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



KEY VERSE

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



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

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

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



LIVING ON PURPOSE

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



PRAYING TOGETHER

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

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN

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



TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

This section contains supplemental resources to engage with throughout the week.



WEEK FIFTEEN: John 15



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 15 that you are on.

[WEEK 15 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 15 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 15 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 15 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 15 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

What are some of the places that you see yourself or others trying to draw life from that just don't work?



KEY VERSE

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:4–5



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. To learn from our differences, how would you describe the feelings, thoughts, and personal experiences of being connected to Christ—of leaning on and depending on him? Verse 1
2. How could this group help you to face a pruning that you might be going through right now? Verses 2–3
3. What are some of the most popular substitutes for joy that you see people settling for? How would you describe the experience of genuine joy that we have in Jesus? Verses 7–17
4. What helps you to focus on Jesus in the midst of criticism or rejection? Verses 18–27



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

Through this week, take at least one idea that you've learned from your group and use it in your daily connection with Christ. To prompt your thinking, some of the ideas that other groups have suggested are:

- Have a daily devotional time of prayer and Bible reading
- Take a Sabbath day to focus on God
- Journal your thoughts and prayers to God
- Place cards with Scripture where you will see them throughout the day
- Pray the first two minutes—of the day, when you get in the car, etc.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Have someone pray a prayer of thanksgiving:

*For God as our gardener, the one
who gave us life.*

*For Jesus as our vine, the one who
gives us life.*

*For each of us as the branches,
the ones who live his life.*

Pray for one another's requests.



TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by taking some personal time to do a journaling retreat. You can download Saddleback's free *Journaling* guide [here](#).





WEEK SIXTEEN: John 16



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 16 that you are on:

[WEEK 16 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 16 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 16 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 16 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 16 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. How were you able to take what you heard from the group and use it in your daily connection with Christ this last week?
2. Would you say that your view of the Holy Spirit as you grew up was healthy or unhealthy?



KEY VERSE

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Before you were a believer or as a current believer, how have you experienced the convicting work of the Holy Spirit?
Verses 1–11
2. How have you experienced the guiding work of the Holy Spirit? Verses 12–15
3. How have you experienced the truth of Jesus’ words: “Your grief will turn to joy”?
Verses 16–20
4. How have you experienced true joy that grows out of Jesus’ presence? Verses 21–22

5. Are you facing a difficult circumstance in which you would like the group to pray for you to experience God's peace?
Verses 22–23



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, but it's our job to witness. How could you be a witness for Christ this next week? Here are some ways you could depend on the Holy Spirit:

- Pray for an unbeliever.
- Talk to someone about faith even if you don't believe they'll respond.
- Trust that he's speaking through you even when you feel awkward.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time to pray for one another's needs—particularly for a grief that someone may have shared during your group time.



TELL A FRIEND

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

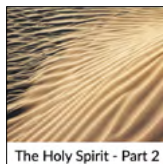


DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by learning more about the Holy Spirit from our *Foundations* training. Watch “The Holy Spirit – Part 1” teaching [here](#) by Pastor Tom Holladay, and watch “The Holy Spirit – Part 2” teaching [here](#) by Kay Warren.



The Holy Spirit - Part 1



The Holy Spirit - Part 2



WEEK SEVENTEEN: John 17



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 17 that you are on:

[WEEK 17 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 17 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 17 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 17 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 17 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. Talk about any experiences those in the group had with sharing their faith this last week.
2. When you pray, what do you usually sense Jesus' emotion toward you as being?



KEY VERSE

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17:20-21



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does it do in you to know that Jesus is praying for you? Verses 1-4
2. How is your life an answer to Jesus' prayer by God getting the glory? Verses 5-10
3. How is your life an answer to Jesus' prayer by you living with security? Verses 11-16
4. How is your life an answer to Jesus' prayer by you growing in maturity? Verses 17-19

5. How is your life an answer to Jesus' prayer by you gaining unity with believers? Verses 20–26



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

Read Jesus' prayer in John 17 aloud during a personal devotion time this week. Write down any encouragement or direction God brings to mind through your reading of Jesus' prayer.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time to pray for one another's needs as you end your group meeting.



TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by watching Pastor Rick Warren's message from the *Rethinking Your Life* series on "Learning to Think Like Jesus."





WEEK EIGHTEEN: John 18



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 18 that you are on:

[WEEK 18 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 18 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 18 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 18 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 18 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. Talk about your experience of reading Jesus' prayer in John 17 aloud in a devotion time this last week.
2. How important is fairness to you? How have you discovered God's ability to be at work even when things are not fair?



KEY VERSE

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

John 18:36



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What do you imagine was going through the disciples' minds as they crossed the Kidron valley on their way to Gethsemane? Verses 1-2
2. How does the evident power of Jesus, even as he is being arrested, give you insight into his character? Verses 3-11
3. Can you think of times when you rejected Jesus because you did not want to change? Verses 12-14; 19-24

4. How do you relate to Simon Peter in his doubt?
Verses 10–11; 15–18; 25–27
5. How do you relate to Pilate in his cynicism?
Verses 28–40



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

Jesus' disciples were scattered the night of these trials. Peter was filled with doubt.

