

## **Introduction: Jesus Unfiltered – “The Gospel of John”**

- Who is Jesus?
  - Where did He come from?
  - Why did He come?
  - What does He want for us?
  - What does He want from us?
- To answer these questions, have you ever examined for yourself this New Testament document written by an eyewitness and verified by over 500 witnesses?

### **Review of the book of John:**

Chapters 1-5: Jesus Unfiltered, Volume 1, “Believe”  
Chapters 6-10: Jesus Unfiltered, Volume 2, “Follow”  
Chapters 11-15: Jesus Unfiltered, Volume 3, “Love”

**Question:** What does loving God really mean? **Answer:** John 11

#### 1. **A problem is brought to Jesus**

John 11:1-3

*<sup>1</sup>Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>[This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair.] <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord the one You love is sick.”*

**Application 1:** Love trusts Jesus in **DIFFICULT TIMES**,  
(even when we are afraid).

2. **Jesus responds to the problem**

John 11:4-6

*<sup>4</sup>When He heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days...*

**Application 2:** Love trusts God's TIMING, (even when it doesn't make sense).

3. **Jesus announces His plan to solve the problem**

John 11:7-16

*<sup>7</sup>...and then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." <sup>8</sup>"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone You, and yet You are going back?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup>It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." <sup>11</sup> After He had said this, He went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." <sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So then He told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake, I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."*

**Application 3:** Love trusts Jesus' PLANS, (even when our security is threatened).

4. **Jesus' better gift to Martha and Mary**

John 11:17-37

*<sup>17</sup> On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give You whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."*

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die;<sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." <sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

**Application 4:** Love trusts God's PURPOSES, (even when we feel disappointed).

## 5. Jesus solves the problem

John 11:38-44

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," He said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent Me."

<sup>43</sup> When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

**Application 5:** Love trusts God's WORD, (even when it seems impossible).

6. Epilogue

John 11:45-48

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

**Application 6:** Love trusts Jesus with life’s OUTCOMES, (even when they result in conflict).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Which of the applications address your current life situation? Why?
2. What is the relationship between love and trust?
3. Who could you help trust Jesus in their difficult circumstance this week?

## **Introduction: Life's most important words are...**

- When a child hears them, it means "I'm safe," "I'm valuable," "I really matter to you."
- When you're dating someone and hear them, it means "we're moving to a new level of commitment," "exclusivity of a relationship."
- When a friend hears them, it means "I'm here for you," "I've got your back." It's a statement of loyalty and resolve.
- When a parent hears them, their heart melts, their joy surges as little children, or grown ones, say, "I see what you do for me; I appreciate you."
- When Jesus says them to you, it means "You're wanted, valuable, precious, and I will never leave or forsake you."
- When Jesus hears you say, "I love You," it means...

**Question:** What does loving God really look like? **Answer:** John 12

**The Context:**

This chapter chronicles the beginning of the last week of Jesus' life prior to the crucifixion. The resurrection of Lazarus has ignited a movement of Jews believing Him to be the Messiah, while the religious leaders have become desperate to have Lazarus and Him killed.

Jerusalem is simultaneously being flooded with thousands of foreign pilgrims to celebrate the Passover. Three specific events will teach us what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength:

1. A private dinner John 12: 1-8
2. A public parade John 12:9-19
3. A prophetic moment John 12: 20-50

**Event #1: Mary expresses her love for Jesus** John 12:1-8

- Her act
- Her reproof
- Jesus' defense

**Application:** Love gives **EXTRAVAGANT** \_\_\_\_\_ gifts to God, (even when harshly criticized).

**Event #2: The multitudes praise Jesus as Messiah**

John 12:9-19

- Group 1 – The pilgrims for Passover
- Group 2 – The witnesses of Lazarus' resurrection
- Jesus worshiped as Israel's promised King
- Zechariah 9:9 fulfilled – "...riding on a colt."
- Illegal response thwarts murder plot

