

New Testament Recovery Version

Study Guide

Book IV-Gospel of John

BRINGING SAINTS INTO THE TRUTH

THERE IS THE DESPERATE NEED OF THE LIVING TRUTH

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands during the past 2,000 years since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air and nothing could be solid. Even the things concerning the Spirit could not be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word. This is why the Lord said that the words that He spoke to us are spirit (John 6:63)... Without the Word the Spirit might be just “a phantom.” ... whenever people contact the holy Word, many times they get the Spirit ... A principle has been set up through history that there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church exist, and to build up the church.

THE MOST PROFITABLE WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE THE LIFE-STUDY MESSAGES WITH THE NOTES OF THE RECOVERY VERSION

Through the past ten years up to the present time it has been fully proven among us that the most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the notes of the Recovery Version. I wrote these things, not for scholarly study for people to get a degree, but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible.

THIS IS NOT TO REPLACE THE BIBLE, BUT TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE BIBLE

The holy Word itself says in Psalm 119:130: “The opening of Your words gives light,”... Nearly everywhere you go today you find a Bible, but who has entered into the Bible? There has nearly been no entrance. Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study

messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible.

SPENDING AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES IN THE WORD EVERY DAY

We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word.... Some saints may decide to study the book of Romans or the book of Hebrews. They should study every day either three times of ten minutes each or one time of thirty minutes. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day. Then they have to study the accompanying message.... The saints do not need to pray-read the Life-study messages, but they have to pray-read the biblical verses in order to get the help to enter into the truth conveyed in these few verses. They also need the help of the notes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth.

AFTER ONE YEAR OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE A SOLID CHANGE

After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints' home life, private life, and church life.

Therefore, as leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord's truth. Tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the notes and all the Life-studies. Of course, we should not practice anything legal. We should not make these things a legal matter that the saints are required to do. However, if the saints do love the Lord's recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food that they may be strong. As a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong and the Lord will have a strong testimony. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, pp. 102-104, 108-111*)

Week 1 Day 1 John 1:1-18

I. Key Verse:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the central thought of the Gospel of John?
2. What does “flesh” in “the Word became flesh” refer to?
3. What is the deep thought of the Gospel of John?

Answers:

1. See John 1:1 note 1.
2. See John 1:14 note 2 paragraph 1, 2.
3. See John 1:14 note 2 paragraph 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 1-3.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 2 John 1:19-51

I. Key Verse:

John 1:51 ... Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This is the fulfillment of _____'s dream (Gen. 28:11-22). Christ as the Son of Man, with His _____, is the _____ set up on the earth and leading to heaven, keeping heaven open to earth and joining earth to _____ for the house of God, _____ Jacob poured oil (a symbol of the Holy _____, the _____ expression of the Triune God reaching man) upon the stone (a symbol of the transformed _____) that it might be the _____ of God. Here in John 1 are the _____ (v. 32) and the _____ (v. 42) for the house of God with Christ in His humanity. Where this is, there is an open heaven. (*See John 1:51 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 4-5.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 3 John 2:1-22

I. Key Verse:

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Jesus said to them, Fill the waterpots with _____. And they filled them up to the _____. And He said to them, Draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast. And they took it to him. And when the master of the feast tasted the water which had become _____ and did not know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew, the master of the feast called the _____ and said to him, Every man sets out the _____ wine first, and when they have drunk freely, then that which is worse; you have kept the _____ wine until now. This beginning of _____ Jesus performed in _____ of Galilee and manifested His _____, and His disciples believed into Him. (*John 2:7-11*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 6-7.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 4 John 2:23-3:13

I. Key Verse:

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The first Spirit mentioned here is the divine Spirit, the _____ Spirit of God, and the second spirit is the human spirit, the _____ spirit of man. Regeneration is accomplished in the human _____ by the Holy Spirit of God with God's _____, the uncreated eternal life. Thus, to be regenerated is to have the divine, eternal _____ (in addition to the human, natural _____) as the new source and new element of a new _____. (*See John 3:6 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 8-9.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 5 John 3:14-36

I. Key Verse:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What does “the world” in “God so loved the world” refer to?
2. What is the difference between “believing into the Lord” and “believing the Lord”?
3. What is the significance of “increase” in John 3:30?

