

Life in the Family

How Jesus Prepares
Us for Kingdom Life

How Jesus Walked
According to John's Gospel

By
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At Your Pace Series

Life in the Family—Walking as Jesus Walked

In 1 John 2:3-6, John writes that “whoever claims to live in God must walk as Jesus did.” Since John lived with Jesus day-in and day-out for 3 years, how did he think that Jesus walked? This thought so intrigued me as I was working through 1 John for my devotional *Another Walk With the Father* that I decided to work through John’s record of Jesus’ life, chapter by chapter, looking for cues as to what John was talking about. This study is the result of this work. While my long list of observations is at the end of this study, *my* conclusions are in the devotional if you’re interested. What’s really important to me are your *conclusions*. I’d love to hear from you at margie@WalksWithTheFather.com.

As you work through this study, remember what Jesus said about where He goes and what He does in John 5:19. A pastor years ago described Jesus as always checking in with the Father. May we do the same.

“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

John is confident that it really is possible for us to walk as Jesus did. Are you that confident? I admit that I don’t always act like I do. May we come to know Jesus as John did, so we can walk as He walked.

(If a section didn’t include information on how Jesus lived, I didn’t add it to this study. The column on the left are the headings in my NIV Student New Testament; the column on the right has my notes.)

You can either print out this study so you can fill in your answers, or you can save the PDF to your computer and use the typing option available on most PDF programs to record your answers and input.

John 1

Jesus the Lamb of God	Jesus didn’t stand apart from us but submitted to John’s baptism because the Father told Him to.
Jesus’ First Disciples	Jesus invites Andrew and another of John the Baptist’s disciples to spend a day with Him. Andrew then finds his brother, Simon Peter. Jesus sees in Simon who he is to become and begins calling him by the name that reflects that growth—Cephas (Aramaic) and Peter (Greek) both mean <i>rock</i> .
Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael	Jesus isn’t defensive with Nathanael’s remark about His heritage and turns Nathanael’s from being critical to truthful.

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John 2

<p>Jesus Changes Water to Wine</p>	<p>Jesus honors his mother and her confidence in Him, which results in His disciples having confidence in Him.</p>
<p>Jesus Clears the Temple</p>	<p>Jesus isn't afraid to get upset about what is wrong and then do something about it. However, His anger is controlled because He is still able to speak rationally and logically; He knows what He is doing. He doesn't depend on other's opinion of Him and what they see Him doing.</p>

John 3

<p>Jesus Teaches Nicodemus</p>	<p>Jesus' outburst in the temple catches the attention of Nicodemus, one of the ruling council, who comes to Jesus at night. Jesus doesn't ask him to come back during work hours but answers Nicodemus' question before he can ask it. Jesus gives him truth that was just beyond his scope of thinking, so he had to reach and ask questions. We don't know how Nicodemus responds at this point, but later on he speaks up for Jesus with the Sanhedrin (7:50-52) and helps Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus' body.</p>
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John 4

<p>Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman</p>	<p>Jesus speaking to a woman breaks the <i>rules</i> but not God's laws. Jesus asks for help in a way that makes Him approachable, rather than telling her how she needs to change to be acceptable. Jesus doesn't answer her questions directly but takes her to a new way of thinking. Jesus is honest and insightful with her; He's upfront and direct without being condescending or critical. Jesus gives significant information about Himself to someone He <i>should have</i> avoided: a woman, an ethnic group normally avoided, and an outcast in her own society.</p> <p>Jesus models for His disciples that what sustains Him is doing God's will, not being used by God or eating physical food. He waits to see her response to this truth. The disciples get to see the results of doing God's will versus following the mores of society.</p>
<p>Jesus Heals the Official's Son</p>	<p>This second miracle happens in Cana of Galilee and prompts some questions: what is the size of the city? Was he a royal official—Roman, Jewish? His son was sick in Capernaum, which was a distance. Was the father away most of the time? The father understands giving orders and having them obeyed. Jesus stops him (and us) in our tracks by saying that belief based on faith is better than belief because of seeing miracles. Jesus heals the son from a distance (only other time was with Roman Centurion who also was used to commanding and being obeyed). Jesus isn't limited by time or space. The result? The official and his household believe. Jesus isn't at this official's beck and call but challenges his thinking.</p>