**Application:** Love gives a **PUBLIC** \_\_\_\_\_ profession of Christ, (even when unpopular or illegal).

**Event #3: The Greeks seek an interview with Jesus**

John 12:20-50

- An indirect request
- A monumental moment – "The hour has come."
- A profound response that:
  - Challenges the disciples
  - Creates a personal crisis for Jesus
  - Is affirmed by God the Father
  - Creates confusion in the multitudes
  - Moves Jesus to temporarily withdraw
- A final plea to receive eternal life

**Application:** Love gives **SACRIFICIALLY** \_\_\_\_\_ of oneself, (even to the point of death).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the most extravagant gift you've ever given to a person? Who was it and why did you give it?
2. How does giving and loving God manifest itself in your life? Why is giving so vital to loving? (see Matthew 6:19-21)
3. In what ways did the multitudes publicly identify with and worship Jesus? What social or personal price were they risking in giving this praise publicly?
4. In what ways do you publicly identify and proclaim Christ as King of your life? Have you already taken the public step of baptism Jesus commanded? If "yes," what significance did that have in your life? If "no," when do you plan on doing it?
5. Read John 12:24 and discuss what this means in your life right now and why.

**Introduction: What 2 words in each list would others say best describe you?**

How would your friends describe you?

Driven	Successful	Organized
Easy Going	Intelligent	Creative
Loving	Energetic	Serious
Fun	Powerful	Religious

How would your family describe you?

Driven	Successful	Organized
Easy Going	Intelligent	Creative
Loving	Energetic	Serious
Fun	Powerful	Religious

How would your co-workers describe you?

Driven	Successful	Organized
Easy Going	Intelligent	Creative
Loving	Energetic	Serious
Fun	Powerful	Religious

“The only thing that really matters is FAITH, working itself out  
in LOVE.”

Galatians 5:6

**Question:** What does loving people really look like? **Answer:** John 13

**The Context:**

Jesus instructed two of His disciples to prepare the Passover meal. As the 12 are en route to the secret location, a dispute arises as to which one is the greatest (Luke 22:24). Upon arriving at the upper room, there is no servant at the door to wash their feet for dinner, and none are willing to assume this inferior role. Later this night, Jesus will be arrested, the disciples will be scattered, and He will be crucified the following day.

**Event #1: Jesus washes the disciples' feet**

John 13:1-20

- Jesus' motive and mission are clarified
- Peter's protest reveals his shame and pride
- Jesus' question to His disciples redefines greatness
- Jesus commands them to wash each other's feet
- Jesus promises blessedness through obedience

**Application:** Love humbly serves those we **LEAD** \_\_\_\_\_, (even when we're entitled to be served). See Philippians 2:3-4

**Event #2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas**

John 13:21-30

- Jesus predicts His betrayal
- Jesus extends honor and love to Judas
- Judas rejects Jesus' offer of forgiveness
- Judas co-operates with Satan's plan

**Application:** Love intentionally serves those who **HATE** us , (even when their behavior doesn't change). See Luke 6:27-36

**Event #3: Jesus prepares His disciples for His arrest**

John 13:31-38

- By His prophetic response to Judas' betrayal
- By His tender foretelling of His soon departure
- By giving them a new commandment
- By establishing a new "sign" of discipleship
- By preparing them for their failure

**Application:** Love passionately serves those in the **BODY** of Christ, (even when they hurt and disappoint us). See Hebrews 10:24-25

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word “servant?”
2. How did Jesus redefine leadership and greatness in His final evening with His disciples?

Read Philippians 2:3-4 and discuss the practical implications for your influence/leadership at home, work, school, and church.

3. How has the Church historically modeled loving our enemies - positively and negatively?

Read Luke 6:27-36 and discuss the specific implications for your attitudes and actions toward those who oppose you.

4. In what ways have you most enjoyed and felt fulfilled in serving fellow believers?

Read John 12:34-35 and discuss why how we treat each other is so important.

5. Where and how have you served in Christ’s Church in the past?

What specific ways could you serve at or through your church to love others?

6. What wounds from fellow Christians have been the most difficult for you?

Why?

