



THE

B A S I C S

EXPLORING THE BOOK OF JOHN
10 MINUTES AT A TIME

**JOSHUA
GRIFFIN**



simply for students



YouthMinistry.com/TOGETHER

10 Minute Moments: The Basics

Exploring the Book of John 10 Minutes at a Time

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The Bible couldn't even contain all that Jesus did, and his story continues in you!

I'm excited to journey with you for the next 30 days!

As we read God's Word together, I challenge you to apply it to your life and journal some of your thoughts along the way. Just 10 minutes will change each day—and a whole bunch of those days strung together will change your life forever.

I'm most excited about this resource because I think it will help you grow significantly in understanding some of the basics of our faith. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, there are some great truths that we can apply to our lives. Here's what will happen as we study the book of John together:

If you're a new Christ-follower... you'll be introduced to who God is, what God has done, and how God's Spirit enables you to live a new life in him. You'll walk away with a fresh understanding about God from one of the clearest and most-read books of the Bible.

If you're looking for a refresher on the basics... this will help you if you've been away from church for a while or aren't a "church kid." This study will be a perfect way for you to get a renewed perspective on the fundamental beliefs and teachings of Jesus.

If you're a sold-out follower of Jesus... some of these passages will no doubt be familiar to you, but I hope to challenge you into a deeper understanding of all God has done for us and push you to be even more of a dedicated disciple.

Blessings as you study God's Word!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JG', with a stylized, flowing script.

Joshua Griffin



A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

When I was younger, my family toured one of the largest caves in the United States. About halfway through the cave, the tour guide told us to stop and proceeded to turn off all of the lights. It was pitch black—so dark you literally couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I know this because I tried!

After a few moments, the tour guide shone a small flashlight and pierced the darkness, much to the relief of our group. I can only imagine what it would have been like to try to complete our tour without the light. Even that small little flashlight made a world of difference!



Scripture to read: John 1:1-5

*In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He existed in the beginning with God.
God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.
The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

5 MINUTES

Questions to think about

- This passage says that God never had a beginning—that God always was. Do you have confidence in knowing that God has a great plan for your life? Why or why not?
- Has there ever been a time when you experienced complete darkness? How did it make you feel?
- Is there some area in your life that you are resisting in giving over to the Lord? Are you struggling with trusting the Lord completely?

How difficult would it be to navigate a world without light? The light of Jesus Christ will never go out because it lives inside of us. As followers of Jesus, once we accept him as our Savior, we have a light that can never be distinguished. Shine bright this week to your friends!

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

Go into the darkest place in your house and experience darkness for a few moments. Then open the door and be thankful for the light! Celebrate that God's light has pierced the darkness, and commit to shine the light of Jesus to others today.

YOUR TURN

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment:



PICTURE THIS

I had the privilege of seeing one of the most famous paintings in the world in person: the Mona Lisa. It was incredible to see such a monumental work of art. But if I'm being completely honest, I don't think I appreciated it as much as I was supposed to. To me, it looked like an average painting of a woman who wasn't very happy in the first place! Obviously, I failed to understand (and still do) the significance of the apparently groundbreaking piece of art by Leonardo da Vinci.

God has given us a beautiful piece of art called baptism, and it is important to understand its significance. This is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection! Baptism is a step of obedience and shows the world that you are a follower of Jesus.

2 MINUTES

Scripture to read: John 1:29-34

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one

on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

5 MINUTES

Questions to think about

- Have you ever been baptized? Why or why not?
- If you are a follower of Jesus, God's Spirit lives inside of you. How have you lived that like (or failed to live like that) so far this week?
- In other parts of the Bible, we are called God's masterpiece. How does this make you feel about the way you view yourself?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

Spend some time walking around the room you are in and looking at any artwork on the walls. (If the room doesn't have any artwork on the walls, find a room that does.) Why were those pieces chosen? Is there significance in those pictures, photographs, or paintings?

The Bible says that Jesus takes our sins away and that we are washed clean by Christ. Baptism is the symbol of an incredible moment where we go from a fallen and broken life, to a new life in him. It doesn't mean that we suddenly become perfect or that things are going to be easy! The best part about baptism is that when we choose Jesus, God gives us his Spirit to live inside of us and guide us through our lives.

Spend a little bit of time reflecting on this awesome gift of salvation. Celebrate the time in your life when you were baptized—or ask your parents or leader about a time when you, too, can be baptized!

YOUR TURN

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment:



MIRACLE MAN

The Bible records all sorts of miracles that Jesus did during his earthly ministry. He healed the blind, fed thousands of people with a single lunch, told people to stand when their legs were lame, and healed incurable diseases, such as leprosy. Needless to say, Jesus performed some pretty incredible miracles. This story is about his very first one!

2 MINUTES

Scripture to read: John 2:6-11

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

5 MINUTES

Questions to think about

- Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle or any other miracle?
- Do you ever have doubts in your faith? Can you imagine what the disciples must have felt when they saw Jesus performing miracles like this one?
- What kind of miracle do you need from Jesus in your life?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

Obedience is key to your walk with Christ. You need to trust what he says, even when it doesn't make sense. Ask anyone who has followed Jesus for any amount of time: God doesn't always make sense. But you can trust him! God has an eternal scope that is far beyond yours, an understanding of his will and plan that we can't fathom. Take the few remaining moments today and talk to God about trusting him with a few areas where you're having trouble understanding what he is up to right now.

YOUR TURN

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment:

WANT TO BUILD A LASTING LIFE OF FAITH? START WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION!

Whether you're a new follower of Jesus or you've been a Christ-follower for years, *10-Minute Moments: The Basics* will help you in your spiritual journey. The truths in this book aren't called "basic" because they're childish or simplistic; they're "basic" because they're foundational and essential to leading a life that honors God.

You'll discover a fresh understanding about God from the Gospel of John, one of the clearest and most-read books of the Bible. You'll explore the fundamental beliefs and teachings of Jesus, and you'll encounter a deeper of everything God has done for you. Each day's reading only takes about 10 minutes—a great step toward building a personal habit of daily time with God.

Joshua Griffin wrote *10-Minute Moments: The Basics* because he's a youth pastor who loves to see teenagers grow in their faith, and he's excited to see how God can use these 30 devotionals to change, challenge, and transform you!



Joshua Griffin is the high school pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. While he's given up on his dreams of winning American Idol and running seven marathons in seven days, he remains committed to the dream of seeing teenagers passionately live out their faith.

 **simply youth ministry**
helping youth workers with what matters most

**Group**

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