

DAILY TIME IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

As we move into our Easter sermon series, "I AM changes who i am," we want to continue to practice prayer as a two-way conversation with God by reading the book of John and meditating on what this gospel revealed to His original listeners and taking a prayerful look at our own lives. Below is a daily reading guide with reflection questions to assist you:

1. **PAUSE:** Spend a few moments in silence. Then, open your heart, asking the Holy Spirit to direct your reading of His Word
2. **READ:** Read the scripture passage for the day (see below)
3. **REFLECT:** Reflect on the questions provided below, and write your responses in your journal.
4. **LISTEN:** Ask God how this passage applies to your life today; then, quietly listen to what He says.
5. **PRAY:** Write out a brief prayer using your own words, based on what you have written.

Monday, April 12: John 15

Reflection Question: Jesus says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." (John 15:4) What does "abiding" mean? What practices in your life help you "abide"?

Tuesday, April 13: John 16

Reflection Question: Change is hard for all of us—including the original disciples, who did not want Jesus to go away. Yet Jesus says: "...it is to your advantage that I go away...." (Jn 16:7) Had you been one of the Twelve (eleven), how long do you suppose it would have taken for you to believe Jesus' departure was an "advantage," and what life experiences would have convinced you Jesus was right (Note the "advantage" reasons Jesus mentions)?

Wednesday, April 14: John 17:1-5

Reflection Question: This is the beginning of what is commonly called "Jesus' High Priestly Prayer," prayed just before He went to the Cross. Jesus asks the Father to "glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you." (John 17:1) What does it mean to "glorify"? How can the Cross, an instrument of great pain and shame, possibly glorify God the Father and God the Son? Has God ever used painful or shameful situations in your life to bring glory to Himself?

Thursday, April 15: John 17:6-19

Reflection Question: Jesus prays for His disciples, both then and now: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." (John 17:15) As you meditate on this passage alongside your own personal experience, what does being in the world but not influenced by the evil one who has temporary power in this world look like in your life? How do you maintain the proper balance?

Friday, April 16: John 17:20-26

Reflection Question: Jesus focuses on unity as a high priority among believers ("that they may all be one" (John 17:21)) According to this passage, what resources for unity has God provided for our lives? What are the positive benefits of unity? Personal question: What next step do you need to take as a follower of Jesus to promote unity?

I AM CHANGES WHO I AM