

Life In Jesus,

John chapter 20 verses 30-31 & 1 verses 1-5

We are starting a new series in the book of John. Over Advent and Christmas we will go slowly through the first half of chapter 1, after Christmas we will continue working through small sections of John's gospel. To start read John chapter 20 verses 30-31.

1. When digging into any book in the Bible a great question to ask is what is the author's intent?¹ What's the book trying to achieve? Sometimes, like in John, it's made very clear. What's the gospel of John trying to achieve? How will this shape how we read through the book?
2. The theme of life is huge in John's gospel. The word comes up 41 times. What does it mean to have life in Jesus? Here's some verses to help:
John 3:16, 36, 4:14, 5:21, 6:47, 10:10, 11:25, 12:25, 14:6, 17:3

¹ The claim of the Bible is that it is unlike any other book. Though God used human authors, the ultimate author is God (see 2 Timothy 3:16). So as we think about the aim of any book in the Bible we are considering what God's aim is for us as we read it. To think further on this you might want to listen to some of the sermons in 'The God who Speaks' series from earlier this year, particularly 'God speaks with authority' <https://www.sthelensandstedmunds.org/sundays/talks/?q=&series=the-god-who-speaks&biblebook=&speaker=&perpage=5#sermons>

3. Come back to John 20:31. How is it that we have life in Jesus' name? Why is this wonderfully freeing and so important for us to hold onto?
4. Come to John chapter 1 verses 1-5. John wants to unwrap the true Jesus and give us a big picture of him. What are some of the things we learn about the Word? (From 1:14 it is clear the Word is Jesus).
5. How does John 1:1-5 help us to be sure life really is found in Jesus?
6. No doubt among us there will be a whole range of feelings about Christmas (and our emotions will vary over the coming few days!). How will life to the full being found in Jesus shape how you approach them?

Spend some time praying about these things and for each other in all that this season has in store for you.