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John 5

The Healing at the Pool [in Jerusalem on the Sabbath]	The crippled man has been an invalid for 38 years but still has hope since he is still by the pool. Jesus got information about him before approaching the man. Why him? Was he the oldest one there? Jesus asks him if he wants to get well (or stay dependent as a victim). Jesus could have sympathized, but instead treats him like an adult and gives him something to do that he'd never been able to do at all—walk. Was it confidence or hope that made him <i>respond with action rather than excuses</i> ?
Life Through the Son	Jesus knew the complaints the Jews had against Him, and He proactively addresses them rather than letting the religious leaders have the upper hand. By doing so He gives them information that they chose to use against Him. Truth is truth; we cannot control other's responses. Our response to truth shows the condition of our hearts.
Testimonies About Jesus	Jesus doesn't accept praise from men because He knows people and what is in their hearts. He uses whatever knowledge His listeners have but takes it to the next level of understanding and living.

John 6

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	Jesus asks Philip a question to test him, even though He already knows what He is going to do. Jesus doesn't comment on Philip's or Andrew's statements but proceeds with what He has in mind. After feeding the people, Jesus asks the disciples gather up the excess so they all can see how much God has provided. Jesus doesn't lecture; He acts to provide and then makes sure everyone knows who has really provided. He doesn't want to accept their praise, so He withdraws.
Jesus Walks on Water	Jesus spends a few hours by Himself, letting the people go home and the disciples wondering what to do. When He's ready to rejoin them, He finds them so they can experience His control of nature and how He is free from natural laws.
Jesus The Bread of Life [happens in Capernaum]	Jesus bluntly addresses the issues at the heart of the people's questions. When they grumble over His explanations instead of seeing a miracle that they had come for, He identifies their attitude. They begin to argue sharply among themselves about His claims. His teaching gets even more challenging in tone and subject; seems like He's purposefully putting them on edge.
Many Disciples Desert Jesus	Jesus senses that a large group of His disciples are also upset with Him so He purposely challenges them to see if they'll react. He tells them that some didn't believe and one of them would betray Him, which is why He told them that no one could come to Him unless the Father had enabled him. Many disciples leave, so He turns to the twelve. Peter says his famous words, but John doesn't tell us how Jesus responded to him, rather Jesus says that He chose the twelve, "yet one of you is a devil!"

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John 7

Jesus Goes to the Feast of Tabernacles (in Jerusalem at the synagogue)	Jesus isn't pressured into doing something by his brothers. He doesn't give them any leeway as family but speaks to them as He would to others.
Jesus Teaches at the Feast	Jesus amazes the Jews by His "learning without having studied." Jesus uses their own actions and values to challenge them.
Is Jesus the Christ?	Jesus speaks His message even though some want to kill Him. Some in Jerusalem have questions; Jesus, while in the temple courts, cries out the answers to their questions.
Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders	Nicodemus speaks up for Jesus, and his peers try to silence Him.

John 8

Woman Caught in Adultery [no actual heading to this interaction]	Jesus doesn't get caught up in the accusations and the trap. He dismisses the accusers with a question and then gives her the opportunity to live a new life without condemning her past.
The Validity of Jesus' Testimony	Jesus speaks to the hearts of many groups of people at one time. He gives hope to the people that as they follow Him, they will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.
The Children of Abraham	Jesus says that children do what they see their father doing and so asks, "Who is your father: Abraham or the devil?" The emotional response to this question indicates whether the person belongs to God.
The Children of the Devil	Jesus' language isn't clear to those who don't belong to God and know Him as Father, but He tells them that He's telling the truth.
The Claims of Jesus About Himself	God glorifies Jesus. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of being able to see the day when Jesus was on the earth; he saw it and was glad.

