

BYSTANDER STUDY GUIDE

OVERVIEW

WIN

To understand the person of Jesus and his work through reading and discussing the Gospel of John.

CONNECT

Take the first 10–15 minutes of each group meeting to catch up before you start to discuss the study. You can use an icebreaker from this list or simply ask group members to share their “highs and lows” from the last week.

LEARN

One of the best ways to learn more about Jesus is through a study of the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament that tell the good news of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection. This study focuses on the Gospel of John.

Over six weeks, you will read the entire book of John. Weekly reading, along with Andy’s sermon series Bystander, will serve as a springboard for group discussion. It’s important to complete as much of the Bible reading as possible in order to get the most out of the study.

SESSION 1

BEFORE GROUP

- **Read** John chapters 1–21 all the way through. If you prefer to listen to the book of John, click [here](#). Try to do it in one sitting if you can. The goal is not to study John word-by-word or sentence-by-sentence, but to experience the entire Gospel.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 1 of Bystander](#).
- When we meet, we will be discussing Andy's messages and anything we've learned by reading John all the way through.

AT GROUP

- **Share** your thoughts on your reading of John. What did you notice by reading it all the way through that you hadn't picked up on before? Did anything convict you? Make you uncomfortable?
- **Discuss** the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).
- **Watch** the [Bible Project video on John Part 1](#) to set up the next two weeks.

WHAT'S NEXT:

- [Read or listen](#) to John chapters 1–6. Study one chapter a day, taking the time to read actively by highlighting sections, verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you. **Write down** what you observe and ask yourself, *What strikes me about this verse or word?* Ask God, *Why?* Then ask, *How can I apply this to my life in some way?* **Write down** any questions you have about a passage or chapter so you can remember to share them with the group.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 2 of Bystander](#).

SESSION 2

AT GROUP

- **Share** what you learned from reading John chapters 1–6. What words or phrases stood out to you and why? How can you apply what you're learning to your life? Did you have any questions about what you read, and did you look at any commentaries to help?
- **Discuss** some of the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S NEXT

- [Read or listen](#) to John chapters 7–13. Study one chapter a day, taking the time to read actively by highlighting sections, verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you. **Write down** what you observe and ask yourself, *What strikes me about this verse or word?* Ask God, *Why?* Then ask, *How can I apply this to my life in some way?* **Write down** any questions you have about a passage or chapter so you can remember to share them with the group.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 3 of Bystander](#).

SESSION 3

AT GROUP

- **Share** what you learned from reading John chapters 7–13. What words or phrases stood out to you and why? How can you apply what you are learning to your life? Did you have any questions about what you read, and did you look at any commentaries to help?
- **Discuss** some of the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).
- Watch the [Bible Project video on John Part 2](#) to set up the next two weeks.

WHAT'S NEXT

- [Read or listen](#) to John chapters 13–17. Study one chapter a day, taking the time to read actively by highlighting sections, verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you. **Write down** what you observe and ask yourself, *What strikes me about this verse or word?* Ask God, *Why?* Then ask, *How can I apply this to my life in some way?* **Write down** any questions you have about a passage or chapter so you can remember to share them with the group.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 4 of Bystander](#).

SESSION 4

AT GROUP

- **Share** what you learned from reading John chapters 13–17. What words or phrases stood out to you and why? How can you apply what you are learning to your life? Did you have any questions about what you read, and did you look at any commentaries to help?
- **Discuss** some of the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S NEXT

- **Read or listen** to John chapters 18–21. Study one chapter a day, taking the time to read actively by highlighting sections, verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you. **Write down** what you observe and ask yourself, *What strikes me about this verse or word?* Ask God, *Why?* Then ask, *How can I apply this to my life in some way?* **Write down** any questions you have about a passage or chapter so you can remember to share them with the group.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 5 of Bystander](#).

SESSION 5

AT GROUP

- **Share** what you learned from reading John chapters 18–21. What words or phrases stood out to you and why? How can you apply what you are learning to your life? Did you have any questions about what you read, and did you look at any commentaries to help?
- **Discuss** some of the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S NEXT

- **Listen to or read** a favorite passage or chapter from *The Message* version of John on the YouVersion App or on BibleGateway.com.
- **Watch or listen** to [Part 6 of Bystander](#).

SESSION 6:

AT GROUP

- **Share** any new insights from reading or listening to *The Message* version of John.
- **Discuss** the questions from Andy's sermon. The questions can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S NEXT



This study has concluded. Your leader will reach out with plans as to what's next: a new study, a social, break, or an opportunity to serve.

