

A photograph of a person's hand holding a dark blue pen over an open Bible. The Bible is lying on a light-colored wooden surface. The person is wearing blue denim jeans. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the Bible.

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**DEVOTIONAL**

**PRACTICAL**  
**DEVOTIONALS**  
**FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

*by Ken Ballard, Jr.*

# THE GOAL OF THIS DEVOTIONAL IS TO GET US SPENDING DAILY TIME WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

*The beauty of this devotional is that you do not have to be a Biblical scholar to write it. Ken followed a very simple formula when putting this devotional together and you will see that everyday follows the same exact format. You can follow this pattern and create your own journal to help spend time with God.*

## S-SCRIPTURE O-OBSERVATION A-APPLICATION P-PRAYER

*S-write down the passage that you are reading.  
pick a verse or two that grabs your attention.*

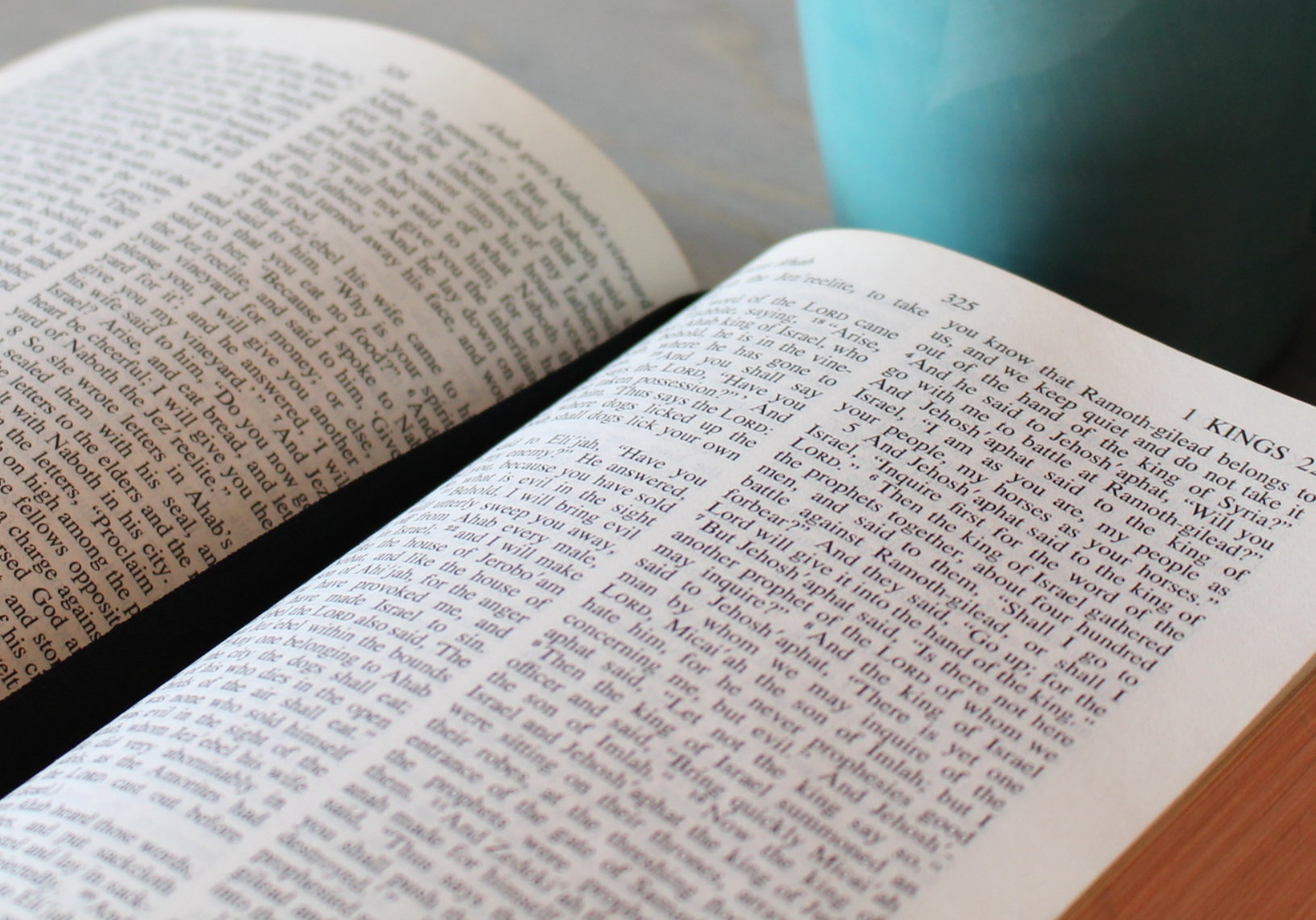
*O-write out what you see happening in the passage.*

