

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

John 19:25-27

While tradition often has equated the “disciple who Jesus loved” with John, the Bible doesn’t concretely make this connection. The “beloved disciple” is anonymous, first appearing at the Last Supper by John’s account, sitting so close to Jesus he is leaning against him. Unlike the other disciples, he then appears in *all* the key moments – at the crucifixion, at the empty tomb, and at the encounters with Jesus after the resurrection. At the cross, he is tasked by Jesus to care for Mary as his own mother, which he does. At the empty tomb, he “saw and believed.” Perhaps this disciple is John, or perhaps this disciple is unnamed to represent who we are all called to be. In either case, this disciple is an example for those who seek to follow Jesus.

☐ **Monday: Read John 13:21–26.**

When unsure of what Jesus was saying, the beloved disciple leans in.
What does it mean for you to draw close or lean in to Jesus in your everyday life?

☐ **Tuesday: Read John 19:25–27.**

Jesus formed a new family from the cross.
What does it look like in your life to love and care for others as part of Christ’s family?

☐ **Wednesday: Read John 20:1–10.**

The beloved disciple believed before he understood everything.
When have you been called to trust in what you cannot yet fully grasp?

☐ **Thursday: Read John 21:4–7.**

The beloved disciple is the first to recognize Jesus on the shore.
How can we train ourselves to recognize Jesus in ordinary moments or surprising places?

☐ **Friday: Read John 21:20–23.**

The beloved disciple doesn’t speak much, but remains faithful.
What might quiet, steady faithfulness look like in your everyday life?

☐ **Saturday: Read John 21:24.**

The beloved disciple shares what he saw and knew of Jesus.
What part of your experience with Christ are you being called to share with others?

Jesus invites us to live a life intimately connected to Him, where believers become family and unwavering loyalty to Jesus allows us to see God at work.

Following Jesus is pursuing a life where belief shapes how we live, love, and see the world around us.

Prayer: As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us. Jesus, let me take a few moments now to consider your love for me. Help me thank you for your willingness to go to your death for me. Lord, help me express my love for you.