

*Not-So-Quiet Time  
Morning Plan*

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# The Gospel *of* John



**PHYLICIA  
MASONHEIMER**

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## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to your Not-so-Quiet Time guide to the Gospel of John!

In my years writing Bible studies for women, I've noticed a theme: we're busy! Whether you're balancing being a working woman, chasing littles, shuttling teens to sports, or an empty nester caring for an aging parent, commitments constantly call your name. But even in our busiest seasons (I would argue especially in our busiest seasons) we need the Word of God. We need to immerse ourselves in the truth of Scripture and anchor our souls in His unchanging love.

Our in-depth, verse-by-verse studies can direct a rich Bible experience, but sometimes we need a resource that facilitates time in Scripture without overburdening an already busy schedule. I also wanted a resource for people whose "quiet time" is not so quiet! Whether you do your Bible study on a lunch break in the office or crack open these pages with a toddler crawling on your back, this book is accessible for your season of life.

I designed this study to pull in all the senses: there is a visual element using classic art; an auditory element with the integrated worship playlist; and a read/write element through reading Scripture, memorizing verses, and answering questions. This broadens your experience of the narrative and helps you appreciate the text even more. This study is meant to be flexible. You can take it as deep as you like or simply read, observe, and meditate. And while I designed this resource for personal study, it makes a great addition to your homeschool "morning basket" routine or a devotional shared with kids around the table.

However you use this study in this busy season, I pray it gives you a new appreciation for John's gospel and the Savior at the center of it.

*-P/M*

## DAY ONE

Reading: John 1

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**Memory Verse:** “In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4–5).

**Poem:** “John 1:14”

by Jorge Luis Borges

This page will be no less a riddle  
than those of My holy books  
or those others repeated  
by ignorant mouths  
believing them the handiwork of a man,  
not the Spirit’s dark mirrors.  
I who am the Was, the Is, and the Is To Come  
again condescend to the written word,  
which is time in succession and no more than an emblem.  
Who plays with a child plays with something  
near and mysterious;  
wanting once to play with My children,  
I stood among them with awe and tenderness.  
I was born of a womb  
by an act of magic.  
I lived under a spell, imprisoned in a body,  
in the humbleness of a soul.  
I knew memory,  
that coin that’s never twice the same.  
I knew hope and fear,  
those twin faces of the uncertain future.  
I knew wakefulness, sleep, dreams,  
ignorance, the flesh,  
reason’s roundabout labyrinths,  
the friendship of men,  
the blind devotion of dogs.  
I was loved, understood, praised, and hung from a cross.  
I drank My cup to the dregs.  
My eyes saw what they had never seen—

night and its many stars.  
I knew things smooth and gritty, uneven and rough,  
the taste of honey and apple,  
water in the throat of thirst,  
the weight of metal in the hand,  
the human voice, the sound of footsteps on the grass,  
the smell of rain in Galilee,  
the cry of birds on high.  
I knew bitterness as well.  
I have entrusted the writing of these words to a common man;  
they will never be what I want to say  
but only their shadow.  
These signs are dropped from My eternity.  
Let someone else write the poem, not he who is now its scribe.  
Tomorrow I shall be a great tree in Asia,  
or a tiger among tigers  
preaching My law to the tiger’s woods.  
Sometimes homesick, I think back  
on the smell of that carpenter’s shop.

### Daily Questions:

- What themes does John emphasize?
- How does this passage parallel Genesis 1?
- Why do you think John starts his gospel this way?
- What is John’s purpose in writing?
- What verse stands out to you and why?