*A-identify at least one action, mindset, or practice  
that you want to implement into your life*

*P-write out a prayer for implementing the application*

*Ken has added an action step to each day. There is a small window for writing your thoughts so you may want to consider getting your own binder or spiral notebook to write down your thoughts.*

# GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 1



...the Lord said to him, "Why is your spirit so heavy?" He answered, "Because I have seen the king of Israel, and he is in the vineyard." And the Lord said to him, "Where is he?" He answered, "I do not know." And the Lord said to him, "You shall go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead." And the Lord said to him, "I will give you your own possession." And the Lord said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'I will bring evil upon the house of Ahab every man, and I will make man by whom we may inquire?'"

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# REALITY

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:1-18

*JOHN 1:17-18 - "FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN THROUGH MOSES; GRACE AND TRUTH CAME ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD, BUT GOD THE ONE AND ONLY, WHO IS AT THE FATHER'S SIDE, HAS MADE HIM KNOWN."*



## OBSERVATION

John spends a majority of the first chapter explaining the identity of Jesus. He is the Word which means, "He is the source of life." Then, the Word became flesh and lived among us. The purpose of living amongst us was to show us His Father. Also, Moses gave us the law which shows us how to live. Jesus brought us truth which reveals the reality of our soul's condition and the fall out. But, He also brought us grace - a condition that can supercede our failures and restore our souls to be in the presence of God, both in this life and in the next.

## APPLICATION

Embrace the reality of Jesus. He is the author of my life. However, the author did not just write my story. He entered my narrative. So, I must look at myself holistically so that I may see my struggles, failures, and the condition of my soul. Then, I can welcome the love of God which extends forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

Action step: Is there a part of your life clouded by shame? How would your perspective change if you allowed Jesus full access into the whole narrative of your life? Imagine that Jesus is writing you a note of forgiveness. Write it in your journal.

## PRAYER

Jesus, help me to see others and myself as you see us. May my eyes move from seeing why others are disqualified and have no value to eyes that look either at their strengths and/or potential. If I can see what You died to restore, then I can begin to live its reality in my life and guide others to do the same. Lord, I would like to start with one simple question. What do you see in me?

## ACTION STEP

Is there a part of your life clouded by shame? How would your perspective change if you allowed Jesus full access into the whole narrative of your life? Imagine that Jesus is writing you a note of forgiveness. Write it in your journal.



# IDENTITY

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:19-28

*JOHN 1:23 - JOHN REPLIED IN THE WORDS OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET, "I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING IN THE DESERT, "MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD."*

## OBSERVATION

Imagine that since the beginning of your nation, you have been expecting a king who would bring your kingdom to its predicted greatness. You have just gone through a period of 400 years of silence from God and all of a sudden this guy shows up on the scene. Crowds are coming to him to be baptized. He is challenging the religious authority. So you wonder if he could be the one and if he is not then what qualifies him to do what he is doing. John the Baptist is the herald of Jesus Christ. He is given the opportunity to announce the coming of the Savior. When questioned about his identity, qualifications, and practices, he responds by quoting Isaiah 40:3.