Answers:

1. See John 3:16 note 1.
2. See John 3:16 note 2.
3. See John 3:30 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 9-10.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 6 John 4:1-26

I. Key Verse:

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This is our _____ spirit. According to typology, God should be worshipped (1) in the _____ chosen by God for His habitation (Deut. 12:5, 11, 13-14, 18), and (2) with the _____ (Lev. 1--6). The place chosen by God for His habitation typifies the human spirit, where God's _____ is today (Eph. 2:22). The offerings typify _____; Christ is the _____ and _____ of all the offerings with which the people worshipped God. Hence, when the Lord instructed the woman to worship God the Spirit in _____ and _____, He meant that she should contact God the Spirit in her _____ instead of in a specific location, and through Christ instead of with the _____. (See John 4:24 note 4)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 11-12.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Do you not say that there are yet _____ months and then the harvest comes? Behold, I tell you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are already _____ for _____. He who reaps receives wages and gathers _____ unto eternal _____, in order that he who sows and he who _____ may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true, One _____ and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have _____, and you have _____ into their labor. And many of the _____ from that city believed into Him because of the word of the woman who testified, He told me all that I have _____.
(John 4:35-39)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 12-13.*

Note:

A kingdom is always related to life. The vegetable kingdom is related to the vegetable life, and the animal kingdom is related to the animal life. If you want to share in a certain kind of kingdom, you first need the life of that kingdom. Only birds can partake of the bird kingdom because only they have the life of a bird. Likewise, only men can participate in the human kingdom because only they have a human life. So, without the life of God, how could we ever share the kingdom of God? ... We need the divine life. We need to be born again. Regeneration is the only way, the unique entrance, into the kingdom of God.

The divine life brings us into the kingdom of God. We were all born into the human kingdom. No one has ever been naturalized into the kingdom of man. For example, when a dog is born, he immediately finds himself in the dog kingdom. He knows everything about being a dog. There is no need for anyone to teach him to be a dog, saying, "Little dog, you must know that you are a dog, that you are in the dog kingdom, and that from now on you must bark every day." A dog is in the dog kingdom and knows all about being a dog by birth. This is why the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born into the kingdom of God. We cannot enter into the kingdom of God by learning or by being naturalized. Although you may be naturalized to be a citizen of a particular nation, you can never be naturalized into a kingdom. A dog cannot be naturalized into the cat kingdom. Suppose someone would say to a dog, "Little dog, I like you. I want to change your nationality. You were born into the dog kingdom, but I want to naturalize you into the cat kingdom." If you try to do this, you will cause the cat kingdom a great deal of trouble. The correct way to bring a dog into the cat kingdom is to regenerate the dog with the life of a cat.

When we were regenerated, we were translated into the kingdom of God. Colossians 1:13 says that God "delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love." We were translated by being regenerated and now we are in the kingdom of God. When we called on the name of the Lord, the divine Spirit came into us, regenerating us and causing us to be born into the kingdom of God. Although you may know very little about the kingdom of God, your spirit within you knows about the kingdom. (*Life-Study of John, pp. 107-109*)

Week 2 Day 1 John 5:1-30

I. Key Verse:

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the significance of the sign performed by the Lord at the pool of Bethesda?
2. What does “the resurrection of life” mean?
3. What does “the resurrection of judgment” mean?

Answers:

1. See John 5:6 note 1.
2. See John 5:29 note 1.
3. See John 5:29 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 14.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 2 John 5:31–6:15

I. Key Verses:

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.

John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Can one have eternal life by “searching the Scriptures”?
2. Please explain the contrast between the case in chapter six and that in chapter five.
3. What does “five loaves and two fish” signify?

Answers:

1. See John 5:39 note 1.
2. See John 6:1 note 1.
3. See John 6:9 note 1, note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 14-15.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 3 John 6:16-51

I. Key Verse:

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Bread of life (John. 6:35) refers to the nature of the bread, which is _____; *living bread* refers to the condition of the bread, which is _____.

At John 6:51 the bread becomes the _____. Bread is of the _____ life and is only for _____; flesh is of the _____ life and is not only for feeding but also for _____. Before the fall of man, the Lord was the ____ of life (Gen. 2:9), which is only for _____ man. After man fell into sin, the Lord became the _____ (John 1:29), which is not only for feeding man but also for _____ him (Exo. 12:4, 7-8).

