



***Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.***

“There is a time for everything, and a season  
for every activity under the heavens.”

– Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

Greetings from your Crossroads family! We pray daily for all of you, your families, your mentors, and all the faithful Christians that support you and this ministry.

As we enter the season of fall, we are reminded that the world is in a constant state of change. For a farmer, fall is the season of harvesting and reaping everything they have planted throughout the spring and summer. Let this fall be a reminder that the season you are currently experiencing will change in due time. In this season, work hard to grow in your faith and stay faithful to the things God wants you to do. Like farmers who prepare for the harvest by planting and cultivating their fields, you are tending to the fields of your heart. Get rid of the weeds by forgiving those who may have offended or hurt you. Pray that God fills you with His Spirit. Practice being grateful, even in your current circumstances. Faithfully practicing gratitude will serve you well for the rest of your life.

We love you. More importantly, God loves you! We know it can be hard to believe that God could love us despite our sins. In your prayer time, practice not beating yourself up for past mistakes. Instead, thank God for His grace, forgiveness, and love. Ask Him to help you see yourself the way He sees you.

## **Still Receiving Roadmaps?**

In the summer edition of *Just for Students*, we told you that we would be discontinuing Roadmaps and shared why we made this decision. However, to be good stewards of the resources God has given us, we are using up what was already printed, so you might still receive Roadmaps with some lessons. If you receive a Roadmap in your lesson, you may complete it and send it in with a completed lesson.

## **Spread the Word!**

*“And I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” – Philemon 1:6, English Standard Version*

We encourage you to invite others to join you in studying the Bible through Crossroads. If allowed by your facility, we have included some Spread the Word enrollment cards with this edition of *Just for Students*. As a Crossroads student, you know how encouraging and meaningful it is to receive letters from your mentors. You can probably think of some people in your facility who would appreciate encouragement and prayer from fellow Christians on the outside. Ask God to show you someone to share Crossroads with so they too can grow in their faith while studying alongside caring mentors. Please do not fill out the card for someone else—they will need to fill it out on their own and then send it to us.

## Advice from a Mentor

In a recent meeting with Crossroads mentors, Dawn, a mentor in Michigan, shared some encouraging thoughts that we wanted to pass on to you. She expressed how helpful it is when her students share things about themselves in their answers in the lesson booklets. She said it is sometimes hard to know how to encourage or pray for her students when they only write a few words for each answer. Dawn said that she encourages students to commit to all the reading and writing in the lesson and not to worry about spelling or grammar. As you work through your next lesson, Dawn's advice is to take risks when you answer the questions. Studying the Bible isn't about writing the perfect answer; the most important thing is to allow God's Word to reach your heart.

## Fun Facts about the Bible

- The longest word in the Bible is Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (the name of Isaiah's son, found in Isaiah 8:1-3).
- The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35—"Jesus wept."
- The Bible is the most stolen book.
- The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. It contains only two verses.
- The Bible has inspired more pop song lyrics than any other book. One example is "Turn, Turn, Turn" by the Byrds (1965), which quotes Ecclesiastes 3.
- The Bible has been translated into more than 700 languages.

## Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide

We have received positive feedback from many of you about the Scripture reading and prayer guide included in each *Just for Students* newsletter. We have been inviting your mentors and Crossroads staff to read and pray along with you. In September and October, we will be reading through the Gospel of John together. Each Gospel was written for a specific audience. John's Gospel was written to tell the story of Jesus to Gentiles, or non-Jewish believers, who might not have understood all of Matthew's references to Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Jewish people. John introduced Jesus as the "Word" who had come to earth in the flesh. The Greek word *logos*, translated as "the Word," was familiar to the Greek philosophers of Jesus' time. *Logos* was understood by the Greeks to be the intelligence behind the creation of the universe. John shared with his readers that the *logos*, or intelligence, responsible for creating the universe was Jesus.