## APPLICATION

Who am I? Who are you? How do we define ourselves? It is easy to define who we are by what we do (doctor, engineer, CEO, babysitter, etc.), what we have (car, health, home, etc.), or our status in life (mom, dad, wife, husband, etc.). The problem is, "Who are we when there is change or loss?" Life is life and just as there are blessings, successes, and gains, there are losses. Who am I if I lose what I have made the very basis of my identity? Maybe it is time to build my identity on that which cannot be lost or taken away. John the Baptist rooted his identity in his calling and in scripture. Let's seek to do the same.

## PRAYER

God help me to find my identity in scripture and in what you have to say about me.

## ACTION STEP

Have you taken time to figure out the basis of your identity? If you lost everything, who would you be? Take a moment to write down what you use as a basis of your identity. Figure out the one thing that if lost would cause you to question who you are. How can you redirect your identity to be in Christ? He is the one thing that can never be taken from us.

# PROCLAIM

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:29-34

JOHN 1:34 - "I HAVE SEEN AND I TESTIFY THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD."



## OBSERVATION

John sees Jesus coming and immediately begins to tell everyone the identity of Christ. I could only imagine John's excitement. Imagine that you have a personal, uplifting encounter with a celebrity and happen to see him/her walking down your street. Now, imagine that this celebrity is the savior of the world. How excited would you be? John shares how it was revealed to him that Jesus was the Messiah and that everything has led up to this moment.

## APPLICATION

What has Jesus done in our lives that we are sharing with others? How is Jesus making Himself known to us? We have a responsibility to share that good news. One of the main reasons that Jesus reveals Himself to us is so that we can lead the world to Him. This is the calling placed upon John and it is the same calling placed upon us. There is no greater cause or purpose than to change the eternal destiny of the people God brings into our lives.

## PRAYER

God, you have placed a calling on my life to lead others to you. Open my eyes to where You are at work. Let me love through both actions and words in sharing Your story with my sphere of influence.

## ACTION STEP

Sharing Christ happens with intentionality. Use your journal to write down the names of five people that you can pray for an opportunity to begin building a relationship and talking about Jesus.



# PROCLAIM

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:35-39

*JOHN 1:36-37 - WHEN HE SAW JESUS PASSING BY, HE SAID, "LOOK, THE LAMB OF GOD!" THE TWO DISCIPLES HEARD HIM SAY THIS, THEY FOLLOWED JESUS.*

## OBSERVATION

We see that John is hanging out with two of his disciples. A disciple is simply a student or an apprentice. In other words, these are two guys into whom John had been investing his time, life, and energy. Now, Jesus comes along and John points him out to his two guys. "There He is. That's the one that I have been telling you about. John was called to be the herald of Jesus. Now, we see how far John was willing to go. They walk over to have a conversation with Jesus and never returns to John again.

## APPLICATION

Have you ever tried to build anything from the ground up? If you launched an organization starting with just you, it would be called, "a grassroots movement." In this day and age, our online presence is driven by likes and follows. How would you feel if someone else comes along and your followers start to leave you to follow him/her? This is exactly what happened to John. However, John releases his followers to go after Jesus. Maybe there is something that we can learn from John. What we surrender to Jesus is far better off than in our hands. I wonder if this is part of the path to inner peace. Instead of holding on with a tight fist, it is time to let go and live out true trust in Him.

## PRAYER

Jesus, what is it that I need to surrender to you? What am I holding on to that is draining me of the peace I so desperately need? Lord, help me to let go and in the process point others to you.

## ACTION STEP

Take a moment to think about what worries you. This could be an area you need to surrender to God. Grab a piece of paper and write the object of you worry on it. Now, throw it in the trash to symbolize yielding it to God.