The Lord gave His body, that is, His _____, _____ for us that we might have _____. (See *John 6:51 note 1, note 2, note 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 16.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 4 John 6:52-71

I. Key Verse:

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the significance of “eating the Lord”?
2. What is the meaning of “it is the Spirit who gives life”?
3. Why are the words spirit and life?

Answers:

1. See John 6:57 note 1.
2. See John 6:63 note 1.
3. See John 6:63 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 16.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 5 John 7:1-24

I. Key Verse:

John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God ordained the Feast of Tabernacles so that the children of Israel would remember how their fathers, while wandering in the wilderness, had lived in _____ (Lev. 23:39-43), expecting to enter into the _____ of the good land. Hence, this feast is a reminder that today people are still in the wilderness and need to enter into the rest of the _____, which is the eternal _____ (Rev. 21:2-3). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob also lived in tents and looked forward to this _____ tabernacle (Heb. 11:9-10), in which there will be a river of water of _____ proceeding out of the _____ of God and of the Lamb to _____ man's thirst (Rev. 22:1, 17). (See John 7:2 note 1, paragraph 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 17-18.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 6 John 7:25-52

I. Key Verse:

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Spirit of God was there from the _____ (Gen. 1:1-2), but at the time the Lord spoke this word (John 7:38), the Spirit as the Spirit of _____ (Rom. 8:9), the Spirit of _____ (Phil. 1:19), was _____ yet, because the Lord had _____ yet been _____. Jesus was glorified when He was resurrected (Luke 24:26). After Jesus' resurrection, the Spirit of God became the Spirit of the incarnated, crucified, and resurrected Jesus Christ, who was _____ into the disciples by Christ in the evening of the day on which He was resurrected (John 20:22). The Spirit is now the "another _____," the Spirit of _____ promised by Christ before His death (14:16-17). (See John 7:39 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 18.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The case in John 8 reveals all the matters related to the problem of ____: (1) the _____ of sin—the devil; (2) the three main _____ of sin—adultery and fornication, murder, and lies (vv. 3, 41, 44); (3) the _____, or slavery, of sin; (4) the _____, or result, of sin—death; (5) the One who is without sin—the ____; (6) the One who is qualified to condemn sin—the ____; (7) the One who is qualified to forgive sin—the ____; (8) the One who is able to set people free from sin—the _____. The Lord is the ever-existing God, the great _____, who became the Son of Man and was lifted up on the cross to bear our sins. (See John 8:3 note 1, paragraph 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John* Msg. 19.

Note:

In Genesis 1 we have the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is just God Himself coming out to reach His creation. At the time of Genesis 1, within the Spirit of God there was only divinity. One day God became incarnated to be a man who was Jesus Christ. Thirty-three and a half years later, Christ was crucified. After crucifixion, He passed through resurrection and ascension, and the Spirit of God became the Spirit of the incarnated and resurrected Jesus Christ. Now the Spirit of Jesus Christ is reaching out to touch human beings. Formerly, it was the Spirit of God reaching out to touch God’s creation only with divinity, but now the Spirit of Jesus Christ comes out to reach human beings with divinity, humanity, the effectiveness of His all-inclusive death, and with the element of resurrection. Before Christ was resurrected, such a Spirit was “not yet.”

We may use the illustration of a glass of pure water into which many other ingredients are added. The pure water passes through one stage, and the milk is added. It passes through other stages in which honey, tea, and salt are added. Eventually, it becomes an all-inclusive drink. Before the pure water passed all these stations, such a wonderful drink was “not yet,” although the pure water in the glass was there already. Now it is an all-inclusive drink. Likewise, the Spirit promised by the Lord Jesus in [John] 7:39 and 14:16-17 is not the Spirit with only divinity as His content, but the Spirit with divinity, humanity, the all-inclusive death, resurrection, and ascension. Now we not only have the Spirit of God, but also the Spirit of Jesus Christ. It is such an all-inclusive Spirit that gives us the flow of the rivers of water of life.

