

Jesus: The Revelation of God – December 23, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: John 8:12-20

- Set the scene of this text (12, 20). What did Jesus say? We follow a light when we walk from a dark room to one that's illuminated, drive into the sunset, approach a city skyline at nighttime, etc. How is this like the spiritual experience of following Jesus? And notice he doesn't say, "I am the light of *truth* or *knowledge*." Jesus is the light of *life*. Tell Jesus what he's revealed to you about life, and ask him for even more revelation.
- What problem did the Pharisees have with Jesus' words (13)? Summarize Jesus' response (14-18). Regarding verse 14, how do you think it felt for Jesus to know he was of the Father? Reflecting on verses 17-18, what exactly does Jesus testify to you about himself? How does he do this, and what impact does it make?
- What follow-up question did the Pharisees ask (19)? Jesus is revealing a truth that they fail to see; what is it (19)? By knowing Jesus, what do you know about the Father?

Day Two: John 10:1-21

- Whom did Jesus address (1)? What imagery illustrates access to God (1)? Who has a true and close relationship with the Lord (2)? Describe it (3-5). What's it like to be outside this relationship (1)? How did the Pharisees initially respond to Jesus (6)?
- Describe Jesus' initial explanation of this imagery (7-10). Thieves, namely Satan, have one aim; Jesus has another. Contrast them (10). What is Jesus' ultimate expression as "the good shepherd" (11-13, 15, 17)? Reflect on knowing God via Jesus. What does each aspect of Jesus' identity – son of God, incarnate, savior, conqueror, etc. – reveal to you about God?
- What did Jesus reiterate about his relationship with his followers (14-15)? Describe the breadth of his flock (16). What did he say about his impending death and resurrection (17-18)? How did people respond to Jesus' words (19-21)? Imagine yourself in the crowd; how do you think you would've reacted?

Day Three: Hebrews 12:1-3

- Who surrounds us, and what should they inspire us to do (1)? Think of "everything that hinders" you in your life. What sin "so easily entangles you"? How does Jesus encourage you to "throw it all off"? What new purpose does he point you toward instead?
- How should we run "the race" (1)? What race do you sense God has "marked out" for you? When we run, where should we look (2)? Meditate on all of verse two, imagining Jesus gazing at you. Let him tell you how he established your faith, and how he alone completes it. Your turn: tell him about how he saves you and makes you holy. How does it feel to have this exchange?
- What is one purpose of contemplating Jesus' suffering (3)? Right now, what has you feeling weary and weak in heart? Talk to the Lord about it. Pray for grace and for more of the life only Jesus can give. What do you sense the Lord speaking?

Day Four: 1 John 1:1-4

- How does John describe the "Word of life" (1-2)? Who *is* the "Word of life"? Re-read this short and poetic account of John's real-life connection to Jesus. Which part most grabs you? Why?

- What do those who've seen Jesus proclaim (2)? Consider your words and actions; do they proclaim the eternal life Jesus offers? Or do they send another message? Invite God into this reflection.
- Why does John proclaim what he's witnessed of Jesus (3)? Why do you think John considers this the basis for fellowship? What impact does testimony about Jesus make on your connection to other believers? And your connection to the Father and the Son?
- Note this passage's similarity to John 1:1-4. Why do you think John felt a need to re-emphasize these points? This Christmas season, what is it about Jesus that you feel led to re-emphasize in your own heart and to the world? Pray for grace to walk this out.

Day Five: Revelation 2:1-7

- How does John's vision of the church in Ephesus begin (1)? How does Jesus describe himself (1)? How does it feel to picture him looking this way? Peaceful? Scared? Or something else?
- Describe what Jesus knows about the Ephesians (2-3, 6). What is he holding against them (4)? What details does this church seem stuck on? What does it mean to "forsake the love you had at first"? How does he call the church back to this love (5)?
- Do you see yourself anywhere in verses 2-5? Explain. It could be a long-known issue; or maybe just now the Holy Spirit is underlining something for the first time. May you return to God, and to the perfect revelation of his love, found in Jesus.
- How does Jesus conclude this address to Ephesus (7)? What are some ways you practice closely listening to the Holy Spirit? And how do you pursue victory in following Jesus? Pray for inspiration, followed by discipline to put new ideas into action.