



John in forty days

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A Lent reading plan

Lent is a forty day period before Easter Sunday that echoes the time Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the wilderness before he began his ministry – this is why Christians often observe a season of fasting or they give up luxuries and vices over this time.

Lent is an opportunity to reflect and prepare for Easter, when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus and so it's often a good time to take-up a healthy habit or two.

READING THROUGH JOHN'S GOSPEL THIS LENT

This reading plan has sectioned out John's Gospel into forty readings that cover the seven weeks of Lent. Read along and by Easter Sunday, you'll have made your way through an account of Jesus' teachings, death and resurrection! We hope and pray it's a habit to try this Lent that will enrich your faith and help you reach Easter week amazed afresh at the life-giving words of Jesus and the wonder of the cross.

ABOUT JOHN'S GOSPEL

A Gospel is basically a biography of the life of Jesus. The word 'gospel' in Greek is *evangelion*, which means 'good news'.

During the Greek and Roman Empires, when an emperor died and a successor took their place, a herald would go to every city or town in every region, to announce the "good news" of who their new emperor was, what their reign would stand for and how their leadership would benefit the people in the kingdom.

During his life, Jesus travelled to cities and towns proclaiming that a new and better kingdom—the kingdom of God—was here. After Jesus' death, his disciples and followers continued to spread his message and made accounts of his life, death and resurrection.

There are four gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each author had their own perspective, written with a difference audience in mind. John's Gospel is unique compared to the other three accounts.

John was one of Jesus' closest friends among the original twelve chosen and wrote his account decades later, which perhaps why his is different—focussing on some aspects not covered by other accounts, and the claim that Jesus was God in human form, declaring *'whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'* (John 3:16).

We know it can feel daunting to get started reading the bible, so we've shared a few helpful tips to help you as you plan to read through the Gospel of John.

1. Make a plan.
Find a time and pick a place to read each day. Set an alarm on your phone or place your Bible or this reading plan somewhere visible as a reminder.

2. Choose a Bible version that's understandable and easy to read.

There's a variety of versions to choose from – some are best for academic study, while others focus on readability and are great for everyday reading.

If you're a beginner, try the New Living Translation (NLT) – it's a very readable version while still being literal in its translation.

3. Pray before you begin.
Pause before you read and ask God to speak to you. Ask Him to help you understand His Word, to teach you and direct you and to help you know Him and love Him.

4. Read and reflect.
Once you've read through the passage for the day, think about or write down your observations:

- *What do I like in the passage? Why?*
- *What do I find difficult in the passage? Why?*
- *What does it tell me about Jesus?*
- *What does this teach me about how I should live?*

Pray afterwards as you reflect on what to take away from the passage. There are more questions below.

5. Track your progress.
Mark off the days as you go. Don't worry if you miss a one – catch up when you can or over a weekend, when there is one reading.

You may find it helpful to use the below symbols instead to mark what stands out, what questions the passage raises and things you can apply to your life.



A LIGHT BULB:

Something that 'shines' from the passage or stands out – whatever resonates or draws attention. Reflect on why you like it and what it tells you about Jesus.



A QUESTION MARK:

Something that's difficult to understand or a question that it raises. Reflect and write down what you find difficult in this passage and why? Perhaps you could ask a friend or a neighbour what they think at church.



AN ARROW:

Reflect on what God is saying to you or how it affects your life: Is there a truth to believe? How might I live differently and be different in the light of what I have read? What habits or attitudes might help me live this out?

Reading through John's Gospel in forty days

WEEK 1

- **WED** John 1:1-28
- **THU** John 1:29-51
- **FRI** John 2:1-25
- **WKND** John 3:1-21

WEEK 2

- **MON** John 3:22-36
- **TUE** John 4:1-42
- **WED** John 4:43-54
- **THU** John 5:1-29
- **FRI** John 5:30-47
- **WKND** John 6:1-21

WEEK 3

- **MON** John 6:22-59
- **TUE** John 6:60-71
- **WED** John 7:1-31
- **THU** John 7:32-52
- **FRI** John 8:1-30
- **WKND** John 8:31-59

WEEK 4

- **MON** John 9:1-41
- **TUE** John 10:1-21
- **WED** John 10:22-42
- **THU** John 11:1-27
- **FRI** John 11:28-57
- **WKND** John 12:1-26

WEEK 5

- **MON** John 12:27-50
- **TUE** John 13:1-20
- **WED** 13:21-38
- **THU** John 14:1-14
- **FRI** John 14:15-31
- **WKND** John 15:1-17

WEEK 6

- **MON** John 15:18-27
- **TUE** John 16:1-15
- **WED** John 16:16-33
- **THU** John 17:1-26
- **FRI** John 18:1-24
- **WKND** John 18:25-40

WEEK 7

- **MON** John 19:1-27
- **TUE** John 19:28-42
- **WED** John 20:1-18
- **THU** John 20:19-30
- **FRI** John 21:1-14
- **SAT** John 21:15-25

EASTER SUNDAY

The CHOSEN

AT EASTER

Join with others to experience John's Gospel brought to life... We're hosting a watch-through of season five of *The Chosen* in the run up to Easter – which follows Jesus' last week before his crucifixion (what we remember as Holy Week). Join us!

SUNDAYS OVER MARCH | 2:30PM AT 77 THE STRAND
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