



grace
in place of *grace*

Walking Through the Book of John DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 6 | MARCH 2

RECEIVE

Find a quiet space and read through **John chapters 9 and 10**. Look for themes of abundance and life. As you read, notice the stories, people, and words of Jesus that point to vibrant, flourishing life and notice the places where you see the opposite occurring.

REFLECT

1. Verse 9:1 begins with the phrase, "As He went along." Jesus is traveling from town to town with His disciples, very much in the thick of His ministry. He's gaining attention and criticism. Why do you think the disciples asked about sin in relation to the blind man (9:2–3)? What was a dominant cultural belief about disability at this time?
2. What do you think Jesus is referring to in 9:4–5? Do these two verses nudge you to consider any adjustments in your own life?
3. Jesus goes on to heal the blind man and the healing causes a stir (9:8–12 & 13–34). Why do you think the man's neighbors wondered if it was Him? Why did the Pharisees react with such sharp anger toward the healing? What are your conclusions about the healing of the blind man?
4. In chapter 10, after a short story, verse 6 indicates that the listeners did not understand what Jesus had just said. Standing on this side of history with 2,000 years of biblical studies, we still don't fully understand what Jesus is saying. Why do you think the story was confusing? How is what Jesus says here still confusing to us today?

5. In chapter 10, Jesus offers a series of, "I Am" statements. What are the "I Am" statements that you see here? Write them down and discuss.
6. Which of the "I Am" statements bring you the most comfort? Do any of the statements bring you discomfort?
7. In John 10:10, after His "I am the gate" statement, Jesus explains that He has come so that we might have a full and abundant life. What does He mean? What does it mean to have life to the full? What does it NOT mean?
8. In 10:19, we read once again that there is controversy and anger surrounding Jesus. Why did the "I Am" statements upset and divide people then? How might they still unsettle people today?

RESPOND

Do you have a picture in your mind about what a full life looks like? For many of us, a full life is a growing home, family, career, or financial portfolio. These are not bad things, but we often draw a fuzzy sketch of what a full life really means. Jesus lacked most of the physical things that we would identify today as part of a full life. As you go through your week, take a moment to consider the things you strive toward. What type of life do they promise? What small actions can you take to grow intentionally toward the life Jesus outlines in these chapters?

BLESSING

This week, may you find yourself at the gates of your days with the Shepherd by your side. May you hear His name and know His goodness and may your life bend in His direction. As you make your way through this world saturated with desire and longing, may you rest in the generous abundant presence of the God who provides fullness and meets our need.