Sometimes when a child needs medicine, his wise mother will hide the medicine in a drink. When the child takes the drink, he gets the medicine. There is medicine in the all-inclusive Spirit. This medicine is the killing death of Christ that is in the Holy Spirit today. The more you say, “O Lord Jesus,” the more you receive the all-inclusive Spirit. After a few minutes, you may feel the Spirit killing your temper, pride, selfishness, and other negative things.... As this Spirit moves within us, the killing effect of the cross penetrates into our being. He will kill every negative element in our being. Furthermore, in this all-inclusive drink there is the nourishing ingredient. In this Spirit is all that we need. (*Life-Study of John*, pp. 220-221)

Week 3 Day 1 John 8:28-59

I. Key Verse:

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In Greek the same as *reality* in John 1:14, 17. The truth is not the so-called truth of _____ but the _____ of the divine things, which is the Lord _____ (see note 6² in ch. 14; 1:14, 17). 8:32 says that "the _____ shall set you free," whereas v. 36 says that "the _____ sets you free." This proves that the Son, the Lord Himself, is the truth. Since the Lord is the _____ of God (Col. 2:9), He is the _____ of what God is. Hence, reality is the very divine element of God realized by us. When the Lord as the great _____ comes into us as _____, He shines within us as _____, bringing the divine element as _____ into us. (*See John 8:32 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 19-20.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 2 John 9:1-41

I. Key Verse:

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is _____; _____ is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the _____. When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the _____ and anointed his _____ with the clay, And He said to him, Go, wash in the pool of _____ (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore and washed and came away _____. The neighbors then and those who previously saw him as a beggar said, Is not this the one who used to sit and beg? Some said, This is he. Others said, No, but he is like him. He said, I am the one. (*John 9:4-9*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 21.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 3 John 10:1-30

I. Key Verse:

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What does the “sheepfold” signify?
2. What is the significance of Christ being the door?
3. What does the “one flock” signify?

Answers:

1. See John 10:1 note 2.
2. See John 10:9 note 1.
3. See John 10:16 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 22.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 4 John 10:31—11:16

I. Key Verse:

John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, in order that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Here life no longer faced _____ with its rituals, but it was frustrated by many human _____. Opinions, which come from _____, belong to the tree of _____, but the Lord here was actually the tree of _____ for people to _____.

The Lord does not reform or regulate people—He _____ people and _____ them out of death. Hence, the first of the nine cases in chs. 3-11 was a case of _____, and the last was a case of _____, revealing that all the aspects of Christ as _____ to us, as unveiled in the other seven cases, are in the _____ of regeneration and resurrection. This last case was the actual changing of _____ into life. (See *John 11:8 note 1, 14 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 22-23.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 5 John 11:17—57

I. Key Verse:

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The house of feasting in Bethany was a miniature of the _____ life and depicted the situation of the church: (1) produced by the _____ life—_____ (John 11:43-44); (2) composed of cleansed sinners—Simon the _____ (Mark 14:3); (3) outwardly afflicted—; (4) inwardly feasting in and with the _____ of the Lord (John12:2); (5) having more _____ than brothers (vv. 2-3); (6) having members with different functions: _____—Martha, _____—Lazarus, and _____— Mary (vv. 2-3); (7) spotted by the false one—_____ (vv. 4); (8) persecuted by _____ (vv. 10); (9) being a test and exposing people (vv. 6, 10); and (10) bringing in many _____. (See John 12:1 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 23-24.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 6 John 12:1-24

I. Key Verse:

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Christ had the glory with God (John 17:5). His _____ caused His divine glory to be _____ in His flesh. Through His death and resurrection His glory was _____, producing many _____, which become His increase as the expression of His glory. ... In the Lord's last words to the believers in chs. 14—16, there are three concrete, corporate _____ of this glory: the Father's _____ (the church) in 14:2, the branches of the _____ (the constituents of the Body of Christ) in 15:1-5, and a _____ corporate man (the new man) in 16:21. All three denote the _____. (See John 12:24 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg.25-26.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

John 12:36 While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In John chapter 12 the Lord's death is revealed not as the _____ death but as the _____, _____ death. By this death His incarnation-_____ of humanity was broken that He might accomplish His threefold purpose: (1) the _____ of many grains, the drawing of all men to Himself (vv. 24, 32); (2) the _____ of the divine element, the eternal life (vv. 23, 28); and (3) the _____ of the world and the casting out of its ruler, _____ (v. 31). We must experience the Lord's death that we may participate in the threefold purpose that He accomplished. (*See John 12:32 note 1, paragraph 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John* Msg. 26.