# NAME

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:40-42

*JOHN 1:42 - THEN ANDREW BROUGHT SIMON TO MEET JESUS. LOOKING INTENTLY AT SIMON, JESUS SAID, "YOUR NAME IS SIMON, SON OF JOHN—BUT YOU WILL BE CALLED CEPHAS" (WHICH MEANS "PETER").*



## OBSERVATION

Andrew was one of the followers of John who left to follow Jesus and this was a big moment for him. He just met the Messiah. Imagine the excitement and enthusiasm he must have felt. So, he did what any of us would do. He goes to find someone close to him to tell about it. It just so happens that this person is his brother, Simon. Upon their meeting, Jesus gives Simon a new name, "Peter."

## APPLICATION

We run into another account of someone's identity. A couple of days ago, we learned about John who had this confidence about his identity and defined himself according to his calling and scripture. Today, we meet a man who has yet to go through this process. As we go through John, we will see that Peter does not initially live up to his new name. Peter means "rock" which conjures up images of something stable, grounded, solid, unwavering, and filled with strength. John will reveal that Peter clearly does not fit the bill. So, why did Jesus call him Peter if he did not initially live up to that name? Jesus was not calling him as he was with all of his insecurities, struggles, and failures. Jesus called Peter according to vision. Jesus called Peter by the name that he would become.

## PRAYER

God, what's my new name? What is it that you see in me that I do not see in myself. Help me to recognize that you are calling me that I may see my new identity according to you.

## ACTION STEP

Imagine that Jesus changes your name to one that embodies your potential. Write down what your new name would be and what would it mean.



# KNOWN

## SCRIPTURE - JOHN 1:43-51

*JOHN 1:48 - WHEN JESUS SAW NATHANAEL COMING, HE SAID OF HIM, "HERE IS A TRUE ISRAELITE, IN WHOM THERE IS NOTHING FALSE."*



## OBSERVATION

Philip invites Nathanael to come meet the Messiah. However, Philip reveals Jesus by His human qualifications. Nathanael questions if Jesus could be the One because He comes from Nazareth, a podunk town of no significance.

Nathanael focused on how the home of Jesus eliminated Jesus as a candidate for the Messiah. It would be like comparing Needles to Los Angeles. When they meet, Jesus does not prove Himself based on arguing His credentials. He does not announce Nathanael's failures. He announces the strength of Nathanael's character and He simply reveals something about Nathanael that He should have had no way of knowing unless He was the Messiah.

## APPLICATION

In this passage, we see two ways that we can look at someone and ourselves. Nathanael focused on the one aspect of Jesus that did not meet the qualifications of the Messiah. What do you look at that disqualifies others or yourself from being useful or of value? Jesus does the exact opposite. He focuses on the one thing that qualifies Nathanael. We know that Nathanael was not perfect, none of us are. We see this pattern in how Jesus views others first with Peter and now with Nathanael. Do they both have struggles and failures that should have eliminated them as disciples? Yes! But, Jesus sees others and us from the viewpoint of our potential, our strengths and that which He came to redeem. Maybe it is time we did the same.

## PRAYER

Jesus, help me to see others and myself as you see us. May my eyes move from seeing why others are disqualified and have no value to eyes that look either at their strengths and/or potential. If I can see what You died to restore, then I can begin to live its reality in my life and guide others to do the same. Lord, I would like to start with one simple question. What do you see in me?

## ACTION STEP

What is the first thing that you notice when you see someone? It is very easy to look for and find the negatives. Today, practice looking for the strengths or potential in others. Write how that would impact the way you look at yourself and others.