John 9

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind [in Jerusalem on the Sabbath]	A man had been born blind. Jesus looks at him so intently that the disciples ask about his condition. Jesus heals in a four-step process: makes mud with His saliva and dirt; puts it on the man's eyes; tells him to go wash in a certain pool; man goes, washes, and comes home seeing. The man doesn't know who Jesus is, only that He has cured him. As the Pharisees question him, the man's conviction deepens as he repeats what has happened to him. He's thrown out of the temple because what he says disagrees with what the Pharisees want to hear.
Spiritual Blindness	<i>Jesus finds him</i> , and the man chooses to believe. Jesus uses him as an example of spiritual blindness to the Pharisees.

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John 10

The Shepherd and His Flock	Jesus says He's the gate to the sheep pen; those who come in and out through Him will be saved, find pasture, have security, and be safe. Jesus says He's the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep; He protects them and won't leave them; He leads them to pasture and keeps them safe. He knows his sheep, and they know Him. He's willing to die for them. He chooses the time of His death.
The Unbelief of the Jews	Jesus lets people come to Him "How long will you keep us in suspense?" He doesn't run from immediate trouble but does know when to go to those who will believe and leave those who won't.

John 11

The Death of Lazarus	Jesus has friends that He loves but isn't at their beck-and-call. He is going to work through His friends' lives for the sake of the disciples (and us).
Jesus Comforts the Sisters [Martha and Mary]	Jesus comforts the sisters by having them see Him for who He really is, not by saying, "It'll be okay." Jesus knows the appropriate response for each sister.
Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead	Jesus is deeply moved and troubled by the death of His friend and takes action.
The Plot to Kill Jesus	Jesus leaves as the conflict is escalating. He goes out near the desert with His disciples, probably to have time with His Father. Did Jesus hear about the Pharisees plotting to kill Him? Does everyone know?

John 12

Jesus Anointed at Bethany	Jesus accepts Mary's gift of anointing with oil, knowing she was preparing Him for burial. Did she know what her actions meant? Jesus accepts the place of honor at the dinner. What was the table conversation about? A large crowd gathers to see Jesus and Lazarus.
The Triumphal Entry	The crowd honoring Jesus must have really made the Pharisees mad: "Look how the whole world has done after him!"
Jesus Predicts His Death	Jesus ignores the Greeks who want to see Him but acknowledges that His hour has come. He and the Father speak to each other.
The Jews Continue in Their Unbelief	"Jesus cries out." Such intensity, probably because He knows His time is near. Jesus says, "For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

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John 13

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet	Jesus shows the disciples the full extent of His love by washing their feet. He could do this servant act because He knows where He had come from and where He is going. He sets the standard for how they are to treat each other because “no servant is greater than his master.”
Jesus Predicts His Betrayal	Jesus lets people do what they've set their mind on doing.
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial	Jesus calls the disciples “my children” as He gives them hard-to-hear news of His going away and that they cannot follow Him. Then Jesus gives them a new commandment to love one another as He had loved them. People will know we've been with Jesus by how we love each other.

John 14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples	Jesus gives hope to His disciples that they will be with Him again when He comes back to get them. He says they know the way to the place where He is going.
Jesus the Way to the Father	Thomas says they don't know the way (how to get there), but Jesus says He is the way (the way of getting there). Philip wants to see the Father as the promise of the way, but Jesus says to know Him and see the miracles He's done is to see the Father. So Jesus' promise of asking anything in His name and Him doing it comes from having faith in Jesus rather than wanting/needing Jesus to prove Himself.
Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	Jesus says to love Him means to do what He commands. He won't leave us as orphans but will give us the Holy Spirit (another counselor) to be with us forever—the Spirit of truth. He'll live with us and in us. It is by the Spirit that we stay connected with Jesus and the Father. They will make Their home with us. The Spirit will teach us all things and remind us of everything Jesus has said. Jesus tells them what will happen ahead of time so when it does happen, they will believe. He says, “the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.” Our way of showing that we love Jesus by doing what He says, even to the point of death.