Note:

The Lord is a grain of wheat, and there is no other way for that grain of wheat to increase except for it to fall into the ground and die. This is the way to have the multiplication of life.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it will simply remain one grain and will never produce anything. But, praise the Lord, after it dies and grows up, the one grain becomes the many grains or the much fruit. These many grains or much fruit are the church. This is the way for the church to come into being. This is also the way for the Lord to increase the church. This has to be the way for us to bring the church into existence and to increase it. We must face human welcome by death, by taking the cross. The way for the church to come into being and to increase is not by human glory; it is by the death of the cross.

Among the many missionaries who went to China was a sister named Margaret E. Barber who was sent there by a British mission. She was accused falsely, called back to England, and later vindicated by the Lord. Then the Lord burdened her to return to China. She was not sent by any mission but went there by faith, settling in a little town named Pagoda, very close to Brother Watchman Nee's hometown. She stayed there purposely, not visiting other places. In a sense, the Lord sowed her there as a grain of wheat. She remained there for years, dying there in 1929.

Do not be troubled by the temporary success of others' outward activities. Let the Lord have some time, and He will vindicate His way in life.... Such a work is not a matter of activity, but of life. This is the work of life to produce and increase the church.

We may use the illustration of making artificial flowers. If you were to hire people to make artificial flowers, a great number could be produced within a short time. However, if you are going to grow flowers, it will take a longer time. You must first sow the seed. The seed will grow and multiply. Then more seed will fall into the ground and grow and multiply again and again. This kind of multiplication will last for a long time. What kind of increase do you expect to have—artificial flowers produced by outward labor or genuine flowers produced by life? (*Life-Study of John, pp. 313-315*)

Week 4 Day 1 John 13:1-38

I. Key Verse:

John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In John 1—12 _____ came and brought forth the _____, composed of the regenerated ones. In their spirit the regenerated ones are in _____ and in the heavenlies, but in their body they are still living in the _____ and walking on the earth. Through their contact with earthly things they often become _____. This _____ their fellowship with the Lord and with one another. Hence, there is the need for the washing with the Holy Spirit, the word, and _____. This is the washing away of their dirtiness that their fellowship with the Lord and with one another may be maintained; it is not the washing away of their sins by the _____ (1 John 1:9). This is why, after John 12, there is a need for such a _____ in v. 13. (*See John 13:5 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 27–28.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 2 John 14:1-6

I. Key Verse:

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Gospel of John has two main sections. The first section, chs. 1—13, points out how Christ, as the eternal _____, came through _____ to bring God into _____ that He might be the life and life supply to man. The second section, chs. 14—21, unveils how Christ, as the man _____, went through _____ and _____ to bring man into _____ for the building of God's habitation, which is the building of the _____ (Matt. 16:18) and which is related to the _____ of the New Jerusalem (Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:2). In the entire universe God has only one _____, that is, the building of His living habitation with His redeemed people. (*See John 14:2not 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 29-30.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 3 John 14:7-31

I. Key Verse:

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

John 14 unveils the way God _____ Himself into man. In the dispensing of Himself into us, God is _____. He is one, yet He is three—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The Son is the _____ and expression of the Father (vv. 7-11), and the Spirit is the _____ and realization of the Son (vv. 17-20). In the Son (the Son is even called the _____—Isa. 9:6) the Father is expressed and seen, and as the _____ (2 Cor. 3:17) the Son is revealed and realized. The Father in the Son is _____ among the believers, and the Son as the Spirit is _____ in the believers. God the Father is hidden, God the Son is _____ among men, and God the Spirit _____ into man to be his life, his life supply, and his everything. (See John 14:7 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 31-32.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 4 John 15:1-16:4

I. Key Verse:

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the organism of the Triune God?
2. Why shall it be done for us whatever we ask?
3. What is the best way to bear remaining fruits?

Answers:

1. See John 15:1 note 1.
2. See John 15:7 note 2.
3. See John 15:16 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 33-35.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 5 John 16:5-33

I. Key Verse:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The work of the Spirit is, first, to convict the _____. Second, as the Spirit of _____ He guides the _____ into all the reality; that is, He makes all that the Son is and has real to the believers. All that the Father is and has is _____ in the Son (Col. 2:9), and all that the Son is and has is _____ as _____ to the believers through the Spirit (John 16:14-15). This declaring is the _____ of the Son with the Father. Hence, it is a matter of the Triune God being wrought into and _____ with the believers. Third, the Spirit _____ the things that are to come, which are revealed mainly in Revelation. (See *John 16:13 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 36-37.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 6 John 17:1-13

I. Key Verse:

John 17:11b ... Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the subject of the Lord's prayer in John 17?
2. How is the Lord's prayer here concerning the divine mystery fulfilled in three stages?
3. What is the intrinsic meaning of "eternal life"?
4. What is the first aspect of the believers' oneness?