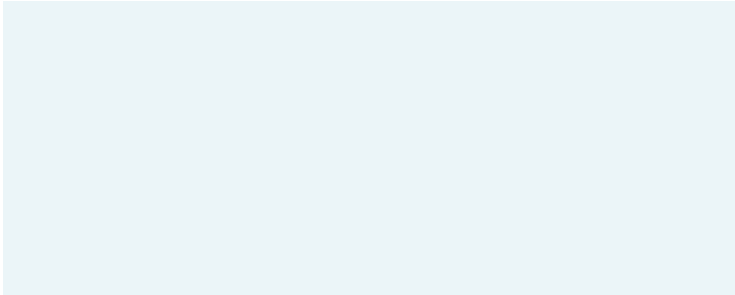
# TRY IT FOR YOURSELF

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## SCRIPTURE

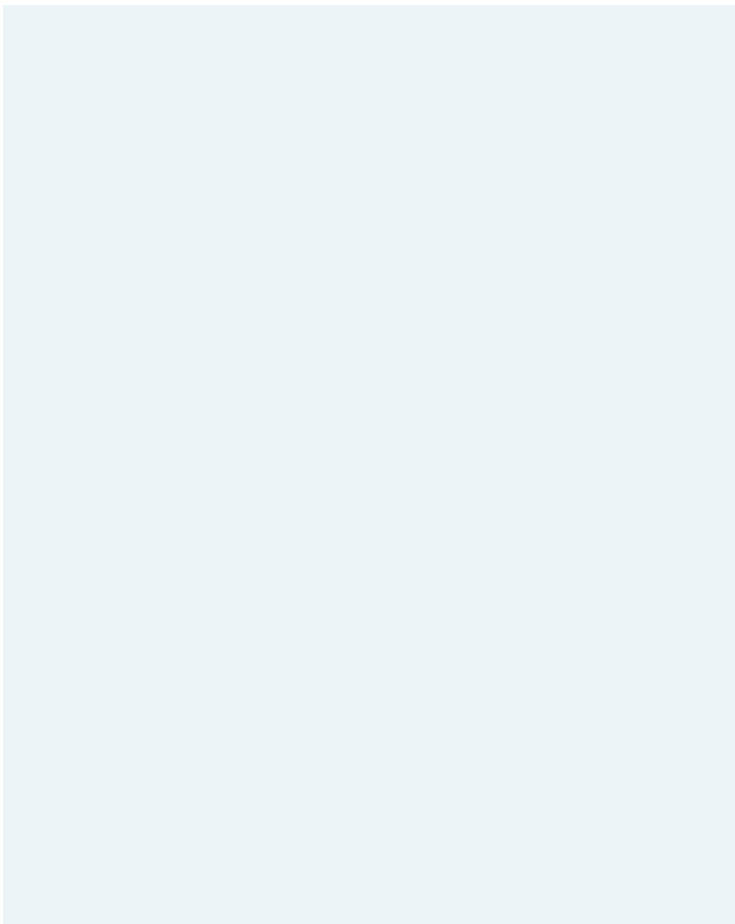
**JOHN 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Write out the verse that really spoke or stood out to you.



## OBSERVATION

What do you see happening in the passage? Think about the five basic questions: who, what, when, where, how, why. See if you can answer one or more of the five.

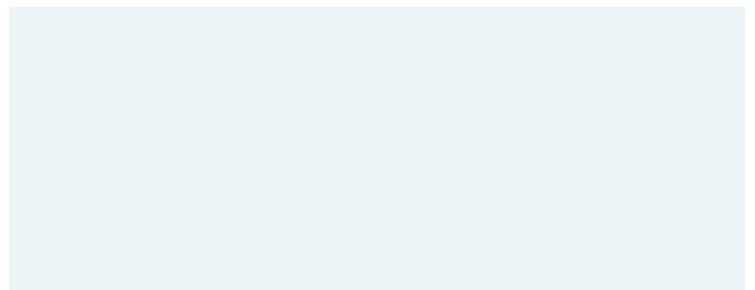


## APPLICATION

What's your take home from this passage? What did you learn about God, yourself, or others?



Create an action step for how you will implement what you learned from the application.



## PRAYER

Write a prayer based on what you observed, learned, or want to apply to your life.