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Sept. 1	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh	For the light of God to shine through you
Sept. 2	John 1:19-34	John the Baptist	For new Christians to be baptized
Sept. 3	John 1:35-42	Andrew and Peter follow Jesus	For a heart to follow Jesus wherever He leads
Sept. 4	John 1:43-50	Philip and Nathanael	To let Jesus reign as King in your life
Sept. 5	John 2:1-12	Jesus turns water to wine	For open eyes to see miracles
Sept. 6	John 2:13-25	Jesus clears the temple courts	For God to clear any impurities from your heart
Sept. 7	John 3:1-21	Jesus teaches Nicodemus	To be born anew each day
Sept. 8	John 3:22-36	John the Baptist testifies again	For an opportunity to share Jesus with someone
Sept. 9	John 4:1-26	Jesus and the Samaritan woman	To be able to worship God in Spirit and truth
Sept. 10	John 4:27-38	The disciples rejoin Jesus	For spiritual nourishment
Sept. 11	John 4:39-54	A miraculous healing	For strengthened belief
Sept. 12	John 5:1-15	The healing at the pool of Bethesda	To be healed from any physical or emotional pain
Sept. 13	John 5:16-30	Jesus' authority as the Son of God	To submit to Jesus' authority
Sept. 14	John 5:31-47	Testimonies about Jesus	For God to reveal something about Himself to you
Sept. 15	John 6:1-15	Jesus feeds the 5,000	For God to multiply (increase) His Spirit in you
Sept. 16	John 6:16-24	Jesus walks on water	For fearlessness in following Jesus

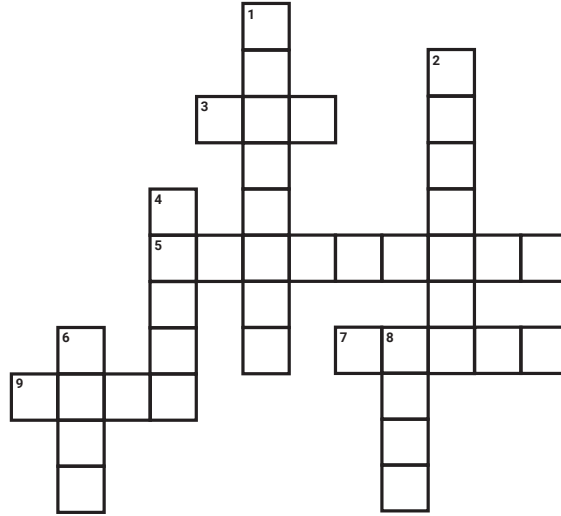
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Sept. 17	John 6:25-40	Jesus, the bread of life	For Jesus to feed you with spiritual bread
Sept. 18	John 6:41-59	Jesus disputes with religious leaders	For our leaders to believe in Jesus and follow Him
Sept. 19	John 6:60-71	Many disciples desert Jesus	For strength to follow Jesus when it is difficult
Sept. 20	John 7:1-24	Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles	For help not to judge others based on appearance
Sept. 21	John 7:25-44	Division about the Messiah	For rivers of living water to flow in and from you
Sept. 22	John 7:45-53	Unbelief of the religious leaders	For God to help you in your unbelief
Sept. 23	John 8:1-11	The woman caught in adultery	To have a heart of mercy toward others
Sept. 24	John 8:12-30	Disputes about Jesus	For God to make you a peacemaker
Sept. 25	John 8:31-47	Jesus challenges the Pharisees	That your love for God will increase
Sept. 26	John 8:48-59	Jesus' followers will never see death	That your life will glorify God
Sept. 27	John 9:1-12	Jesus heals a blind man	For God to heal someone you know who is sick
Sept. 28	John 9:13-34	Investigating Jesus' healing	That you will not doubt the works of God
Sept. 29	John 9:35-41	Spiritual blindness	For God to give you spiritual sight
Sept. 30	John 10:1-21	Jesus, the good shepherd	That you will allow Jesus to guide your life
Oct. 1	John 10:22-42	Another challenge from the leaders	For open ears to listen to Jesus' voice
Oct. 2	John 11:1-44	The death and resurrection of Lazarus	To love others the way Jesus loved Lazarus
Oct. 3	John 11:45-57	A plot to kill Jesus	For protection from Satan's attacks
Oct. 4	John 12:1-11	Jesus anointed at Bethany	For a generous heart to offer your best to Jesus
Oct. 5	John 12:12-19	Jesus' triumphal entry	To be humble like Jesus
Oct. 6	John 12:20-36	Jesus predicts His coming death	That you will walk in the light of God's truth
Oct. 7	John 12:37-50	The religious leaders reject Jesus	For those you know who do not believe in Jesus
Oct. 8	John 13:1-17	Jesus washes His disciples' feet	For the humility to serve others as Jesus did
Oct. 9	John 13:18-30	Jesus predicts His betrayal	For the strength to follow Jesus, no matter the cost
Oct. 10	John 13:31-38	Jesus predicts Peter's denial	That we will love each other as Jesus commanded
Oct. 11	John 14:1-14	Jesus comforts His disciples	For comfort for someone who is struggling
Oct. 12	John 14:15-21	Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit	For God to fill you with the Holy Spirit
Oct. 13	John 14:22-31	Jesus is going to the Father	That Jesus will give you peace
Oct. 14	John 15:1-17	Jesus is the true vine	For faith to abide in Jesus
Oct. 15	John 15:18-27	The world hates Jesus' disciples	For Christians who are suffering for their faith
Oct. 16	John 16:1-15	The work of the Holy Spirit	That the Holy Spirit will guide you in truth
Oct. 17	John 16:16-33	The disciples' grief will turn to joy	That God will help you experience joy amid grief
Oct. 18	John 17:1-19	Jesus prays for Himself & His disciples	To be protected by God's power
Oct. 19	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for all believers	For unity among God's people
Oct. 20	John 18:1-14	Jesus is arrested	That you will be able to trust God's plan
Oct. 21	John 18:15-27	Peter denies Jesus	For boldness to proclaim your love for Jesus
Oct. 22	John 18:28-40	Jesus appears before Pilate	For the salvation of our leaders
Oct. 23	John 19:1-16	Jesus sentenced to be crucified	Give thanks to God for the gift of salvation
Oct. 24	John 19:17-27	Jesus is crucified	For the salvation of those who oppose Jesus
Oct. 25	John 19:28-42	Jesus' death and burial	For those mourning the death of a loved one
Oct. 26	John 20:1-10	Jesus' resurrection	For resurrection power in your life
Oct. 27	John 20:11-18	Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene	For those who are forgotten or go unnoticed
Oct. 28	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to His disciples	For peace to those in conflict
Oct. 29	John 20:24-31	Jesus appears to Thomas	For God to remove your doubts
Oct. 30	John 21:1-14	Jesus appears to His disciples again	For others who doubt God
Oct. 31	John 21:15-25	Jesus talks with Peter	To experience deep fellowship with Jesus

## Crossword Puzzle: The Gospel of John

Use the clues below to fill in the words.

- Words can go across or down.
- Letters are shared where two words cross each other.
- Scripture quotations are taken from the NIV Bible.



### DOWN

1. Those who believe in Jesus' name are given the right to become \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (John 1:12)
2. John did this with water. (John 1:26)
4. Andrew and his brother, \_\_\_\_\_ Peter, were Jesus' first disciples. (John 1:40–42)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ was with God, and He was God. (John 1:1)
8. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Look, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

### ACROSS

3. Jesus said He had seen Nathanael when he was sitting under the \_\_\_\_\_ tree. (John 1:50)
5. Jesus said Nathanael was a true \_\_\_\_\_ and there was nothing false in him. (John 1:47)
7. When Jesus came to earth, He became \_\_\_\_\_. (John 1:14)
9. A man sent from God. (John 1:6)

## From the Operations Department

- Please don't send *Just for Students* or the crossword puzzles back to Crossroads. They are yours to keep!
- If you move to a new facility or go home and want to continue your lessons, please let us know. To continue studying from home, please wait until you are living there to send us a note with the address.
- If you want a mentor to review a Roadmap you completed, make sure to send it with a completed lesson.
- We will send the next *Just for Students* newsletter to you in December.

