

Worship at Home

26th October 2025

Bible month - Week 5 - Erica Jordan
(looking at John chapters 18-21)



Call to worship

O sing to the Lord a new song,
Sing to the Lord all the earth. - Psalm 96:1

I have enjoyed discovering the deep layers of meaning within the pages of John, however there is a lot to cover. So, I urge you to read and fill in the gaps when you find the time and rediscover a new song of faith within.

STF 548: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood:

(Chorus) This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Saviour, am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love:

Frances Jane Van Alstyne (Fanny Crosby) 1820-1915

Let us Pray:

Generous God, we give thanks for the abundance of beauty in your creation, that we can see day by day.
Thank You for loving us so much,
that you gave us your own dear Son,
that we may be transformed by his love,
and share our gratitude
with all we know and love. **Amen**

Loving Lord Jesus Christ, remind us afresh today of your transforming and surprising power,
Your ability to take something ordinary and turn it into something special.
Take then our worship and, by Your Spirit,
make it into something beautiful for You,
to the glory of your name. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

Loving Lord God - Forgive us for messing up!
For the acts of kindness we have never found the time to offer, for a gentle word left unspoken, the missed opportunities and your gifts we never used.

But here is the good news: Jesus looks past our mistakes, he has nailed them to the cross and He says to us now, "Do you love me? Follow me."

The Lord's Prayer

The gospel of John wants to assure the reader that **Jesus is absolutely human and absolutely God.**

In this he doesn't attempt to copy the first three gospels. He wants to add more to their message. He enables us to look closer at Jesus - to look at what He does, listen to what He says, and think what He knows. And so we look at the last chapters with this in mind...

Read John 18 verses 17-18 and 25

(v25) As Simon Peter was standing warming himself, they said to him "Aren't you one of that man's followers?"

Peter said it was not true; he said "No I am not."

Peter had now denied Jesus twice, and soon he will deny him a third time. Notice the charcoal fire which would not, could not be warming his heart, as he denied the Lord he loved.

And then the cock crowed, just as Jesus had said.

Who is Jesus - that knew Peter so well?

Read John 18 verse 33:

So Pilate went back into the residence and spoke to Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Pilate was a pawn in the troubled Middle East. He understood from his *worldly perspective* that Jesus' Kingship meant power, and also trouble for him. But, Pilate knew nothing of the kingdom of God. So he dismisses the man in front of him because he cannot imagine a world where a king can be a servant who would suffer and even give his life for others.

Who is Jesus - that he knew true power came from God?

Read John 19: 26-27

He saw his mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing by and He said to His mother: "Woman! Here is your son." Then he said to the disciple: "Here is your mother." From that time on the disciple took her to live in his home.

The disciple (and author?) John was there, along with the four women, including Mary the mother of Jesus. He put the signs together; the hyssop branch also used to save the Israelites on the night of the Passover, the spear that revealed the blood and the love of the man, who in his dying breath had such compassion.

Who is Jesus - that in such pain he showed such love?

Read John 20 verses 7-8

'Then Simon Peter came up, following him (John) and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the napkin that had been around his head, not lying with the other cloths but folded up in a place by itself.'

The realisation that Jesus had risen from death itself dawned on the disciples gradually. But John was the first to consider what had happened. He saw, and believed in the impossible! From that time forward things would never be the same again. Not for him, nor for us as Christians who ask every Easter...

Who is Jesus - that death cannot hold him?

As we think about who this Jesus is, we sing/read:

STF 247: I danced in the morning

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had My birth.**

**(Chorus) Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance,' said He,
'And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.**

**I danced for the scribe and the pharisee, but
they would not dance and they would not follow Me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
They came with Me and the dance went on.**

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped
and they stripped and they hung Me on high,
And they left Me there on a cross to die.**

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried My body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance, and I still go on.**

**'They cut Me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;
I am the Lord of the dance', said He.**

Sydney Carter © 1963 Stainer & Bell Ltd

We continue our exploration.....

Read: John 21 verses 1-19

*(v12) "Come and have breakfast." said Jesus to them.
None of the disciples dare ask, "Who are you?" They
knew it was the master.*

Who is Jesus - that the disciples did not know him?

For some reason Jesus did not look familiar, but then
look at what He does, He says, He knows.
He shares food: fish and bread. Maybe it is the same
beach on which He called them originally, but look
how they have changed... and Peter especially.

How has following Jesus changed us?

Jesus lights a fire, and invites them to join him.
Peter had messed up, but Jesus is the same,
offering him food and friendship.

When we mess up, do we talk to Jesus?

I imagine the scenario happening again, but this time
with Jesus talking directly to me. Firstly, maybe Jesus
points with his arm at my house, my car, my phone.
"Do you love me more than these?"

Do I love Jesus more than material things?

Secondly, maybe Jesus looks right at me and asks,
"Do you love me?"

Do I love Jesus as much as myself?

Do I recognise the sacrifice he has made for me?

Thirdly, maybe Jesus just shrugs a bit and looks away.
"Do you even like me?"

Ouch!

Jesus probes like a dentist until he reaches the very
point that makes it hurt. And, like Peter, I want to
shout, "Of course I do, you know that!"

Peter was transformed from who he was before, and
with the help of the Holy Spirit of Jesus, he was going
to be the New Shepherd for Jesus. Even to the point of
laying down his life.

John uses the term 'the beloved disciple' and maybe
this allows us to put ourselves into his book – for we
are his beloved disciples too.

**Can you hear his voice gently asking you
"Do you love me?"**

Prayers for ourselves and others:

Knowing God,

We thank you that you know us and love us. Help us
learn more from your living word to keep us close
within your care.

Almighty God,

We live in troubled times. It is difficult to lead
countries and we are grateful for those who would try
and do so. We pray for those in positions of power to
remember our human connectedness. Guide their
hearts to see how progress can be made without war,
hunger or hurting others.

Compassionate God,

Your example shows us we cannot ignore those who
are hungry, thirsty, homeless and without medical
care. Help us reach out to our brothers and sisters and
give generously to bring improvement to their lives.

Loving Lord,

We pray for our communities, for our families and also
for ourselves:

Feed us with the words Jesus speaks.
Lead us with the example that Jesus gave us.
Find us when we are lost and
Forgive us when we return
that we may follow You forever. **Amen**

STF: 51 Great is thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

(Chorus) Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)

Blessing

Creator God, open our eyes to see the path before us.
Christ our Saviour, join us on every journey we make.
Holy Spirit, guide us as we walk in the way of Christ.
Amen

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