Answers:

1. See John 17:1 note 1 paragraph 1.
2. See John 17:1 note 1 paragraph 2.
3. See John 17:3 note 1.
4. See John 17:11 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 38-39.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The *oneness* in John 17:21 is the second aspect of the believers' oneness, the oneness in the Triune God through _____, separation from the world by the word of God. In this aspect of oneness the believers, separated from the _____ unto God, enjoy the Triune God as the factor of their oneness.

Verse 22 says, "That they all may be one". This is the third aspect of the believers' oneness, the oneness in the divine _____ for the corporate expression of God. In this aspect of oneness the believers, their self having been fully _____, enjoy the _____ of the Father as the factor of their perfected oneness and thus express God in a corporate, built-up way. This is the oneness of the divine commission; it fulfills the Son's prayer that He be fully _____, that is, _____, in the _____ up of the believers. (See *John 17:21 note 1, 22 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 39-41.*

Note:

THE ORGANISM OF THE TRIUNE GOD

In 15:1-11 we see that the vine and the branches are an organism to glorify the Father by expressing the riches of the divine life.

What is the difference between an organization and an organism? A table, for example, is an organization, for many pieces of wood are assembled to form one entity. Why is a table an organization and not an organism? Because in the table as a unit there is not one organ. There are no organs in a table because there is no life in a table. Apparently, our body is also an organization. However, it is much more than an organization because we have both organs and life. Since our body has both organs and life, it is an organism, not merely an organization. In like manner, the church, the Body of Christ, is an organism.

In John 15 this organism is likened to a vine tree. The grapevine is used as a figure of this wonderful organism. Within this vine tree we have the tree itself and all of its branches. The Lord Jesus said that the vine tree is just Himself (v. 1). He is the tree, and we are the branches of this tree. By this clear picture we can see that we are the branching out of the tree, for the branches are the branching out of the vine tree. If you were to cut off the branches, you would have just a bare tree without branches, and there would be no branching out of the vine. But today this universal vine tree has many branches, and these branches are simply His branching out.

When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was just a small man living in a certain place. But look at His branching out today: He has parts in Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, London, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Manila, Taipei, Hong Kong, and throughout the world. Praise the Lord that throughout the whole earth we see the branching out of this vine tree! This is not an organization; it is an organism that has life with many organic elements, organs, and organic systems growing in it. (*Life-Study of John, pp. 394-395*)

Week 5 Day 1 John 17:25–18:27

I. Key Verse:

John 17:26 And I have made Your name known to them and will yet make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The world neither _____ nor _____ the Father, but the Son and the Son's believers do. Hence, the Father loves the Son and His believers so that He gives His _____ to both the Son and His believers. In this matter He is _____ and just. In _____ the Son's believers, the Father is holy (John 17:11). In loving the Son and His believers so that He gives the Son and the believers His _____, the Father is righteous.

The love in John 17:26 is the love of the _____. In this love the Father gave His _____ and _____ to the Son and His _____ so that the Son and His believers can _____ Him. The Son prayed that this love would be in His _____ and that they would always have the sense of this _____. (See John 17:25 note 1, 26 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 40-42.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 2 John 18:28–19:22

I. Key Verse:

John 18:37 ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears My voice.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

And bearing the cross for Himself, He went out to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, _____, Where they _____ Him, and with Him two others, on this side and that, and Jesus in the middle. And Pilate wrote a notice also and put it on the cross; and it was written, _____ THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE _____. This notice therefore many of the Jews read, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in _____, and in Greek. (*John 19:17-20*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 43.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 3 John 19:23-37

I. Key Verse:

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This _____-imparting death of the Lord's is typified by Adam's sleep, out from which _____ was produced (Gen. 2:21-23), and is signified by the death of the one _____ of wheat that fell into the ground for the bringing forth of many _____ (John 12:24) to make the one bread—the _____ of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17). Hence, it is also the life-_____, life-multiplying death, the generating and reproducing death.

