

PERGUNTAS HONESTAS

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN IN 21 DAYS

ONE CHAPTER A DAY,
WITH QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT



“Come and see.” – John 1:46

FREE READING PLAN

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You do not need **to be sure to** begin.

When Nathanael heard about Jesus, he was suspicious: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” His friend Philip did not argue. He simply said: “Come and see” (John 1:46).

This plan is that invitation. The Gospel of John has 21 chapters. In 21 days you read the whole book, calmly, and draw your own conclusions about who Jesus is.

John does not hide why he wrote:

JOHN 20:31

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.

HOW TO USE IT

- 1** Read one chapter a day, ideally at the same time. It takes 5 to 10 minutes.
- 2** Read the page for the day: a little context, a verse to keep and two questions.
- 3** Write down what caught your attention and what you did not understand. A doubt is also an answer.
- 4** Missed a day? Pick up where you stopped. The plan is yours, not a test.

READ · JOHN 1

Who is this?

John does not begin in Bethlehem but before time itself: “In the beginning was the Word.” Then he introduces Jesus through the eyes of those who met Him: John the Baptist, Andrew, Peter, Philip and a skeptic named Nathanael.

JOHN 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. If God wanted to show Himself to us, how would you expect Him to do it?
2. Nathanael doubted and went to “see.” What would you need to see to take Jesus seriously?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 2

A wedding and a temple

At a wedding the wine runs out, and Jesus performs His first sign. In Jerusalem He drives the merchants out of the temple. Joy and confrontation appear side by side.

JOHN 2:11

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why do you think Jesus' first sign took place at a party?
2. What would Jesus "drive out" of the place where you look for God?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 3

A conversation at night

Nicodemus was religious, respected and full of questions. He went to Jesus at night and heard that he needed to be born again. This is where the best-known verse in the Bible is found.

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Nicodemus was already a “good person.” Why did Jesus still say he needed to be born again?
2. Read John 3:16 putting your name in place of “the world.” What changes?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 4

The woman at the well

At noon a woman goes to draw water alone, perhaps to avoid other people's stares. Jesus starts a conversation, knows her whole life and still does not reject her.

JOHN 4:14

but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. What “thirst” have you been trying to get rid of?
2. How would you feel if someone knew everything about you and still wanted to talk with you?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 5

Thirty-eight years of waiting

A man who has been ill for 38 years waits for a miracle beside a pool. Jesus asks him: “Do you want to be healed?” Then the religious leaders are upset because the healing happened on the Sabbath.

JOHN 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why would Jesus ask a sick man whether he wanted to be healed?
2. Is there an area of your life where you have stopped hoping for change?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 6

Bread for five thousand

Jesus feeds a crowd with five loaves and two fish. The next day the same crowd wants more bread, and He tells them that the bread they need is Himself. Many walk away.

JOHN 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Do you seek God more for what He gives or for who He is?
2. When many left, Peter said: “Lord, to whom shall we go?” (6:68). Where do you turn when life gets hard?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 7

Who does He think He is?

At the Feast of Booths everyone argues about Jesus: some say He is good, others that He leads people astray. Even His brothers doubt Him. On the last day of the feast, He makes an invitation out loud.

JOHN 7:37

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Even Jesus' own family doubted Him (7:5). Does that raise or lower your trust in the account?
2. What opinion about Jesus do you hear most around you? And what is yours?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 8

Whoever has never sinned

They bring Jesus a woman caught in adultery, to test Him. He writes on the ground and says: “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” One by one, they all leave.

JOHN 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Jesus did not condemn the woman, but He said: “Go, and from now on sin no more” (8:11). How do forgiveness and change go together?
2. In what area of your life do you feel “in the dark”?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 9

I was blind, now I see

Jesus heals a man who was born blind. The religious leaders question him again and again, and he, who knows no theology, answers with what he has lived.

JOHN 9:25

He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

TO THINK ABOUT

1. The man did not have all the answers, but he knew what had happened to him. Is that enough to begin?
2. The disciples asked whose fault it was (9:2). Have you ever thought your suffering was a punishment?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 10

The good shepherd

Jesus compares Himself to a shepherd who knows each sheep by name and lays down his life for them. He also says there are thieves who come only to steal.

JOHN 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Have you ever been “robbed” by someone who claimed to be a spiritual guide? How does that affect the way you see God?
2. What does it mean to you to be known by name?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 11

Jesus wept

Lazarus, Jesus' friend, dies. Jesus arrives four days later, weeps at the tomb and calls him out. It is the greatest sign in the book.