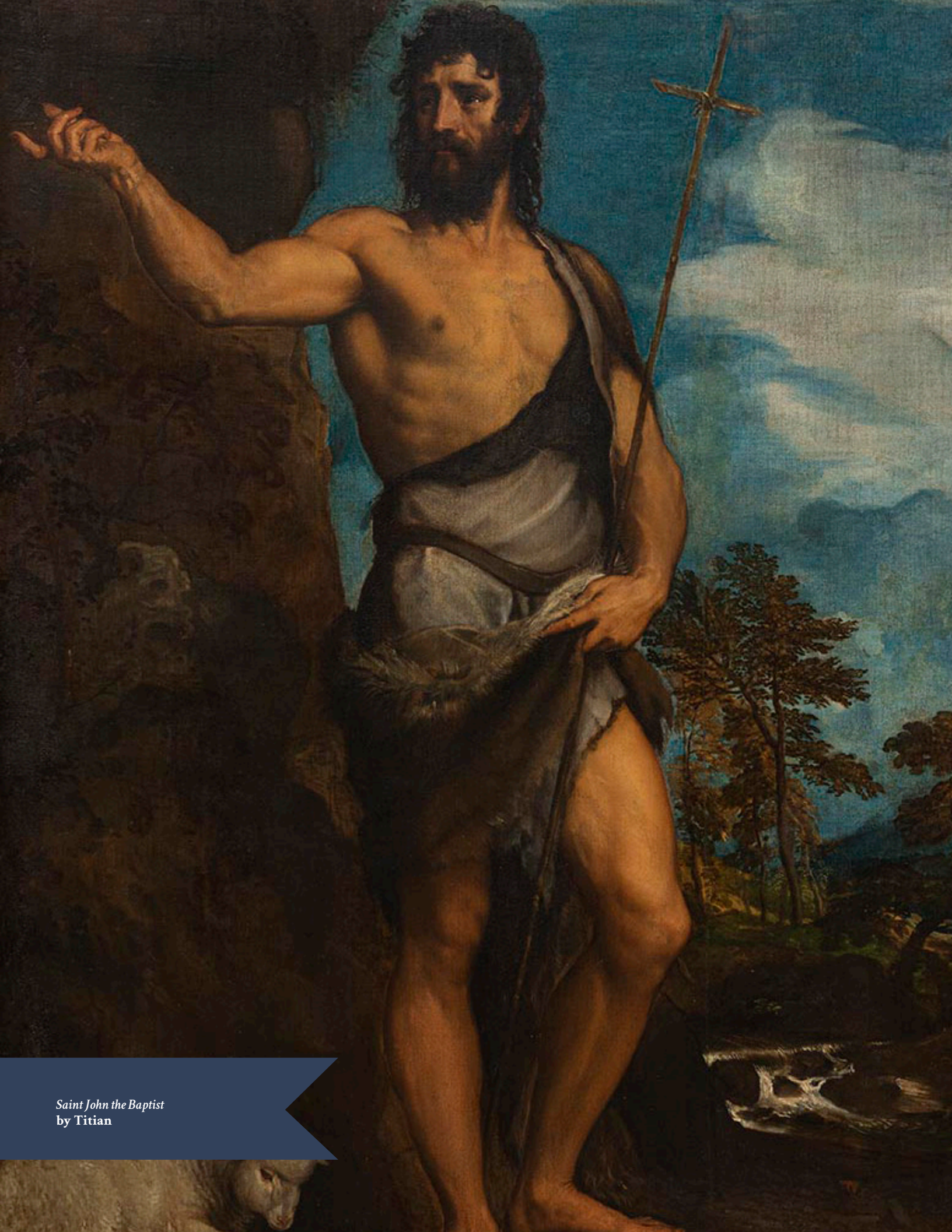
### Memory Verse first-letter technique:

“I H W L, A T L W T L O A M. T L S I T D, A T D H N O I.”

**Worship Song:** “The Word Became Flesh and Blood” by Porter’s Gate

Scan me  
to listen





*Saint John the Baptist*  
by Titian



*The Wedding Feast at Cana*  
by Paolo Veronese

## DAY TWO

Reading: John 2

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**Memory Verse:** *“He did not need any testimony about mankind, for He knew what was in each person”* (John 2:25).

**Hymn:** “Lord, Who at Cana’s Wedding Feast”

by Adelaide Thrupp

Lord, Who at Cana’s wedding feast  
Didst as a guest appear,  
Thou dearer far than earthly guest,  
Vouchsafe Thy presence here;  
For holy Thou indeed dost prove  
The marriage vow to be,  
Proclaiming it a type of love  
Between the Church and Thee.

The holiest vow that man can make,  
The golden thread in life,  
The bond that none may dare to break,  
That bindeth man and wife;  
Which, blest by Thee, whate’er betides,  
No evil shall destroy,  
Through care-worn days each care divides,  
And doubles every joy.

On those who at Thine altar kneel,  
O Lord, Thy blessing pour,  
That each may wake the other’s zeal  
To love Thee more and more:  
Oh, grant them here in peace to live,  
In purity and love,  
And, this world leaving, to receive  
A crown of life above!

**Daily Questions:**

- Why was this miracle significant? What might it represent?
- What was the disciples’ response?
- What did Jesus see in the Temple and what was His response?
- What temple is Jesus referring to in verse 19?
- What verse stands out to you and why?

**Memory Verse first-letter technique:**

“H D N N A T A M, F H K W W I E P.”



## DAY THREE

Reading: John 3

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**Memory Verse:** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him”* (John 3:16–17).

**Poem:** “Nicodemus at Night”

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Excerpt)

NICODEMUS.

