

# WEEKLY BIBLE READING GUIDE FOR 2018 LENT

## “Jesus in the Gospel of John”

### First Week

#### **Monday, February 19: John 1:1-18 ... Prologue**

The opening verses are like the overture to a great musical work. They contain the major themes of the Gospel of John. So, familiarize yourself with its tone, for you will recognize it again and again in the rest of the gospel. Notice that the first words, “In the beginning” are the same first words of the book of Genesis. The images of life and light are found in both books. *How does the idea of God becoming flesh and living among us affect your view of the nature of God?*

#### **Tuesday, February 20: John 1:19-34 ... John the Baptist**

John the Baptist was a fiery preacher, and people wondered if he was the Messiah. But, John clearly understood his life mission - to testify to Jesus, the Light and the Lamb of God. *How is your life a testimony to Jesus Christ?*

#### **Wednesday, February 21: John 1:35-51 ... First Disciples**

Jesus said to Andrew, “Come and see.” Andrew followed him and then, he led his brother to Jesus. At the invitation of Jesus, Philip decided to follow him. And then, he led Nathaniel to Jesus by saying to him, “Come and see.” *How are you using this model Jesus set for us and invite people to church?*

#### **Thursday, February 22: John 2:1-11 ... First Sign/Miracle**

Jesus changed water in jars used for ritual purification to wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It was his first miraculous sign that he offered a better way than the rigid, repressive ritual system of his day. The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” *Do you recognize the transforming power of Jesus at work in your life and in the world? How do you witness to it?*

#### **Friday, February 23: John 2:12-25 ... Cleansing of the Temple**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus’ challengers are referred as “the Jews.” Some people read this as an anti-Semitic slur. But, Jesus and all his first followers were Jews. *In what ways does your Christian belief help you grow beyond bias against ethnic groups, denominations, political parties, and other groups?*

#### **Saturday, February 24: John 3:1-21 ... Nicodemus’ Visit**

Nicodemus was a man of great religious status, but he came to see Jesus by night. Probably, he needed to hide his interest in Jesus from other Pharisees. Nicodemus came by night, but Jesus invited him to live in the light of God’s kingdom. *In what kinds of darkness did you experience in your life? How has God brought you from the darkness into the light? How can you help persons who live in darkness come to the light of Christ?*