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John 15

<p>The Vine and the Branches</p>	<p>Jesus says to expect pruning as we live life; He also says to have fruit means we have to remain in Him because it's His life in us that produces fruit. The result of not abiding/remaining in Him is a life that is thrown away. Jesus tells them to love each other as He loves them.</p> <p>So Jesus, how did you love them? He told the truth. He called them friends and so made known to them what He has learned from the Father. He chose them and appointed them to go bear fruit that will last. Then He gives them the promise that the Father will give them whatever they ask in His name. His command is to love each other.</p>
<p>The World Hates the Disciples</p>	<p>Jesus knew the world hated Him and hates us as well because Jesus has chosen us out of the world. Jesus promises that the world will persecute us because it persecuted Him. Jesus warns us about the world so that when trouble comes, we won't get confused or afraid and wander off, especially since He won't be physically around. But the Spirit of truth will testify about Him. And we must testify about what we know.</p>

John 16

<p>The Work of the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>Jesus prepares the disciples for what is to come: His going away, their grief, and the Spirit coming. The Spirit will convict the world of guilt in these ways: in regard to sin because men do not believe in Him, in regard to righteousness because He is going to the Father and won't be able to be seen, and in regard to judgment because the prince of this world now stands condemned. The Spirit of truth will guide them into all truth; He doesn't speak on His own but only what He hears and will tell them what is yet to come; He will bring glory to Jesus by taking what the Father has given to Jesus and make it known to them.</p>
<p>The Disciples Grief Will Turn to Joy</p>	<p>Jesus hears their confusion about not seeing Him and then seeing Him again and so gives them the example of childbirth its promise that when they see Him again they will rejoice and no one will take away their joy. In that day they will no longer ask Jesus anything [because they will understand everything?]. He tells them, "The Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." Jesus says they'll have direct access to the Father. He loves them because they have loved Him [Jesus] and believed that He came from God. Jesus stops speaking with figures of speech and the disciples are able to clearly understand what He is saying. They realize that He knew all things and that He didn't need to have anyone ask Him questions???. They believe that He came from God. Jesus is ecstatic, but He warns them that a time is coming when they will scatter and leave Him. He gives them this information so they will have peace when trouble comes since He has overcome the world.</p>

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John 17

Jesus Prays for Himself	Jesus puts on His Son status/role when talking to His Father and refers to Himself this way. The Son has been granted authority to give eternal life to those the Father has given Him. Jesus is ready to receive the glory He had with His Father before the world began. Jesus knows he has completed the work His Father gave Him to do. He hasn't died yet, but He knows that He has made His choice to go to the cross.
Jesus Prays for His Disciples	Jesus did what He did for us because of the Father's great love for us. Even as He is ready to leave, His concern is for the disciples. "Glory has come to me through them." Jesus isn't afraid of the world and doesn't want us to be either; He just wants us to be protected from the evil one as He sends us into the world.
Jesus Prays for All Believers	Jesus wants unity for all believers in Christ just as He is one with the Father. Our unity shows the world that God sent Jesus to earth for our benefit and loves us as He loved Jesus. Jesus wants us to be with him and see His glory.

John 18

Jesus Arrested	Jesus goes out to those wanting to arrest Him. He protects His disciples so the focus will stay on Him.
Jesus Taken to Annas	Jesus challenges Annas because he's already heard the truth but chooses not to believe it or act on it.
Peter's First Denial	He denies Jesus to a servant girl.
The High Priest Questions Jesus	When the high priest questions Jesus about His disciples and His teaching, Jesus keeps them out of the discussion and keeps them focused on Him. Of the 41 words in this section, He uses <i>I</i> and <i>me</i> 6 times in 6 sentences.
Peter's Second and Third Denials	Peter lies to protect himself.
Jesus Before Pilate	Jesus says His kingdom is about truth rather than fighting.

