



JOHN

That You May Believe

PARENT GUIDE



daily devos
RADIATE STUDENTS

WELCOME!

Dear Parents,

Thank you for joining us for our fifth series of Daily Devos! Our team is so excited that you've jumped in with us to go deeper with God and study his Word with your student.

The purpose of the Daily Devos is to get into the habit of spending time with God daily. The purpose of THIS customizable parent material is to walk alongside your student as their primary disciple-maker. God has entrusted your child to you, and we pray that you will show them who Jesus is. We are here to support you!

When you download (or print) your parent guide, here's what to expect:

- 1. READ:** This is what your student read in their Daily Devos today.
- 2. REFLECT:** This section is an abbreviated version of what your student read in the Daily Devos. It's an explanation of the biblical passage for the day.
- 3. REAL TALK:** This section has questions that you will want to ask your student. Don't just talk through "number one," "number two," but really enjoy taking your time. The questions may include your personal examples, missional moments, or action steps. Enjoy the conversation!

This content will really be about what you take the time to put into it. You can skim the paragraphs in a minute and move on, or you can learn to enjoy taking your time digesting the Bible. We are praying for you, and we love you.

Love,
The RADIATE Staff

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

READ: John 21:20-25

REFLECT:

Daily Devo series will pull out several encounters that Jesus had with various people and crowds throughout his ministry. John 20:31 says, “but these are written 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.” So, it’s as if that’s his thesis statement. He spends the book sharing the signs of why Jesus is God and why belief in him is the best way, giving evidence that Jesus is who he says he is.

John wrote his Gospel account all about the ministry of Jesus. It’s hard to say you are a follower of someone, a disciple to a belief system, or even a convert to a religion, without knowing nothing about its founder. If you say you follow him, learn as much as you possibly can about how awesome he is.

REAL TALK:

- How much time have you spent reading the Gospels?
- How much of a priority is it to you to read about Jesus in Scripture?
- What are you hoping to get out of this series?
- What are you hoping to learn about Jesus during this series?
- Has there ever been a time when you have surrendered to Jesus?
- What is easy about believing in Jesus?
- What is hard about believing in Jesus?

WEEK 1 | DAY 2

READ: John 1:29-34

REFLECT:

Jesus claimed to be equal with God by use of “I am” statements. This would have been particularly noticed by a Jewish reader from the first century, because in Exodus 3:14, God told Moses that his name was “I AM”.

1. “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)
2. “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12)
3. “I am the door of the sheep.” (John 10:7,9)
4. “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)
5. “I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11, 14)
6. “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)
7. “I am the true vine.” (John 15:1, 5)

REAL TALK:

- Why do you think it is significant that Jesus is called the “lamb” of God?
- Why do you think it is significant that Jesus is called the “son” of God?
- Which “I am” statement do you think is the most familiar to you?
- What can God show you about Jesus through this statement?
- Which “I am” statement was the least familiar to you?
- How could you turn any of the following words from the “I am” statements into a gospel conversation: bread, life, light, door, sheep, forever, way, fruit?

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

READ: John 1:43-51

REFLECT:

Nathanael had questions about Jesus, but he models for us a good sequence for someone coming to know Jesus. And Jesus shows us that he is safe to take our questions to.

1. Nathanael's friend believed first (verse 43).
2. Nathanael's friend told him about Jesus (verse 45).
3. Nathanael was skeptical (verse 46).
4. Nathanael's friend still invited him to learn more (verse 46).
5. Nathanael decided to investigate (verses 47 and 48).
6. Nathanael found Jesus to prove himself (verse 48).
7. Nathanael committed to Jesus (verse 49).
8. Nathanael was challenged by Jesus to keep learning (verses 50 and 51).

REAL TALK:

- If you met a stranger that knew every single thing about you, how would that make you feel?
- Why is it that so many times, when we have questions for or about God, we shy away from asking them?
- What questions do you have about/for God?
- Why do you think you shy away from asking God questions?
- Has anyone ever told you, whether explicitly or indirectly, that you shouldn't ask God questions?
- Next time you have a question, what can you do?

WEEK 1 | DAY 4

READ: John 2:13-25

REFLECT:

Today we're going to talk about the respect that God deserves. Jesus was mad, because people at the Temple were being cheated and duped and made to feel guilty when they came to offer their sin sacrifices to God. We're going to think about all the "tables" in your life, and see where Jesus is honored or ignored. Which ones he would flip, and which ones he would gladly sit with you at.

1. **Kitchen Table:** interaction with my family (at home, in the car, etc.)
2. **Pool Table:** recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.)
3. **Cafeteria Table:** interactions with friends at school (or during school hours, if you're virtual)
4. **Table of Contents:** things you read, listen to, and watch
5. **Multiplication tables:** classes and homework
6. **Timetable:** things you do in your free time

REAL TALK:

- Describe a time, good or bad, when God used your circumstances to get your attention.
- Can I share a time like that in my life?
- How is God honored at your _____ table?
- How is God disrespected at your _____ table?
- Does it disturb you when people choose to disrespect God?
- Can you think of an example when it disturbed your friends?
- What can you do next time someone's disrespect of God disturbs you?