The streets are silent. The dark houses seem  
Like sepulchres, in which the sleepers lie  
Wrapped in their shrouds, and for the moment dead.  
The lamps are all extinguished; only one  
Burns steadily, and from the door its light  
Lies like a shining gate across the street.  
He waits for me. Ah, should this be at last  
The long-expected Christ! I see him there  
Sitting alone, deep-buried in his thought,  
As if the weight of all the world were resting  
Upon him, and thus bowed him down O Rabbi,  
We know thou art a Teacher come from God,  
For no man can perform the miracles  
Thou dost perform, except the Lord be with him.  
Thou art a Prophet, sent here to proclaim  
The Kingdom of the Lord. Behold in me  
A Ruler of the Jews, who long have waited  
The coming of that kingdom. Tell me of it.

**Daily Questions:**

- Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?
- Why was it significant that Nicodemus, a Pharisee, sought Jesus out?
- How does Jesus describe the gospel? Sum it up in your notes.
- How does John summarize the gospel? (vv. 35–36)
- What does John the Baptist say to his disciples about Jesus?
- What verse stands out to you and why?

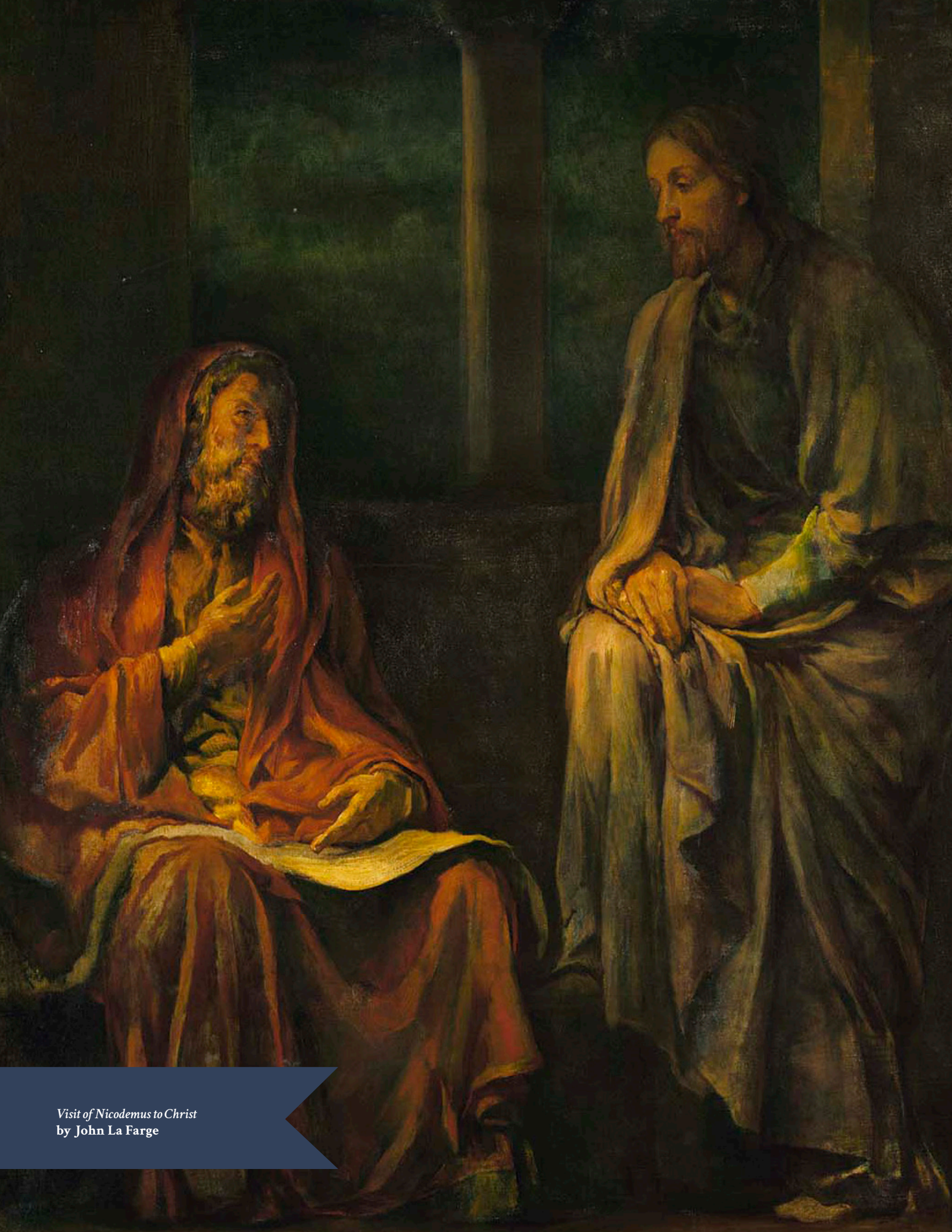
**Memory Verse first-letter technique:**

“FGSLTWTHTGHOAOS, TWBIHSNPBHEL.FGD  
NSHSITWTCTW,BTSTWTH.”