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John 19

Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified	Jesus says His power is from above that has been granted to Him, not bought with money or good intentions nor taken by force. Jesus doesn't fight the process but keeps His head and speaks the truth.
The Crucifixion	Pilate doesn't want to kill Jesus but does so to protect his status with Rome; he has a sign made to be put over Jesus' head that will anger the Chief Priests. Jesus keeps His wits about Him, and gives John the responsibility of His mother (whose sister is with her at the foot of the cross).
The Death of Jesus	Jesus stays the course until the end and then gives up His spirit and dies.
The Burial of Jesus	Joseph of Aremathea and Nicodemus must have gotten to know each other as followers of Jesus since they buried Him together. They have the reputation and resources to do so.

John 20

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene	Jesus chooses to let Mary Magdalene be the first to see His resurrection and then tell the disciples, just as He told Martha about resurrection and the woman at the well about eternal life. Jesus seems to tell women about what is new. Perhaps He knows they'll believe Him because they have an emotional trust in Him? Were the disciples more impressed with her words or her countenance after she saw Him?
Jesus Appears to His Disciples	Jesus comes to His disciples in the place of their fear and says, "Peace be with you!" So peace is the opposite of fear. Jesus breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
Jesus Appears to Thomas	So where was Thomas when Jesus came to the disciples? Thomas doesn't just want to see Jesus; he wants to touch the wounds. Is he afraid to believe? Jesus tells him to stop doubting and believe. Is he caught in the habit of doubting? Thomas hears Jesus and obeys. John tells us that when we believe we can have life in His name.

John 21

Jesus and The Miraculous Catch of Fish	Jesus refers to them as <i>friends</i> . We're told the exact numbers of large fish that were caught: 153. Jesus makes breakfast for them. Peter and John are close.
Jesus Reinstates Peter	After reinstating Peter in a servant-leader position, Jesus says, "Follow me." When Peter asks about John, Jesus tells him not to worry about John but just follow Him.

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So how did Jesus walk according to John in his Gospel?

Here are my observations:

1. Jesus didn't stand apart from us but lived as we do.
2. Jesus invites us to come and walk with Him, seeing us as we will become.
3. Jesus can take whatever we throw at Him and transform that anger, criticalness, or lack of trust into something positive.
4. Jesus honors His mother but isn't a momma's boy.
5. Jesus' anger (toward what was going on in the temple) is controlled so He can speak rationally and logically when questioned.
6. Jesus speaks truth that is just beyond the listener's ability to understand easily; He challenges assumptions but doesn't demand an immediate response.
7. Jesus makes Himself approachable to a woman by asking for help rather than telling her what to do to be acceptable; He is upfront and direct without being condensing or critical; He follows God's laws regardless of what rules men have added.
8. Jesus isn't limited by time or space.
9. Jesus wants to know if the lame man *wanted* to walk; He engages the man's heart and not just his head. Jesus wants him to respond with actions not excuses.
10. Jesus states the truth, regardless of how He knows a person will respond; He knows that our responses expose the condition of our hearts.
11. Jesus doesn't accept praise from men because He knows what is in their hearts.
12. Jesus asks questions to test His disciples and gives them truth rather than lecture; He then acts and makes sure they know that God is really the One providing what is needed.
13. Jesus spends time by Himself without telling His disciples what to do while He is gone; He then shows them He is in control of nature and free from natural laws.
14. Jesus brings up issues that listeners are thinking about but afraid to voice; His tone and style match ours so we have to face our issues.
15. Jesus treats the disciples like adults; He doesn't coddle them like children.
16. Jesus isn't pressured into doing something through guilt or manipulation.
17. Jesus uses His listeners' actions and values to challenge them.
18. Jesus gives the opportunity to His listeners to live a new life without condemning how they had previously lived.
19. Jesus speaks to the hearts of His listeners.
20. Jesus says that how we walk reflects whether we belong to God or the devil.
21. Jesus heals on the Sabbath by "making mud," which was forbidden by custom; this action gets the Pharisees' attention and makes the man who was healed firmer in his beliefs as he repeats his story.
22. Jesus finds the man who had been blind to use as an example.

