



Weekly Devotional  
for the  
Fourth Week of September

# “Know God”

Written by Julie Simmons

## John 19

John 19 begins with Jesus being flogged, a crown of thorns is put on His head, and He is arrayed in a purple robe to then be struck in the face hearing, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Pilate struggles with what to do with Jesus and finally decides to release Him to the Jewish leaders for crucifixion. Now Jesus must make the journey to Golgotha, carrying the cross He is to die on for the sins of you and me.

Verse 28 grabbed my attention, “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” Jesus knew that all was finished. Jesus the Son of God yet fully human KNEW all was finished and a short time later said, “It is finished” and gave up His spirit. Jesus was fully human and yet was obedient all the way through the humiliating, painful, and long process of dying for us. At no time in this journey to His death on the cross is it recorded that He complained, or tried to change, or back out of what He KNEW the plan was.

We often want to know what God is up to in our lives; we think that if we knew it would be easier to follow Him because we would understand. Somehow I don't think that knowing the plan helped Jesus follow it; I think knowing the Father and His purpose helped Him see it through.

1. What verses have caught your attention and why?
2. How does this apply to my life?
3. After reading and thinking, what should you spend time praying about from today's study?

# “The Living Lord”

## John 20

Written by Annette Simmons

As we read through the Gospels of the amazing story of Jesus and His disciples, we come to the suffering and death of Christ on the cross and can sense the despair that all those who loved Jesus were tormented with. The additional blow comes to them when Jesus’ body is no longer in the grave. It caused much anguish, confusion, misunderstanding and unbelief.

But it’s so amazing the transformation that takes place in each of these people as Jesus personally reveals himself and speaks His word to them. Their faith and love are rekindled when they see the risen living Lord.

So it can be with us. Without the living Lord in our life speaking His word into our heart, we are left with no hope. We find ourselves confused and searching for understanding. We are left to our own belief or unbelief. We miss out on the peace that life in Him brings.

Praise the Lord—Jesus paid it all and has made it so simple for us to live a life filled with faith, hope and love. Jesus the living Lord loves us and desires to speak to us and gives us life more abundantly. All we need to do is believe.

*But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*

1. What verses have caught your attention and why?

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# “Restoration”

## John 21

Written by Pastor Rollie Simmons

John 21 is a beautiful chapter of hope and restoration for the disillusioned disciples, and especially for Peter who failed so miserably when he denied Jesus three times.

Here in this chapter we find the discouraged disciples returning to their old occupation of fishing. There is no indication from the text that this was a momentary weekend fishing outing. This was Peter going back to the life he knew before Jesus called him to leave his nets and become a fisher of men.

It is not the failure and discouragement of Peter that I like in this chapter, it is the steps Jesus takes to restore Peter. I love this because that means there is hope for me in the midst of my own failures.

Let me highlight the 6 things Jesus does to restore Peter:

1. Jesus goes and finds Peter. "After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciple." vs. 1
2. Jesus engages Peter. "Children, do you have any fish?" vs.5
3. Jesus helps Peter where he is at. "Cast the net on the right side of the boat." vs.6
4. Jesus offers relationship to Peter. "Come and have breakfast." vs.12
5. Jesus serves Peter. "Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them." vs.13
6. Jesus offers another opportunity. "Follow me." vs.19

I don't know about you, but I am glad Jesus has done the same for me so we should allow Christ to help us restore others in like manner.

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