The Lord's pierced side was prefigured by _____ opened side, out from which Eve was produced (Gen. 2:21-23). The blood was typified by the blood of the Passover _____ (Exo. 12:7, 22; Rev. 12:11), and the water was typified by the water that flowed out of the smitten _____. (See John 19:34 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 42-43.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 4 John 19:38-20:13

I. Key Verse:

John 20:1 Now on the first day of the week, Mary the Magdalene came early to the tomb while it was yet dark and saw the stone taken away from the tomb.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Lord's resurrection had been _____, but the _____ of it required the disciples' seeking in _____ toward the Lord. It was thus that Mary the Magdalene discovered it and obtained the fresh _____ of the Lord and the revelation of the issue of His resurrection: that His Father is the Father of those who believe into Him, and that those who believe into Him are His _____ (John 20:17; see notes 17² and 17³). Peter and John only _____ of the discovery; Mary obtained the _____. The brothers were satisfied with having faith in the _____ of the Lord's resurrection, but the sister went further and sought the resurrected Lord _____, i.e., the personal experience of the Lord. (See John 20:1 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 43-45.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 5 John 20:14-22

I. Key Verse:

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why did the Lord call His disciples “brothers”?
2. What is the significance of the Lord breathing into the disciples?
3. What are the various aspects testified by the Gospel of John concerning what the Lord is?

Answers:

1. See John 20:17 note 2.
2. See John 20:22 note 1, paragraph 1.
3. See John 20:22 note 1, paragraph 4.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 45–47.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 6 John 20:23–21:14

I. Key Verse:

John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How did the Lord train the disciples to experience His invisible presence?
2. What is the significance of Peter catching nothing that night?
3. How did the Lord train Peter to have faith in Him for his living with fish and bread?

Answers:

1. See John 20:26 note 3, 21:1 note 2.
2. See John 21:3 note 2.
3. See John 21:9 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John Msg. 47-48.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Here the Lord was _____ Peter's love toward Him. Peter did have a heart to _____ the Lord, but he was too confident in his _____ strength, his natural _____. His love for the Lord was precious, but his natural strength had to be _____ and dealt with. The Lord allowed Peter to fail utterly in _____ the Lord to His face three times (John 18:17, 25, 27), so that his natural strength and his self-confidence could be dealt with. Furthermore, Peter had just taken the lead to backslide from the Lord's call. His natural confidence in his love toward the Lord also must have been dealt with by this failure; yet he might have been somewhat _____. The Lord therefore came to restore his love toward Him, to charge him with the _____ of His church. (*See John 21:15 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of John* Msg. 49-51.

Note:

Christ ascended to the heavens with a resurrected body, and now, in John 20, He comes back to the disciples also with a resurrected body (Luke 24:37-40; 1 Cor. 15:44). With a resurrected body, the Lord came into the room where the disciples were with "the doors shut" (John 20:19). Since the doors were shut, how could He enter with a body of bones and flesh? Our limited mentality cannot comprehend it, but it is a fact, and we must receive it according to the divine revelation.

Consider the illustration of a carnation seed. A carnation seed has a tiny, round body. But when it has been planted and has grown out of the ground, it has a stem and a blossom. Is this not also a body? Before the carnation seed was sown into the ground, it had a little body. After growing out of the ground, it had a different body. This is exactly what Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 15:44: "It is sown a soulish body, it is raised a spiritual body." The body is sown in one form and raised up from the ground in another form. The one sown is the original, natural body, and the one grown up is the resurrected body. After His resurrection, Christ had a resurrected body; yet it was physical and could still be touched. Even though the doors were shut, Christ entered into the room with this body.

[In John 20,] after the Lord showed them both His hands and His side, the disciples "rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (vv. 20). This was a fulfillment of the Lord's promise in 16:19 and 22, where He said, "You therefore now indeed have sorrow; but I shall see you again and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you." Now the disciples saw the newborn "child" (vv. 21), who was the resurrected Lord born in His resurrection as the Son of God (Acts 13:33). As we shall now see, this fulfillment by His coming back to His disciples brought them five blessings: His presence, His peace, His commission, the Holy Spirit, and the authority to represent Him (John 20:23). (*Life-Study of John*, pp. 553-554)