WEEK 1 | DAY 5

READ: John 3:1-36

REFLECT:

Not to get too graphic, but think about the parallel between physical birth and spiritual birth. Physical birth brings a brand-new life, a whole new person, and changes the lives of those around it. Spiritual birth brings a brand-new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), a whole new experience for a vital relationship with God, and it should change your life.

Birth is a miracle, both physical birth and spiritual birth. You can't take any credit for your physical birth. It occurred because of the actions of someone else, and you just showed up on the scene. It's not like little baby you had any control over that situation.

In the same way, we can't receive spiritual new birth and take credit for it. Your salvation is 100% to God's credit. It's not about anything you did or didn't do. It's not that your saving was more important than someone else's. It was a gift, and that's so that you couldn't even pretend to take any credit for it.

REAL TALK:

- Why do you think Nicodemus waited until night to approach Jesus?
- Why do you think people have trouble accepting the simple concept that God loves them?
- Do you really believe God loves you? Why or why not?
- Would you like to hear about some times in my life where it was hard for me to accept God's love?
- What is something good in your life that you've tried to take credit?

WEEK 1 | DAY 6

READ: John 4:43-5:15

REFLECT:

You can trust Jesus with your difficult issues and circumstances. A lot of times we think he may be too busy to help, that we don't want to be an inconvenience, or that there are bigger problems he needs to focus on. But God is ready and willing to be your biggest hero and number one fan.

You are not a bother to him. He can handle even your most petty worries all the way down to your darkest thoughts. He can focus on you and others simultaneously. Don't let the enemy tell you that God doesn't care.

We looked at some similarities and differences between two people that had an encounter with Jesus. These comparisons are unpacked in more detail in the Daily Devos.

REAL TALK:

- What is more risky: to trust Jesus or hope for the best? Why?
- Can I share some advice with you about trusting Jesus?
- What crisis are you facing right now?
- How can you trust Jesus during that?
- Who in your life is facing crisis?
- What do you think you could say to them right now to encourage them?
- How has God helped you in a crisis before?

WEEK 1 | DAY 7

READ: John 6:46-60

REFLECT:

This particular encounter that Jesus had with a crowd involves conversation about bread, blood, bodies, etc. The disciples summed it up well in verse 60 when they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

Back in Exodus 16, the people of God, the Israelites, were in the wilderness for forty years. And God provided their food. He sent a heavenly bread-like substance every morning called “manna”, which means, “what is it”. God provided the people with just exactly what they needed every day. He was their sustainer. And in John 6:49, Jesus is referring to this food that the Israelites ate. They ate it, and the next day they needed some more. This bread could not keep them from dying. But Jesus is the only sustenance that can give someone eternal life. He offers spiritual bread: himself. And here’s the good news: the bread that sustains and the blood that saves can be accepted by anyone.

REAL TALK:

- How might self-reliance keep us from appreciating Christ’s sacrifice?
- How would it feel to put yourself in the shoes of the Israelites relying on manna?
- What is something you’ve had to rely on God for in your life?
- What are five things you are most thankful for right now?
- How would you say God has sustained you?
- Do you have any questions for me today?

WEEK 2 | DAY 1

READ: John 9:1-41

REFLECT:

Because Jesus is God, he is able to heal a blind man. Because Jesus is the light of the world, he can cause people's physical and spiritual eyes to open. This man, who was "blind from birth" was given the gift of sight!

One side-effect of spiritual blindness is thinking we are sufficient to handle life on our own. You may have given your life to Jesus, but that old way of thinking creeps back in sometimes. I can do this. I can handle this myself. Often, it's not until we realize we are totally in over our heads that we turn around and start looking for his help. There is nothing wrong with having friends, being physically attractive, or having intelligence; but each of those things only bring temporary satisfaction.

REAL TALK:

- What does Jesus call himself in John 9:5?
- Why is it significant that he is the light of the world?
- How has Jesus brought light in your life?
- What circumstances distract you from being all-in with God?
- How would your life be different if you had your eyes fixed on Jesus rather than your circumstances?
- Is it easy or hard for you to ask for help?
- Why do you think that is?
- How does that translate into how you view God?

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

READ: John 11:1-44

REFLECT:

Jesus intentionally waited until Lazarus was dead to go. We may hear this and think, wow that's sort of heartless. He let a friend die. Well, yes - but, no. Yes, he waited until Lazarus died. No, he was not heartless and cruel. In verse three, Lazarus is described as "he whom you love" to Jesus. He loved him. In verse 11, Jesus calls him "our friend." And in verse 35, the famous verse known as the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept". He grieved the death of his friend.

He was waiting until Lazarus died, so that he could teach his friends the truth about death. The truth about death is that God (Jesus) has power even over death. Even the most final and irreversible thing about humanity, Jesus looks at and says, even that thing obeys me.