- Do you know a fellow believer who is struggling?
- How could you reach out to them this week, even if you've reached out to them before?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time to pray for one another's needs in the group.



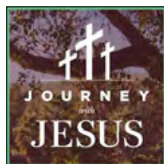
TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by checking out *Journey with Jesus*, narrated by Pastor Rick Warren. You can also download the *Journey with Jesus* app or [click here](#) to see the 360° experience.





WEEK NINETEEN: John 19



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 19 that you are on:

[WEEK 19 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 19 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 19 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 19 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 19 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. Has anyone in the group had an opportunity to encourage a fellow believer recently?
2. Can you remember your early impressions of Jesus dying on the cross?



KEY VERSE

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

John 19:17–18



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you see yourself in the reactions of Pilate or of the crowd as Jesus was condemned? Verses 1–13
2. How would you put into words what the cross of Jesus means for you? Verses 13–18
3. If you put yourself at the foot of the cross with Mary and John, how do you think you'd respond? Verses 19–27
4. How do Jesus' words, "It is finished," impact you personally? Verses 28–30

5. Jesus died for you on the cross. What impact has that truth made in some specific areas of your life? Verses 31–42



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

How could you take the kind of risk that Joseph and Nicodemus took in these verses as they publicly showed their love for Jesus in an environment that was hostile to him? In your neighborhood? At school? In your work? Think about how you could clearly show your love for Jesus even in that environment sometime this week.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the individual needs of those in your group.



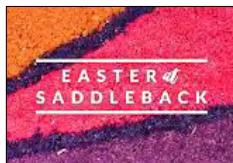
TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by watching this Good Friday message by Pastor Rick Warren, “There’s Nothing More for You to Do.”





WEEK TWENTY: John 20



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 20 that you are on:

[WEEK 20 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 20 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 20 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 20 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 20 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. Was there an opportunity this last week to stand for Christ even in a difficult circumstance or hostile environment?
2. How did the family you grew up in celebrate Easter?



KEY VERSE

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:18



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What was your response when you first heard about the resurrection of Jesus? Verses 1–16
2. Were you a person more in need of evidence for your mind, answers for your heart, or a relationship for your soul?
3. How does it impact you that because of the resurrection, Jesus now calls you his sister or his brother? Verses 17–23
4. In what ways do you relate to Thomas? What can you learn from him? Verses 24–31



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Is there a “Thomas” in your life? This week, how can you be a witness to someone you might have given up on? Ask the group to pray with you for this person.



PRAYING TOGETHER

1. Pray together for the doubters that you would love to see come to a place of faith.
2. Pray for the individual needs of those in your group.



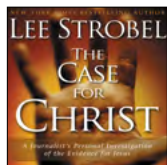
TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

Dive deeper this week by checking out the best-selling book, *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.





WEEK TWENTY-ONE: John 21



LISTEN

Click on the links below to listen to the day of John 21 that you are on:

[WEEK 21 · DAY 1](#)[WEEK 21 · DAY 2](#)[WEEK 21 · DAY 3](#)[WEEK 21 · DAY 4](#)[WEEK 21 · DAY 5](#)

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



CHECKING IN

1. Did anyone have an opportunity to share their faith with someone struggling with doubt?
2. Imagine together what it must have been like for the disciples to eat breakfast on the shores of Galilee with the resurrected Jesus.



KEY VERSE

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

John 21:16



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Is there some area in your life where you might be sensing that Jesus is telling you to “cast your net on the other side”? Verses 1–8
2. Is there some specific place or activity in your life where you would like to enjoy Jesus’ company? Verses 9–14
3. Are you struggling to believe that you can and must make a difference in the lives of others? How could your group help you in that struggle? Verses 15–17

4. How have questions like, “Why me?” and “What about them?” been a potential distraction for you? Verses 18–24
5. How is your life one of those “many other things” that can even now be written down concerning what Jesus is doing in the world? What are you looking forward to seeing Jesus do in your life this next year? Verse 25



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

Take the R.E.A.L. acrostic that we looked at this week, and apply it to your personal times with the Lord.

Recognize his presence everywhere
Enjoy his company
Accept his invitations
Look to his leadership



PRAYING TOGETHER

1. Thank God for the truths that you have seen together in the Book of John.
2. Pray for the individual needs of those in your group.



TELL A FRIEND

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



DIVING DEEPER

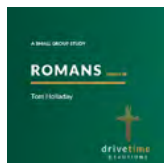
Dive deeper this week by going back through this entire study of John, and reread any notes that you may have taken. Consider also rereading the Gospel of John.



NEXT STEPS

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: ROMANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download volume one of this study through the Book of Romans.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER AGAIN WHEN IT'S ALL FALLEN APART

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



FOUNDATIONS

Written by Tom Holladay and Kay Warren, *Foundations* teaches 11 core truths of the Christian faith. Choose individual topics such as "The Bible" or "Creation," or walk through the entire course using video teaching from Tom and Kay. Study guides are available at Pastors.com and all Foundations videos are available at saddleback.com/foundationsonline. You can also look for Foundations classes taught live at a Saddleback campus near you.