JOHN 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus, and still He wept. What does that say about how God sees your pain?
2. Martha said: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (11:21). Have you ever said something like that to God?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 12

The hour has come

Jesus enters Jerusalem cheered by the crowd. A woman pours very expensive perfume on Him. He speaks of His own death using the picture of a grain of wheat.

JOHN 12:32

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why would anyone “waste” expensive perfume on Jesus? What would you give?
2. The crowd that cheered Jesus soon changed sides. What does your opinion of Him depend on?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 13

The Teacher washes feet

At the last supper Jesus takes a towel and washes the disciples' feet, a slave's job. He knew Judas would betray Him and Peter would deny Him, and He washed the feet of both.

JOHN 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. What kind of God kneels down to serve?
2. Whose feet would you find it hard to “wash”?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 14

The way

The disciples are afraid because Jesus is leaving. Thomas asks: “How can we know the way?” Jesus answers with one of the boldest things He ever said.

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Thomas asked the question many were afraid to ask. What is yours?
2. Jesus did not say “I show the way” but “I am the way.” What is the difference?

NOTES

READ · JOHN 15

The vine and the branches

Jesus uses the picture of a vine: a branch cut off from the vine dries up. He also calls the disciples friends, not servants.

JOHN 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Where have you been looking for strength and meaning away from the “vine”?
2. What changes when you are called a friend of God (15:15)?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 16

Sorrow turned to joy

Jesus warns the disciples that they will weep, but that their sorrow will turn into joy, like a mother's after giving birth. He promises the Holy Spirit and does not hide that there will be trouble.

JOHN 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Jesus never promised a life without problems. Does that make His message more or less trustworthy?
2. What trouble do you need to hand over today?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 17

Jesus prays for you

Before He is arrested, Jesus prays for His disciples and also for “those who will believe in me through their word” (17:20). That includes whoever is reading today.

JOHN 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Here, eternal life means knowing God, not only living forever. What does that change?
2. How do you feel knowing that Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 18

What is truth?

Jesus is arrested, Peter denies Him three times and Pilate questions the prisoner. In the middle of the trial, the Roman governor asks the most honest question in the book, and walks out without waiting for an answer.

JOHN 18:38

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Pilate asked and walked away. Have you been asking God questions and waiting for the answer?
2. Peter denied Jesus out of fear. What usually silences you?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 19

It is finished

Jesus is flogged, crowned with thorns and crucified between two men. Before He dies, He provides for His mother and says: “It is finished.” Those are the words of someone who has completed a job.

JOHN 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. What was “finished,” completed, on the cross?
2. If the work is finished, what is left for us to do to be accepted by God?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 20

The empty tomb

On Sunday morning Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty. Later Jesus appears to the disciples. Thomas was not there and says he will only believe if he touches the wounds. A week later, Jesus comes back.

JOHN 20:28-29

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

TO THINK ABOUT

1. Jesus did not humiliate Thomas for doubting: He showed him His hands. What does that say about your doubts?
2. Read 20:31. Why does John say he wrote this book?

NOTES

READ • JOHN 21

Breakfast on the beach

Peter, who had denied Jesus three times, goes back to fishing. Jesus cooks fish over a charcoal fire and asks him three times: “Do you love me?” Peter is restored.

JOHN 21:17*Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.***TO THINK ABOUT**

1. Three denials, three questions. What does that show about the way Jesus forgives?
2. After these 21 days, what would you answer if Jesus asked you: “Do you love me?”

NOTES

AFTER THE 21 DAYS

What now?

You have read the book John wrote “so that you may believe.” The story he tells can be summed up in four sentences:

- 1 God made us to live with Him, and He loves us (3:16).
- 2 All of us have turned away from Him: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). No effort of ours can close that distance.
- 3 Jesus died in our place and rose again. On the cross He said: “It is finished” (19:30).
- 4 The response is to receive Jesus: to leave the old way and trust Him. “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (1:12).

AN HONEST PRAYER

It is not a formula, it is a conversation. If it makes sense to you, talk to God in your own words. For example: “Lord Jesus, I have read about You and I want to know You. I admit that I have turned away from God and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died and rose again for me. I want to follow You. Help me with my doubts.”

NEXT STEPS

Keep asking.

Talk to someone. Look for an evangelical church near you that reads and explains the Bible. Faith was not made to be lived alone.

Read it again. After John, read the Gospel of Mark (16 chapters) or start John again. The second time, you will notice new things.

Bring your question. The PERGUNTAS HONESTAS ("Honest Questions") playlist answers, with sources and without jargon, the doubts many people have about God, the Bible and Jesus. The videos are in Portuguese, with subtitles YouTube can translate into English. Leave your question in the comments: it may become an episode.

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLREPciV4atTA

Share this plan with others who also have questions. It is free and can be downloaded at:

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