

2018



John 13:15

I have given you an example, do just as I have done to you.

Weekly Guide

February 4 – March 24

A Devotional Guide for Individuals,
Families, and Small Groups
to Accompany the Sermon Series

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**WELCOME TO THE
In SYNC series**

John 13:15

I have given you an example, do just as I have done to you.

February 4 – March 24

The Gospel of John was written some 30 – 40 years after Matthew, Mark and Luke. John would have been familiar with the writings of his contemporaries and penned these historical accounts carefully and meticulously to have a record he felt was necessary for believers and non-believers to have and to embrace. John was Jesus' closest disciple during the days of His ministry, so this constitutes a very important gospel.

When John introduces his gospel, he wants us to understand that the One he is going to talk about, this amazing man from Nazareth is God himself somehow become a Man. He is the Creator become part of his creation, the Originator of life and of wisdom who somehow limited himself to learning as a little child, growing and partaking with us in the search for truth, and, at last, manifesting the fullness of it in His resurrected power. This is the One who is at the center of our faith. That is why we cannot forget Jesus. Every human being sooner or later must deal with Jesus of Nazareth.

This 7-week series takes us through some of the most dynamic, life impacting times of Jesus' ministry... John chapters 11, 12 and 13. In these chapters you will see and hear how Jesus' life was In SYNC with God's. You will see and hear Him deal with real devastation in people's lives and disappointment in His response. You will hear Jesus' claim to be the One who is the Resurrection and LIFE. In these chapters you will hear about the life transforming power of becoming one of His disciples... that your life would be "In SYNC" with God's plan and purpose for you!

My hope is that the Word of God would take deep root in your heart and that you might begin to share this transformative Word with others.

Dave

STUDY and PRAYER

The disciplines of engagement, or “activities”, are a necessary part of our spiritual formation. Two of these disciplines are found in the weekly guides... Study and Prayer. By choosing to participate in daily study and prayer you are choosing to engage in activities that nurture our souls and strengthen us for the adventure that the Lord has for us ahead.

STUDY

Study is spending time reading the Scripture and meditating on its meaning and importance to our lives. The Bible is the predominant way God speaks to us. If we put aside this primary channel of divine communication, we open ourselves to a vast amount of farfetched thinking and faddish ideology.

God’s word is the gateway into His heart... it is the key that opens the doors you will need to have opened for you this week. God knows what these doors are. He will take care of the opening; you bring the key.

We are nourished by the Word because it is our source of spiritual strength. Choose a time and a place to feed from the Word of God regularly. Using a study Bible or one of the many modern, easy to read translations may be helpful.

PRAYER

Prayer is talking to and listening to God about your relationship with Him and about the concerns of others.

Richard Foster in his book PRAYER states: “The truth of the matter is, we all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives altruistic and selfish, merciful and hateful, loving and bitter. Frankly, this side of eternity we will never unravel the good from the bad, the pure from the impure. God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture. We do not have to be bright, or pure, or filled with faith,

or anything. That is what grace means, and not only are we saved by grace, we live by it as well... And we pray by it."

This guide enables you to combine your prayer time with meditation on the Scriptures in order to focus on Jesus.

Identify and Avoid Several Pitfalls

- ◆ The temptation to turn the disciplines into law
- ◆ The failure to understand the social implications of the disciplines
- ◆ The tendency to view the disciplines as virtuous in themselves
- ◆ The tendency to center on the disciplines rather than on Jesus
- ◆ The temptation to engage in the disciplines without experiencing them
- ◆ The temptation to see the disciplines as a means to an end rather than as an expression of what, by grace, is already in us

PRAYER

From the formation of the early church, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's Word with praise and intercession. By the fourth century the church had discovered the morning and evening hours to be the optimal times to gather for prayer.

You may ask: Why “practice” prayer?

Through prayer each day we can acknowledge God’s sovereignty by surrendering our mind, heart, and will to Him... to allow our lives to get “In SYNC” with Him. Prayer is a wonderful way to focus your time and attention on seeking God's plan and purpose for the day ahead. Whether you need encouragement, peace, strength, or rest, God can meet you in a very real and present way when you come before Him with a humble heart. Seek God's presence each morning before your energy and attention is pulled by all the tasks you have ahead. Thanking Him at the end of the day for His watchful eye and abiding love helps us keep our focus on Him.

Judson W. Van DeVenter was an American art teacher and musician whose life was not “In SYNC” with God’s plan and purpose until he surrendered it fully to Jesus’ call on him to ministry. He then penned the words to the Hymn “I Surrender All”.

I find myself singing-praying this often when I’m under pressure.

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:
I surrender all,
I surrender all;

All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

This Weekly Guide provides an ongoing Prayer List at the back of the booklet. This will give you an opportunity to:

- 1) Date your prayers
- 2) List your prayer requests
- 3) Identify when they are answered

It is provided as a tool for you to see and watch God's hand at work in your life and through your prayers.



In SYNC series

John 13:15

I have given you an example, do just as I have done to you.

