

Forty Days with the Gospel of John

(inviting a transformative reading of the biblical text)

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The Gospel of John has long been a favorite among the classics of religious literature, but how might the reader be transformed by a personally engaging reading of the biblical text? Reading the Bible for spiritual transformation involves both noting what the text *says* and reflecting personally on what it *means*. Here's one approach to doing so. Find a quiet place at the beginning or end of the day, and do four or five things prayerfully, reserving at least 15 minutes for this important exercise. A) *Read* the passage thoughtfully and prayerfully, more than once if needed, and note anything that comes to mind in a journal or notebook. B) *Reflect* on the first question supplied (or another if it seems more engaging), and jot your thoughts down for you to come back to later. C) *Respond* to the second question (or another if you desire) as to how God speaks to you through this text, and write down some action you will take that day as a result. D) *Remember* and *Record* in a journal what happens to or through you. What happens as *you* become a part of the Gospel's ongoing story? Find also another person or small group with which to share your discoveries and learnings along the way. Who knows? A transformative reading of this classic biblical text might just change your life!

The 5 Rs of Transformative Bible Reading—*Read, Reflect, Respond, Remember, Record*

	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Reflections</u>	<u>Responses</u>
March			
16	1:1-18	How has God spoken through the Word?	How do you respond to God's Word?
17	1:19-51	What does it mean to "come and see"?	What have you discovered in doing so?
18	2:1-11	Why does Jesus "save the best for last"?	Do you have the patience to wait?
19	2:12-25	How was the temple raised in three days?	What shattered temples of yours need raising?
20	3:1-21	What does it mean to be born from above?	Can you set your sail to the wind of the Spirit?
21	3:22-36	How might Christ increase and we decrease?	Can you find joy in the exaltation of others?
22	4:1-26	If you knew the gift of God...	...what would you ask for?
23	4:27-54	What was Jesus' secret "food"?	What is your sustaining nourishment?
24	5:1-30	Why did he ask, "Do you want to get well"?	Can / will you pick up your "mat" and walk?
25	5:31-47	Why were the leaders offended by the sign?	How do you see Christ in the Scriptures?

26	6:1-24	Why does Jesus ask where to buy bread?	What do you bring for the Lord to multiply?
27	6:25-59	What does it mean to be taught by God?	Do you seek the life-producing food?
28	6:60-71	Why were the disciples scandalized?	How does Jesus have the words of eternal life?
29	7:1-24	Why did Jesus' own brothers not believe?	Do you feel scandalized by God's surprises?
30	7:25-53	How are Jesus and the Father connected?	How does living water flow from within you?
31	8:1-30	How does knowing the truth set us free?	Are you able and willing to walk in the Light?

April

1	8:31-59	What is meant: "Before Abraham was I am!"?	What is the parentage of your spirituality?
2	9:1-23	Why do bad things happen to good people?	How can God's glory be shown in your life?
3	9:24-41	Why are those claiming "We see!" blind?	How do you need your eyes to be opened?
4	10:1-21	How is Jesus the flock's shepherd <i>and</i> gate?	How do you experience abundant life in Christ?
5	10:22-42	How do Jesus' sheep recognize his voice?	How do you see the Father's works in Jesus?
6	11:1-37	Which is greater: resurrection or Resurrection?	Do you believe in the Resurrection?
7	11:38-57	Why did Jesus weep at the tomb of Lazarus?	Are you willing to help unloose grave clothes
8	12:1-19	Why did Mary offer such a costly gift to Jesus?	Can you celebrate the generosity of others?
9	12:20-50	Why is the coming of the Greeks so pivotal?	Are you willing to release your life to find it?
10	13:1-17	Why does Peter misunderstand footwashing?	Can you serve as Jesus served?
11	13:18-38	What is Jesus' "new commandment"?	How is your discipleship recognized by others?
12	14:1-14	How is Jesus the way, truth, and life?	How does Jesus show / bring you to the Father?
13	14:15-31	What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?	What is Jesus' unworldly peace like for you?

14	15:1-27	What does it mean to be Jesus' "friends"?	How do you abide in Christ and he in you?
15	16:1-33	How does the Holy Spirit lead us into truth?	How are you convicted of sin and righteousness?
16	17:1-26	How is knowing God the source of eternal life?	How are you one with Christ and his followers?
17	18:1-27	What happens when Jesus says "I am!"?	How are you to put away the sword?
18	18:28-40	How is Jesus a king?	What does that mean for followers of the truth?
19	19:1-27	What is suggested about Pilate and power?	Would you have been present at the cross?
20	19:28-42	Why is Nicodemus present in this scene?	What does a suffering Lord mean for your life?
21	20:1-18	How is Mary the apostle to the apostles?	How do you come to recognize the risen Lord?
22	20:19-31	How does Jesus charge his disciples?	Can you believe without having seen?
23	21:1-14	Why does the Beloved Disciple see Jesus?	Can you cast the net again having caught nothing?
24	21:15-25	Happy Easter! What does Jesus ask of Peter?	Can you also attest: "his testimony is true"?

For a fuller introduction to John, see Paul N. Anderson *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel; An Introduction to John* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, March 2011) available online and at local bookstores. Also available from Barnes & Noble's as an e-document for your own personal journaling is *Forty Days with John; A Reflective Engagement*.