REAL TALK:

- Have you ever wanted your prayers answered right that minute?
- What can you learn about the Mary/Martha/Lazarus encounter about what God thinks is important?
- Do you know that you have victory over death?
- How do you know?
- How can knowing Jesus has power to raise up from the dead help you live your life now?
- Do some of your friends and family need their lives saved by Jesus? Who?
- How can you help them meet him?

WEEK 2 | DAY 3

READ: John 11:57-12:11

REFLECT:

Let's look at Mary's worship: she gave an expensive gift, and she gave it humbly. Not only did she give a gift that many scholars believe was about a year's worth of wages at the time, she gave it while sitting at Jesus's feet, wiping his no doubt dirty feet with her hair.

Now let's look at Judas's response: he asked a great question that made him seem super spiritual. But in all reality, he was being selfish. We have to search out to motivations of our hearts. We may say or do something that seems godly, right, and pure, knowing full well we are doing it for recognition, to seem a certain way, or out of bitterness like our friend Judas here.

REAL TALK:

- What questions do you have for me?
- What are some major differences between Mary and Judas in this passage?
- What are some of your talents and interests?
- How can you use those to invest in the Gospel?
- Who are some of your closest friends?
- How can you invest in them where it pertains to God?
- What are some of your main responsibilities?
- How can you make sure and worship God through those?
- How does knowing Jesus motivate you to serve him?

WEEK 2 | DAY 4

READ: John 13:36-38; 15:18-16:4; 18:12-27

REFLECT:

Anytime you identify yourself with Jesus publicly, you are automatically a natural enemy to the popular culture. The reality is, when you decide to follow Jesus, you WILL face opposition. “You will have trouble.” What are some negative feelings associated with opposition? Loneliness, rejection, defeat, sadness, rebellion, annoyance. This is exactly why Jesus followed up the “you will” with “but I”. Yes, you will feel these things, or at least you will want to...but I’ve got you! You will feel disappointed and alone...but I will never disappoint you or leave you!

Peter most likely didn’t think through all the ways his faith may be put to the test when he said yes to Jesus. He couldn’t have anticipated the many times Jesus took him on the wild and thrilling ride called following him. The same is true for us: we don’t know where God will take us. But we do know that it won’t be easy.

REAL TALK:

- How have you experienced opposition for your faith?
- Is it ok with you if I share how I have experienced opposition because of my faith?
- What are some natural ways you can identify yourself as a follower of Jesus to those around you?
- What are some of the best parts of living for Jesus?
- How can I support you today?

WEEK 2 | DAY 5

READ: John 15:5-17

REFLECT:

God wants to produce good fruit in your life. He is in your corner, and wants you to grow up in maturity. But just like branches on a tree, we do not have any power to produce godly characteristics by ourselves. If that branch is not connected to the tree, the source, it will not produce fruit and it will eventually die.

When you walk around with a phone charger plugged in to a phone, but not plugged in to the wall, it's useless. We are the same way. And the power source is Jesus. Are you ready to stop trying to find power in your own strength? Surrender.

REAL TALK:

- Have you ever felt that it was too hard to please God?
- Why or why not?
- Are there areas in your life where you have failed God time and time again?
- What are they?
- How can the illustration Jesus gave about the vine and branches help you approach pleasing God differently?
- How can I pray for you today?
- How do you feel like God is speaking to you right now?

WEEK 2 | DAY 6

READ: John 14:15-27; 16:5-16

REFLECT:

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

Isaiah 11:12 “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27 “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

...for more Scripture on the Holy Spirit from today’s reading and the rest of Scripture, you can check out the student version of the Daily Devos.

REAL TALK:

- Do you have any questions for me today?
- What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word “spirit”?
- What are some things that you learned about the Holy Spirit today in your reading?
- Who is the Holy Spirit to you?
- Can I tell you about a time when the Holy Spirit guided me in a specific situation?
- Can you think of a similar story of how he has been your helper?
- Who can we as a family minister to this week?
- How can we come alongside another family or neighbor and serve them?

WEEK 2 | DAY 7

READ: John 19:25; 20:1, 11-18

REFLECT:

Mary had her own comeback story. Luke 8 tells the story of her own conversion experience, where she was demon possessed. She became a follower (literally) of Jesus, travelling with the little group that had formed around him, including the disciples and some other women. Jesus had healed her from literal demons, and now she was the one at the tomb Sunday morning that Jesus appeared to first. That's a pretty sweet comeback story.

Jesus is the ultimate comeback story! We can have confidence that Jesus rose from the dead. Several eyewitnesses gave testimony of seeing him, and there are several places in the New Testament where eyewitnesses were mentioned that were alive and available to answer questions at the time that those statements were written. Including Mary Magdalene.

REAL TALK:

- How can I encourage you in your faith?
- How can I pray for you today?
- What are 5 things that would be different about the **WORLD** if Jesus had not risen from the dead?
- Since he **DID** raise from the dead, how can we live in a way that points people to Jesus?
- Now what are 5 things about **YOUR LIFE** that would be different if Jesus had never risen from the dead?
- How can you praise him with your life?
- Who do you think would benefit if they read the Daily Devos you just finished?