A Devotional Guide for Individuals, Families, and Small Groups to Accompany the Sermon Series

We believe these weekly guides are more than just a good thing. We believe they are transformative, unifying, inspiring, and challenging. With that in mind, we would like to invite you to begin a 7 week study with us.

Nothing helps people grow in Christ more than reflecting on Scripture. This series will guide you through the weekly text using the SOAP method.

Before you read the daily passage ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide you into all truth.

Read the daily text slowly and thoughtfully in your Bible. As you read and reread, ***underline, circle or highlight*** any verses, phrases

or words that are meaningful to you. Put a **question mark** beside anything you don't understand.

This is not just about reading through the Bible, but taking time daily to listen, reflect and apply the heart of God as revealed in Scripture... to listen to God's voice through Scripture. It is designed to encourage a dynamic, vital and intimate relationship with God as you learn to hear Him speak daily through the Bible. It involves 5-15 minutes of Scripture reading asking the Lord to bring home to your heart one short text, verse or thought. This guide offers an opportunity for your reflection... an opportunity to capture and apply the verses to your daily life. At the heart of your reflection is an easy-to-remember acrostic: S.O.A.P

S = Scripture

O = Observation

A = Application

P = Prayer

Scripture: Read it through, then read it again. The first time, just read straight through the passage. Then read it again, and notice any words or phrases that catch your attention. Underline, circle or highlight those words/phrases. Read the quotes and comments in your study Bible. (Don't be afraid to make your Bible messy! Write in it, underline, make notes—it's a tool God uses, not a shrine.)

Observation: Spend some time reflecting on the message God highlighted for you, and the words or phrases you circled or underlined. Jot your reflections down on a piece of paper. What do those words/phrases suggest to you about God, or you, or the world? What questions do they raise? What questions do they answer?

Application: State how you will live differently because of what you just read. Look again at the words and phrases you reflected on. Apply them to yourself, your family, your friends, the church, the world. What might God be saying to you in light of those words and phrases?

Pray. Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you've just learned. Tell God something you are thankful for, and something you would like help with. God will listen—just talk the way you'd talk with a trusted friend who loves you.

Before You Get Started...

What would you like to see God do in your life over the next 7 weeks?

For some it may be:

- Have my Heart more "In SYNC" with God's heart
- Have a personal relationship with Jesus
- Renew or reinvigorate my relationship with Jesus
- Have a consistent time in the word and prayer
- Develop a deeper level of understanding of God's purpose and plan for my life
- Apply His word to my daily walk with Him
- Find hope in my circumstances

What about you?

What do you want to see God do in your life?

Let's get started!



JOHN 11:1-16

When God Doesn't Do What I Think He Should Do!

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart "In SYNC" with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 11:1-16 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you've just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 11:1-16 and reflect on verses **1-4**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 11:1-16 and reflect on verses **5-10**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 11:1-16 and reflect on verses **11-13**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 11:1-16 and reflect on verses **14-16**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 11:17-44

I Am The Resurrection and The LIFE

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 11:17-44 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 11:17-44 and reflect on verses **17-27**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 11:17-44 and reflect on verses **28-37**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 11:17-44 and reflect on verses **38-40**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 11:17-44 and reflect on verses **41-44**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 11:45-12:11
Worship or Waste?

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 11:45-12:10 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 11:45-12:11 and reflect on verses **45-53**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 11:45-12:11 and reflect on verse **54**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 11:45-12:11 and reflect on verses **55-57**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 11:45-12:11 and reflect on verses **1-11**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 12:12-26
Entry of Exit?

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 12:12-26 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 12:12-26 and reflect on verses **12-15**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 12:12-26 and reflect on verses **16-19**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 12:12-26 and reflect on verses **20-23**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 12:12-26 and reflect on verses **24-26**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 12:27-50
When Jesus is Lifted Up!

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 12:27-50 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 12:27-50 and reflect on verses **27-36a**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 12:27-50 and reflect on verses **36b-40**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 12:27-50 and reflect on verses **41-43**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 12:27-50 and reflect on verses **44-50**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 13:1-20
Servant Authority

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 13:1-20 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 13:1-20 and reflect on verses **1-4**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 13:1-20 and reflect on verses **5-11**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 13:1-20 and reflect on verses **12-15**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 13:1-20 and reflect on verses **16-20**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



JOHN 13:21-38
A New Commandment

Daily Prayer: God wants to speak into your life through His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and to bring His heart “In SYNC” with your heart through His word.

Monday: Read John 13:21-38 and reflect on the Sunday message.

S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture... Underline, circle or highlight those words, phrases or verses that stopped you in your tracks or seem to jump out from the page.

Observation... Ponder the message God highlighted for you... write down your observations of what the text says.

Application... State how you will live differently because of what you just read.

Prayer... Finish your time in the Word with a thoughtful prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what you’ve just learned.

Tuesday: Read John 13:21-38 and reflect on verses **21-24**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Wednesday: Read John 13:21-38 and reflect on verses **25-30**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Thursday: Read John 13:21-38 and reflect on verses **31-35**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Friday: Read John 13:21-38 and reflect on verses **36-38**

S _____

O _____

A _____

P _____

Week's Reflections:



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