**Worship Song:** “He Must Become Greater” by Sheldon Bangera

Scan me  
to listen





*Visit of Nicodemus to Christ*  
by John La Farge



*Christ and the Samaritan Woman  
at the Well*  
by Giovanni della Robbia

## DAY FOUR

Reading: John 4

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**Memory Verse:** "Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life'" (John 4:13-14).

**Poem:** "The Samaritan Woman"

by Sophie Jewett

The Samaritan woman (such good fortune befell)  
She found Jesus sitting one day at the well.  
O bride of Heaven!  
Desired and beloved!

Jesus said to her: "Woman,  
Give me drink of this water."  
"Oh, no indeed, Señor,  
'T is too hard work to draw it."  
"Thou wilt give me to drink,  
I am sure, of this water,  
If I tell thee thy fortune,  
All thy life as I saw it."

"I will give you the water,  
Divine if you're able."  
"Three lovers thou hast  
Who sit at thy table;  
The first is called James,  
The second is Peter,  
The third is called Saviour,  
For the world he is saving."  
"Oh, drink again, Señor;  
No water is sweeter."  
"No water I crave,  
Who for thy soul am craving."

She filled all her jars,  
To her own house returning;  
There she found the three lovers,  
The house they were keeping.  
The first of the lovers,  
The floor he was sweeping;  
The second was busy  
To keep the fire burning;  
But the third lover stood  
In the roadway and waited.  
He called out, the youngest:  
"Why are you belated?"

"Go away, O my lovers!  
Depart from my dwelling!  
I have found a strange youth,  
My whole life he's been telling."  
"T is most likely a devil,  
To tempt you to sinning!"  
"There was never a devil  
So angelic and winning."

Once more to the fountain  
The jars she has taken;  
But no one she finds there,  
The place is forsaken.  
She lifts up the jars,  
And homeward is bound, then.  
About half-way along,  
A stone cross she found, then.

She falls down on her knees,  
Her clasped hands upholding;  
With both arms the cross  
To her heart she is folding.  
As she beats with a stone  
On her breast sad and burdened,  
She hears a voice crying:  
"Behold! thou art pardoned!"

**Daily Questions:**

- Why was the woman surprised Jesus would talk to her?
- What does Jesus's interaction say about how He sees people?
- What did Jesus say that made the woman run into the city?
- What happened as a result of the woman's testimony?
- What do we learn about God's character in this passage?

**Memory Verse first-letter technique:**

"J A, "E W D T W W B T A, B W D T W I G T W N T. I, T W I  
G T W B I T A S O W W U T E L."

**Worship Song:** "Woman at the Well" by Olivia Lane

Scan me  
to listen



## DAY FIVE

Reading: John 5

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**Memory Verse:** “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does’” (John 5:19).

**Poem:** “The Pool of Bethesda”

by John Newton

Beside the gospel pool  
Appointed for the poor;  
From year to year, my helpless soul  
Has waited for a cure.  
How often have I seen  
The healing waters move;  
And others, round me, stepping in  
Their efficacy prove.  
But my complaints remain,  
I feel the very same;  
As full of guilt, and fear, and pain.  
As when at first I came.  
O would the Lord appear  
My malady to heal;  
He knows how long I’ve languished here;  
And what distress I feel.  
How often have I thought  
Why should I longer lie?  
Surely the mercy I have sought  
Is not for such as I.  
But whither can I go?  
There is no other pool  
Where streams of sovereign virtue flow  
To make a sinner whole.  
Here then, from day to day,  
I’ll wait, and hope, and try;  
Can Jesus hear a sinner pray,  
Yet suffer him to die?

No: he is full of grace;  
He never will permit  
A soul, that fain would see his face,  
To perish at his feet.

Also see: *Nocturne at Bethesda* by Arna Bontemps

**Daily Questions:**

- What question did Jesus ask the man by the pool? (v. 6)
- Why do you think Jesus asked this?
- Why was Jesus persecuted by the religious leaders? (v. 18)
- What do Jesus’s works testify to? (v. 36)
- What verse stands out to you the most and why?
- What did you learn about God’s character in this passage?

**Memory Verse first-letter technique:**

“J G T T A: V T I T Y, T S C D B H; H C D O W H S H F D, B W  
T F D T S A D.”





*Christ Healing the Paralytic at  
the Pool of Bethesda*  
by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo