



grace
in place of *grace*

Walking Through the Book of John DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 2 | FEBRUARY 2

RECEIVE

Take a few moments to read **John chapters 2–3**. These chapters continue the journey with Jesus through His early ministry. As you read, make a special note of the conversations Jesus has with people. What questions do they ask? How does He respond? How do you think the dialogue in these chapters unfolded? Take a few notes as you read along.

REFLECT

1. Which event/story from these two chapters stood out to you the most and why?
2. Jesus has a wide range of conversations throughout these two chapters. They begin at a wedding celebration with a miracle, and they end with a conversation that John calls, “an argument” (3:25). Despite this range of events, what consistent themes do you notice in these narratives?
3. In these two chapters we find Jesus engaging people on both a practical and theological level. He addresses the immediate needs of a situation yet at the same time, points to deeper truths about who He is. Why do you think Jesus reveals Himself in both ways?
4. In chapter 3 we meet a man named Nicodemus. He appears two more times in John’s Gospel (look up John 7:50–52 and 19:38–42). Scripture never says exactly where Nicodemus landed on his faith journey. Where do you think he could have landed? Why?

5. In chapter 3:22–36 John addresses confusion between what Jesus came to do and what John the Baptist came to do. Both submit themselves to God’s will. Why do you think it was important for John the Baptist to submit himself to Jesus and Jesus to submit Himself to His Father’s will?
6. What does submission teach us about the faith journey? How do you experience the word submission? What tension or comfort does the idea of submission bring up for you?
7. The stories from these two chapters feature Jesus in community and engaging with people. The conversations He has are thoughtful and honest. He shows up at a wedding, at the temple, and He makes time to speak with a leader who comes to Him at night. Based on these two chapters, what does genuine community look like?
8. These chapters reveal that to live in authentic community requires us to listen well, to ask good questions, to be truth-tellers, and to let our lives point to Jesus. Do these ideas resonate with you? How might you put one or more of them into practice this week?

RESPOND

Jesus showed up at social events like weddings, He engaged with challenging moments when He cleared the temple. He welcomed a late-night interruption, and was aware that His ministry created disagreement. In these moments of Jesus’ life He consistently points people to God and to one another. This week, as you live out the moments before you, consider how your experiences might ultimately point you and others toward Jesus. How might the way you meet the moments in your life reflect God?

BLESSING

This week may your conflicts be filled with understanding and patience. May the interruptions that come your way be filled with pause and wonder. May the stories you tell, and the celebrations you find, be saturated with the miracle of God’s presence. And may you find yourself among a community of people who practice together God’s grace in place of grace.

READ FOR NEXT WEEK



Reading Plan | Grace in Place of Grace

Week 1 | January 26 | John 1

Week 2 | February 2 | John 2 & 3

Week 3 | February 9 | John 4 & 5

Week 4 | February 16 | John 6 & 7:13

Week 5 | February 23 | John 7:14–18

Week 6 | March 2 | John 8 & 10