

PRAY
GO

TOGETHER.
TOGETHER.

FIVE WEEK

Sermon Guide

A guide for preaching the Gospel of John

INTRODUCTION

Understanding this Resource

This five-week sermon guide is an accompanying resource to the “Pray Together, Go Together 30-Day Prayer Guide” centered around five selected passages in the Gospel of John, designed to inform, equip and encourage you to pray for unreached people and least-reached places across North Carolina. This sermon guide, focused on five passages from the Gospel of John, is meant to be utilized alongside the prayer guide as a pastor seeks to allow the Word of God and the Spirit of God through prayer to lead His church into a greater involvement in the mission of God to the least-reached peoples and places in their own community. Each sermon corresponds to the selected passage for that particular day in the prayer guide. The outlines for these sermons are from Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, N.C., and have been used by permission for this resource.

Consider using all of the resources connected to this Pray Together, Go Together emphasis available at prayandgoNC.org.

1. Pray and Go 30-Day Prayer Guide
2. Five-Week Pray and Go Sermon Guide
3. Five-Week Pray and Go Small Group Guide for Discussion and Training Guide
4. One-Day Pray and Go Push for Prayer Walking and Gospel Sharing

Why the Gospel of John?

John provides his own purpose for the book in John 20:30-31, “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name.” Our desire is to see Christ-exalting disciple-making through local churches across North Carolina among the unreached peoples and least-reached places that is driven by the principles and practices discovered

through God’s Word. We want to see many from among the unreached and least-reached across North Carolina come to believe that Jesus is the Christ and have life in His name. What better place to look than Christ Himself in one of the gospels?

Through the Gospel of John we will fix our eyes on Christ, allow His Word to cultivate our love and affection for Him, grow in our dependence on Him through prayer, and then follow His example in love for our unreached and least-reached neighbors. Our prayer is that as God leads you and your church through the preaching of His Word and the prayers of His saints, your church will grow in Spirit-empowered proclamation of the gospel to those in your community who have not had an opportunity to hear. As the Spirit of God leads your church through His Word and prayer in bold and frequent proclamation of the gospel, our prayerful expectation is for Christ to draw many to Himself and for many disciples to be made and multiplied.

What passages have been chosen?

- 1. John 1:19-34 | Week one**, correlates to day three of prayer guide
This text describes the way in which God used John the Baptist as a witness to who Jesus was, allowing the world to see Christ as “the Lamb of God, come to take away the sin of the world.” It leaves us with the question, ‘How can our stories be a witness to the saving work of Christ in us?’
- 2. John 6:22-59 | Week two**, correlates to day 10 of the prayer guide
This text pivots from the two incredible miracles of Jesus – feeding the five thousand and walking on water – to His teaching on what truly satisfies, namely Himself as the bread of life and the living water to all who believe in Him. The invitation for unbelievers is to turn to Christ, who alone can satisfy. The invitation for believers is to remember how secure we are in Christ and go serve up the gospel to others so they might partake in the only one who can satisfy the longing of their souls.
- 3. John 11:1-44 | Week three**, correlates to day 17 of the prayer guide
This text follows Jesus in the raising of His friend Lazarus from the dead. We are called to greater love and trust for our loving and sovereign Savior, Jesus, who speaks truth to us, weeps with us and provides resurrection power. Furthermore, we are taught that Jesus Himself is the resurrection and the life and calls unbelievers to believe in Him for hope of life after death.
- 4. John 15:1-17 | Week four**, correlates to day 24 of the prayer guide
This text articulates the way Jesus taught His disciples to abide in Him as the true vine and how true disciples abide in an intimate, life-giving, fruit-producing relationship with their Savior. Jesus challenges the performance-based legalist, the individualistic spiritualist and the ‘sin that grace may abound’ mindset alike. Then He calls us to absolute dependence. Consider the privilege we have as Christ’s people to know Him intimately, walk with Him daily, and bear fruit that abides and brings Him glory.
- 5. John 20:1-31 | Week five**, correlates to day 30 of the prayer guide
This text recounts the narrative of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, describes several appearances to the disciples, and clarifies the salvific purpose of the author of the Gospel of John – to believe Christ and have life in His name. We see how the risen Christ meets each of these people in their conditions and transforms them: Mary Magdalene, from enslaved to evangelist; the disciples, from fearful to fearless; Thomas, from doubter to devoted missionary. Indeed, the resurrected Christ can do the same for us.

WEEK 1

SIMPLE SERMON OUTLINE

What's Your Story?

Pastor Mokgatle, Pastor of Rooted Church, South Africa

JOHN 1:19-34

Main Point

God sends his people to bear witness to Jesus, the salvific Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: What if your church were to welcome people by asking the question, 'What is your story?'
- II. The Jews Question and John Denies (1:19-22)
 - A. Not the Messiah (v. 20)
 - B. Not Elijah (v. 21; Mal. 4:5-6)
 - C. Not the Prophet (v. 21; Deut. 18:15, 18)
- III. A Voice, Preparing for Another (1:23-28; Isaiah 40:3-15; Luke 1; Matthew 11:11)
 - A. A witness never imposes himself into the picture of the one whom he is witnessing.
- IV. The Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World (1:29-33)
 - A. The gospel centers on Christ who took our sin (v. 29)
 - B. He is the one I told you about, who is preexistent and preeminent (v. 30-31; Col. 1:15-23)
 - C. Our lives and our witness must be immersed into Christ, look to the Lamb (v. 32-33)
- V. Conclusion: (1:34)
 - A. What is our story? We have seen and witness that this is the Son of God (v34)
 - B. We must witness of Jesus, who perfectly declares the nature and character of God the Father (John 1:18)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sermon Manuscript
- Sermon Video

WEEK 2

SIMPLE SERMON OUTLINE

Eat and Live

*Pastor Matt Sigmon, Pastor of Imago Dei Church,
Raleigh, N.C.*

JOHN 6:30-59

Main Point

Jesus is the bread of heaven who gives and guarantees eternal life to those that believe in Him.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: What satisfies you (6:22-34)?
- II. Jesus is the Bread of Life, given by the Father (6:35-40)
- III. Jesus is the Bread of Heaven, sent by the Father (6:41-51)
- IV. Jesus is the Son Who saves by His sacrifice...eat, drink and be living (6:52-59)
- V. Conclusion: Two responses.
 - A. Unbelievers
 1. Physical food comes from our work, while spiritual food comes from His work.
 2. Stop looking for material things to satisfy your soul and give you life
 3. Believe Jesus, and receive eternal life.
 - B. Believers
 1. Remember that Jesus has you, will never let you go and will raise you up to live forever.
 2. Go and tell others about the King who has provided the meal that will give life to His people.
 3. Serve it up and urge others to partake in the only One who can satisfy our souls.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sermon Manuscript
- Sermon Video

WEEK 3

SIMPLE SERMON OUTLINE

Jesus is the Resurrection & the Life

Pastor Tony Merida, Pastor of Imago Dei Church,
Raleigh, N.C.

JOHN 11:1-44

Main Point

Jesus enters into a broken situation displaying His sovereign love, His truth, His tears and His power.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. He first appears to be “too late Jesus” (v. 21, 32), but Christ is never too late
 - B. Jesus enters into this broken situation displaying His sovereign love, His truth, His tears and His power.
 - C. What do you need in suffering?
- II. Scene 1: Jesus dialogues with His disciples (11:1-16)
 - A. In our suffering, be assured of His love and of His sovereign purposes.
- III. Scene 2: Jesus speaks truth to Martha (11:17-27)
 - A. When the Lord doesn't do what you think He should, do you lose confidence in Him? We need His truth in our clouded minds.
- IV. Scene 3: Jesus grieves with Mary (11:28-37)
 - A. In our grief, our Savior is near. He weeps with those who weep. We need the tears of Jesus, not just the truth of Jesus.
- V. Scene 4: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (11:38-44)
 - A. Jesus not only weeps with us in our grief, but promises to raise us from our sleep. He provides resurrection, not just consolation.
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. We have a Savior who is loving and sovereign, who speaks truth to us, who weeps with us and who provides resurrection power.
 - B. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Believe on Him.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sermon Manuscript
- Sermon Video

WEEK 4

SIMPLE SERMON OUTLINE

Abide

Pastor Shane Shaddix, Pastor of Imago Dei Church,
Raleigh, N.C.

JOHN 15:1-17

Main Point

Jesus is the true vine and true disciples abide in an intimate, life-giving, fruit-producing relationship with their Savior for the glory of God the Father.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. True disciples of Jesus abide in an intimate, life-giving, fruit-producing relationship with their Savior.
 - B. This challenges the legalist who orients toward performance, the individualistic spiritualist who claims all that matters is them and Jesus, and those who are giving themselves over to sin.
- II. The Vine and the branches (15:1-8)
 - A. The Vine (v1; Hosea 10:1-2)
 - B. The Vinedresser (v1-2, 8)
 - C. The branches (v2-8)
- III. Abiding and its fruits (15:9-17)
 - A. Abide in the love of Christ through obedience (v9-10)
 - B. Abide in the joy of Christ through obedience (v11)
 - C. Abide with the body of Christ in love (v12-15, 17)
 - D. Abide in the grace of Christ on mission (v16)
 - E. Abide in the power of Christ through Word and prayer (16b, 7)
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Abide
 - B. Consider the privilege we have as Christ's people to know Him intimately, walk with Him daily, and bear fruit that abides and brings Him great glory.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sermon Manuscript
- Sermon Video

WEEK 5

SIMPLE SERMON OUTLINE

The Best News in the World

Pastor Tony Merida, Pastor of Imago Dei Church,
Raleigh, N.C.

JOHN 20:1-31

Main Point

The good news of the resurrected Christ provides hope for the world, grace for the broken, peace for the fearful and truth for the skeptic such that all may have life through faith in Christ.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction:
 - A. Like Paul in 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 11, we do not preach John 20 every week, but we make a point every week to exalt the crucified and risen Christ.
 - B. John describes the early Christians' discovery of the resurrection through which we find what makes the gospel good news.
- II. The empty tomb: Hope for the world (20:1-10)
- III. Jesus and Mary Magdalene: grace for the broken (20:11-18)
- IV. Jesus and the disciples: peace for the fearful (20:19-23)
- V. Jesus and Thomas: Truth for the skeptic (20:24-31)
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. The purpose of John's book — "that you may believe, and have life in His name."
 - B. The risen Christ meets each of these people in their conditions and transforms them.
 1. Mary Magdalene, from enslaved to evangelist.
 2. Disciples, from fearful to fearless.
 3. Thomas, from doubter to devoted missionary.
 4. And He can do the same for us, too.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sermon Manuscript
- Sermon Video