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23. Jesus is as committed to His people as a shepherd is to his sheep: He leads, protects, provides for, saves, and is willing to die for them.
24. Jesus doesn't run from immediate trouble, but He also knows when to leave so He can go to those who want to hear what He has to say.
25. Jesus has friends He loves but isn't at their beck-and-call; He interacts with them for the sake of the kingdom.
26. Jesus comforts those facing death by having them see Him for who He is, not by saying "It'll be okay."
27. Jesus is deeply moved by the death of His friend, and then He acts; He has deep feelings.
28. Jesus knows when to leave as conflict grows/escalates.
29. Jesus accepts the gift of being anointed with oil; other acts of love He received were meals and lodging.
30. Jesus accepts the crowd honoring Him.
31. Jesus knows when His hour has come to die.
32. Jesus only speaks what the Father tells Him to say.
33. Jesus shows what love looks like by washing the disciples' feet: humility and being willing to be a servant.
34. Jesus lets people do what they've set their minds on doing.
35. Jesus cares about the disciples as a father cares for his small children.
36. Jesus gives hope to His disciples by telling them they will be with Him again after He leaves.
37. Jesus offers a relationship with Him like the one He's had with His Father; then we can ask in His name, and He'll do it.
38. Jesus loves the Father by doing what the Father says to do and when He says to do it.
39. Jesus says that we show love by obeying, just as He obeys the Father to the point of death; the Spirit will be coming to help where we need His help.
40. Jesus shares with His friends (disciples) what He had learned from the Father.
41. Jesus knows the world hates Him but isn't bothered by it; the world's hatred is offset by the Father's love.
42. Jesus prepares His friends for what is to come and gives them the example of giving honor to another.
43. Jesus stops speaking with figures of speech and begins to speak clearly.
44. Jesus accepts His Son status and only does what the Father tells Him to do.
45. Jesus so loves His friends that even as He is getting ready to face going to the cross, He concentrates on them.
46. Jesus sets the standard for unity among believers through His relationship with the Father.
47. Jesus goes out to meet His attackers/accusers so He can keep His friends safe.
48. Jesus keeps Himself at the center of the discussion so He can protect His disciples; He keeps the main thing the main thing.
49. Jesus knows His kingdom is about truth.

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50. Jesus knows His power is from above and has been granted to Him so doesn't fight the process; He keeps His head and speaks the truth.
51. Jesus is so aware of what is happening and why that He can look out for His mother in the midst of His pain.
52. Jesus stays the course until the end.
53. Jesus chooses whom to appear to and when to appear to them.
54. Jesus comes to the disciples in their fears and speaks of peace and forgiveness.
55. Jesus tells Thomas to choose to stop doubting and believe instead.
56. Jesus refers again to the disciples as friends and feeds them and talks with them.
57. Jesus' last words are "Don't worry about what I do with another believer, just follow me."

So many observations about how Jesus lived here on earth. How would you describe how Jesus acted in the following areas of life?

Jesus and His Father	
Jesus and His disciples	
Those to listened to Him when He taught and those he healed	
The religious leaders	

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What are your conclusions?



A large, faded background image of a man and a woman walking together in a field, overlaid with horizontal lines for writing.

I've included mine in *Another Walk With the Father* in John's first letter (1 John 2:3-6) that you can find at www.WalksWithTheFather.com.

As you walk with the Father, may your life look like Jesus' while He was here on earth.