What has been the biggest obstacle to forgiving them fully, from your heart?

Why is forgiving them so important?

**Introduction: Is love more than a feeling?**

**Case Study #1: Pop culture**

**Case Study #2: “We lost the championship!”**

**Case Study #3: When it gets very personal and very painful**

**Case Study #4: Jesus’ parable of two sons**

Matthew 21:28-32

**Question: What is the relationship between love and obedience? Answer: John 14**

**The Emotional Context:**

It is Jesus' final night with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion. He has washed their feet, Judas has left to betray Him, and they are overwhelmed with fear and anxiety. Jesus is leaving, their leader will deny Him, the authorities want to arrest them, and their hope of an immediate Kingdom has evaporated. The future looks foreboding.

**The Critical Conversation:**

**Peter:** "Where are you going?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:1-4

**Thomas:** "How can we know the way?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:5-7

**Philip:** "Show us the Father!"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:8-11
- Jesus' assignment - John 14:12-15
- Jesus' provision - John 14:16-21

**Judas (not Iscariot):** "How will the world not see You?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:22-26

**Jesus:** "Don't be troubled or afraid."

- Jesus' reason - John 14:27-31

**Because God loves me...**

1. Jesus is preparing a place for me with the Father. John 14:1-4
2. He sent Jesus to make a way for me to be with the Father. John 14:5-7
3. He sent Jesus to reveal to me what God is really like. John 14:8-11
4. He will use me greatly and hear me always. John 14:12-15
5. He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of me to manifest the presence, personality, and power of Jesus 24/7. John 14:16-26
6. He gives me peace, even in a world of turmoil by defeating death, sin, and Satan. John 14:27-31

**Because I love God...**

1. I will not FEAR because my future is secured. John 14:1-4
2. I will TRUST in Jesus as the only way to eternal life. John 14:5-7
3. I make KNOWING GOD the #1 priority of my life. John 14:8-11
4. I USE my time, talent, treasure, and platform to make Jesus' love known, in mind and deed. John 14:12-15
5. I will SUBMIT my heart and mind, and will OBEY the Holy Spirit's direction through His Word, His people, and His prompting. John 14:16-26
6. I will refuse to WORRY about the future, but live victoriously in the present. John 14:27-31

**Summary:** “Love OBEYS!”

John 14:21

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What comfort do you find in realizing the early disciples struggled with fear and anxiety even while in Jesus’ physical presence?

2. What is Jesus doing right now?

How often do you think about heaven when world events and personal challenges come?

3. In what ways (list them) did Jesus love His disciples through their multiple crises?

4. What is the relationship between love and obedience in our relationship with God?  
Discuss John 14:15-21

5. How have you seen past steps of obedience build intimacy and joy in your relationship with God?

6. What specific step of obedience is next for you?

Who might help you take that step and work with you on your journey?

## Introduction: Life's biggest questions

### 1. What's the most important thing I can do with my life?

- Answer: LOVE God, LOVE people!

Jesus – Matthew 22:37-38

### 2. Why is love the most important?

- Answer: Love NEVER fails; love lasts FOREVER !

The Apostle Paul – 1 Corinthians 13

### 3. How does Jesus define love?

- **Love is “unwavering trust”** in God's timing, purpose, and plans, even when they're different from ours. John 11
- **Love is “unbridled devotion”** resulting in extravagant gifts of money, reputation, and sacrifice. John 12
- **Love is “uncommon servanthood”** that considers others more important than ourselves. John 13
- **Love is “uncompromising obedience”** to His Word, regardless of the consequences. John 14

**Question:** How can we possibly love like Jesus did? **Answer:** John 15

**The Context:**

The Last Supper is finished. Jesus has washed the disciples' feet, predicted Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, and informed them of His temporary departure. He comforted them with the assurance He is going to the Father to prepare a place for them and then challenged them to finish the mission He started by obeying His commands. The looming question is, "How?"

