



monthlyTHREAD

January 2017

"I'm happiest on your fridge."



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## Spiritual Talk Series

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

grace & truth

Spiritual Talk Series - January 8-April 23, 2017

The fourth gospel, written by John, the beloved disciple, is different from the other three gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke, the synoptic gospels, include many of the same stories, often word-for-word. They arrange the material a little differently, but each seeks to tell the historical account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. John is not trying to give another historical account, though he uses many stories from Jesus' life. He's not compiling all of Jesus' sayings and stories, though he presents Jesus' teachings in a clear and straightforward manner. He's not cataloguing all of Jesus' miraculous actions, though he does include seven miraculous signs that Jesus performed.

John is not just telling a story – he is building a meticulous case. His gospel is a testimony to who Jesus is – filled with legal language of witness and authority, clear statements of identity and powerful signs legitimizing his claims.

John's gospel is also filled with eyewitness details and littered with the personal testimonies of those who have encountered this Jesus and been transformed (John the baptist, the disciples, Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, man healed at the pool, woman caught in adultery, man born blind, Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Malchus, the high priest's servant, Caiphus and Pilate). All of this to state one bold claim: Jesus is the Messiah, come that we might have life. John saw and heard all of this as a first-hand witness. His feet followed Jesus down dusty roads and were washed by the humble Lord. His hands passed out bread to thousands and dipped bread in the cup while reclining next to Jesus at the table. His ears heard the high priest's accusations in the courtyard and the crucified man's last words from the cross. His eyes saw Lazarus come out of the tomb wrapped in linen and peered into another empty tomb strewn with unbound linen cloths. In reading John's gospel presentation, we, like a member of the jury, must decide what we will do with this testimony.

Follow along with the reading plan. Bookmarks are available in the Front Porch. Spiritual Talk recordings are available online at [www.threadschurch.org](http://www.threadschurch.org).

Happy 2017! The New Year is commonly a time for establishing new habits and rhythms. How will you go deeper with God and others?

### MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

One of our shared practices at Threads is the practice of *Community*. Biblical community is three-dimensional - balancing our relationship with God, our intentional relationships with other believers in the family of God, and our relationships with the world that we've been sent to in mission.



At Threads, the main place that people can live into this practice is in one of our missional communities. MCs are smaller communities on mission together, organized around a common focus while also intentionally building relationships with each other and with God in ways that can't happen effectively in the large group setting of Sunday morning Worship Gatherings.

If you're not connected with a missional community, we encourage you to prayerfully consider taking this step. Learn more on the back of this page.

### CPR GROUPS

Another level of intentional community at Threads are CPR groups. These smaller groups of 3-4 people commit to meeting regularly and speaking the gospel into the practical and particular nooks and crannies of each others' lives. We seek to root out the lies that we've been living out of and replace them with the truths of the gospel that set us free to experience life as it was intended.

We don't establish CPR groups for people, but if you are interested, we might be able to connect you to an existing group or provide a guide as you establish a group for yourself. If you are interested in joining a CPR group, you can talk to your MC leader or let us know on a CONNECTION Card on Sunday morning.

May 2017 be a year of connection and growth in community for all of us at Threads!



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## Missional Communities...

If you are interested in exploring life in missional community, look at the list of our current MCs and the description of their mission.

MCs are organized around a shared mission (though that is not all we do), so it's important to find a good fit. This doesn't mean that this particular mission is what you are most passionate about in the world (maybe you'll start a new MC later), but everyone in the MC needs to contribute towards and take ownership of the mission.

Once you've identified one or two MCs to check out, contact the MC leader and ask about joining the MC for a social time or mission opportunity in the near future so you can get to know the MC a little bit before making a commitment.

After going on mission together a few times, the leader of the group will talk with you more extensively about the Missional Community values, and you can determine together if it will be a good fit.

### MILWOOD CONNECTIONS MC

**Mission** – Building a stronger Milwood through block parties and special events as well as connecting community leaders, volunteers & businesses.  
Leader: Mark Meldrum  
(mmeldrum@SportTruckUSAInc.com; 269-998-1378)

### BREAKING BREAD MC

**Mission** – Bringing Shalom to the world around us by building relationships through sharing meals.  
Leader: Nicole Tionson  
(tionson@mac.com; 269-599-4163)

### MILWOOD MAGNET MC

**Mission** – Building relationships with staff, students and parents at Milwood Magnet school. (Gym Nights, Literacy Night, school beautification, etc.)  
Leader: Ben Manting & Bryan Johnson  
(ben.manting@gmail.com; 616-566-7764)

### GREENWOOD MC

**Mission** – Partnering with staff, students and parents to be a blessing to Greenwood Elementary  
Leader: Esther Bouwman  
(ebouwman@milwoodcommons.org; 269-327-0445)

### LOAVES & FISHES MC

**Mission** - Serving and building relationships with loaves and fishes pantry volunteers and clients.  
Leader: Rick Husted  
(rickhusted@gmail.com; 269-270-4799)

### ROOTS MC

**Mission** - To serve the community by building relationships between neighbors and God by growing and providing access to fresh foods in the Milwood Neighborhood.  
Leader: Jesse Mayes  
(stuff4jesse@gmail.com; 269.348.6422)

## FUEL (middle & high school students)

### Fuel Gatherings @ Threads Building (6pm - 8pm)

**January 15**

**February 5, 19**

**March 5, 19**

**April 2, 23**

**May 7**

**May 21 - End of year party**



Keep up to date on the latest happenings at [threadschurch.org/fuel](http://threadschurch.org/fuel).

Or, send your phone number to [fuel@threadschurch.org](mailto:fuel@threadschurch.org) to be added to text updates.

Questions? Contact Caleb VanderHill at [cvanderhill@threadschurch.org](mailto:cvanderhill@threadschurch.org) or 269.808.5545

## Next Starting Point - Jan. 22

Ready to take your next step at Threads?

- Learn about how Threads is living as a story-formed family on mission to our city.
- See how God is using Threads to advance His kingdom and how we can be active participants in His story.

We look forward to meeting you at the next Starting Point. We'll meet right after the Worship Gathering for about 20 minutes.

This is the next step to finding your place at Threads!