**The Promise:** If anyone has **FAITH** in Me, he will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater works. John 14:12

**The Process:** The metaphor of fruit-bearing for God –

1. Jesus is the **TRUE** vine; we are the branches. John 15:1
2. The Father positions and **PRUNES** us for fruitfulness. John 15:2-3
3. Our sole responsibility is to **ABIDE**. John 15:4-6
4. The consequences of abiding are fourfold. John 15:7-11
  - **ACCESS**: vivid answers to prayer. John 15:7
  - **FRUITFULNESS**: an extraordinary life with extraordinary impact. John 15:8
  - **LOVE**: resulting in heartfelt obedience. John 15:9-10
  - **INTIMACY**: resulting in supernatural joy. John 15:11

The price and privilege of following Jesus:

John 15: 12-27

1. The impossible command -

John 15: 12-14 & 27

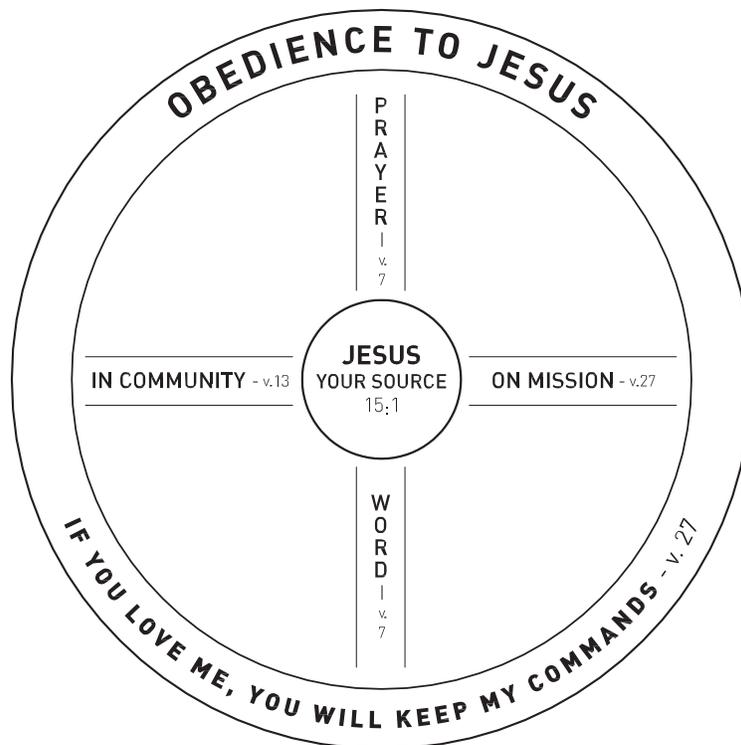
2. The unimaginable reward -

John 15: 15-17 & 26

3. The high cost of loyalty -

John 15: 18-27

A practical picture for a lifestyle of abiding with Jesus:



### A Tool to “Sync” with Jesus Daily

**Step 1:** Select a regular, consistent time each day

**Step 2:** Ask God to speak to you through His Word.

**Step 3:** Read the next portion in the scripture you’ve chosen.  
(Old Testament, New Testament, or both)

**Step 4:** In a spiral notebook, write the date and then the word “YESTERDAY.” Then write no more than one page about your thoughts, reflections, and feelings about yesterday’s event and journey with Jesus. After that, write any thoughts about your reading today.

**Step 5:** **Adoration** – Praise God for who He is, His character, His power, attributes, and especially anything you read about Him earlier. Sing a chorus or hymn of praise.

**Confession** – Ask God to reveal anything that does not honor or glorify Him in your life. Sit quietly and allow Him to bring specific things to mind. Confess specifics NOT generalities.

**Thanksgiving** – Verbalize your thankfulness for specific things, events, people, blessings, and answers to prayer God has granted in your life.

**Supplication** – Ask God specific requests for yourself and others that you know are His will or that you simply desire.

**Step 6:** Listen – Be absolutely quiet before God and ask Him to show you...

- What is the “next step” in your relationship with Him?
- What is the “next step” in developing your character?
- What is the “next step” in developing your relationships?
- What is the “next step” in serving others?