

Portraits of Jesus

Conversation with Nicodemus: John 3:1-21

I. Portraits of Jesus

The metropolitan museum of art says a portrait is an image of a person that communicates something about the “essence” of the person.

So in “portraits of Jesus” we are joining generations of people who are looking deeply at Jesus in these stories—we want to discern “*Who Is Jesus?*” What is his *essence*?”

“We tend, by a secret law of the soul, to move toward our mental image of God . . . if we would bring spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as he is.” A. W. Tozer.

“As someone said long ago, “It ain’t what we know that hurts us. It’s what we know that ain’t so.” All the things that we know about God that “ain’t so” destroy our lives, poison us, throw our lives out of kilter, and throw our bodies out of an appropriate relationship to reality,” Dallas Willard.

II. Today’s Lesson: Born into God’s Kingdom

Jesus is the King of a Kingdom he is bringing to earth.

As King he is

Savior of Mankind,

Son of Man and Son of God,

Light of the World.

He has come to save us by inviting us to a new and eternal life
in His good Kingdom, starting now.

III. John 3:1-8: New Life in the Kingdom of God

A. Born Again

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Ezekiel 37:1-10—Breath—*ru-ah*—In Hebrew, this can mean “breath, wind, or spirit!”

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12.

“I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God,” John 20:17.

B. Kingdom of God

“At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him,” Hebrews 2:8.

We invite the Kingdom of God:

- when we pray: “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”
- and as we trust and obey Jesus—willingly and lovingly living under his kingship—ordering our lives according to his goodness and extending his goodness into the world around us, setting things right.

“Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand,” Matthew 4:17.

“The kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” Luke 17:21.

IV. John 3:13-17: Son of Man.

Daniel 7:13-14

Isaiah 53:3-5

V. Son of God

VI. And what does this mean for us?

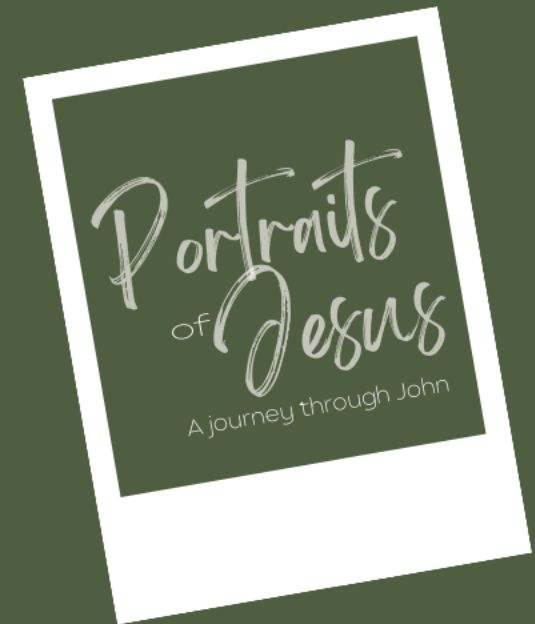
“The appropriate question is, ‘If you *don’t* die tonight what are you going to do tomorrow?’ And the answer should be, ‘I’m going to trust Jesus with all my life, with everything.’ And that will allow you to live in the Kingdom of God.” Dallas Willard.

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A journey through John

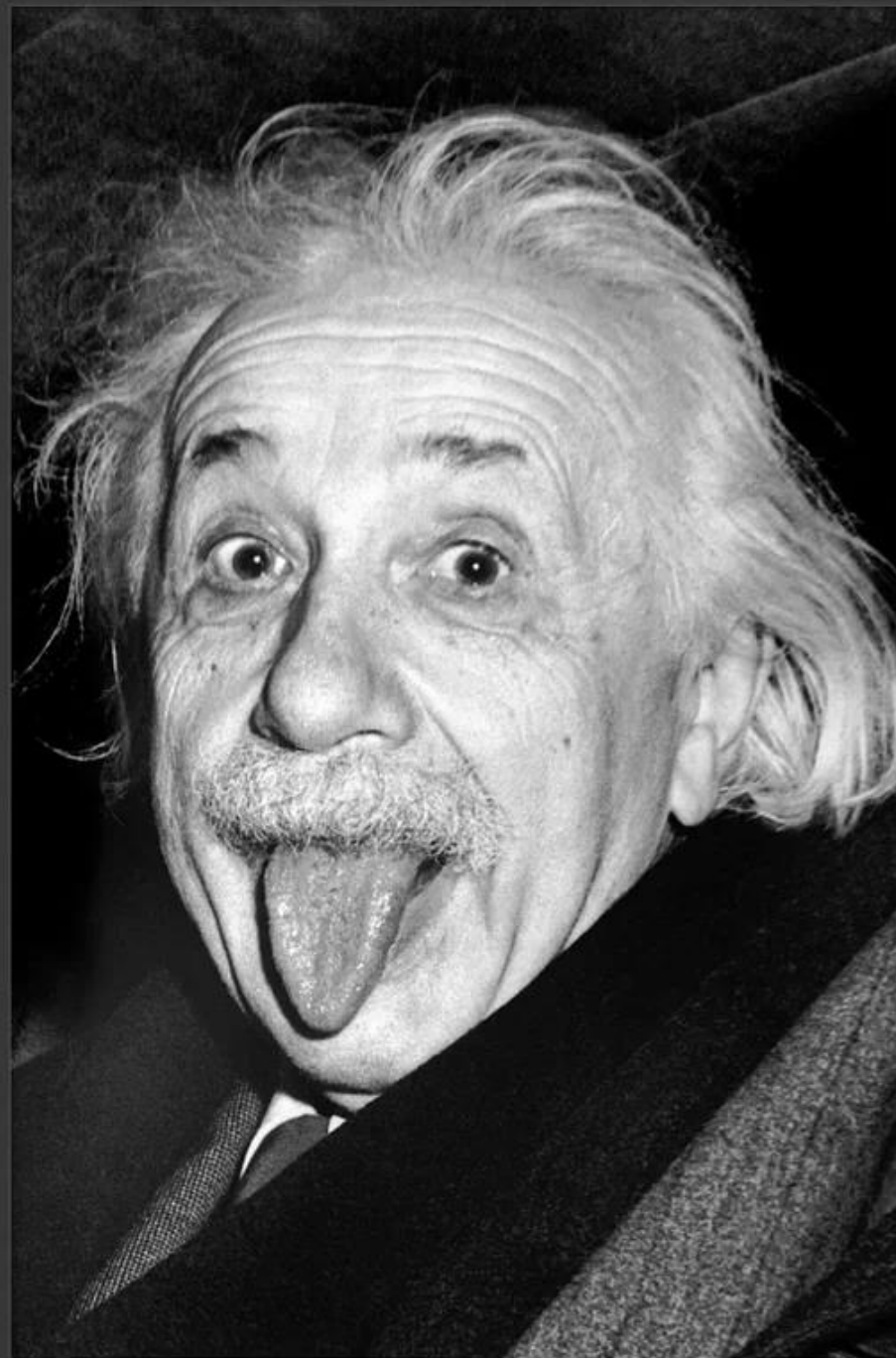


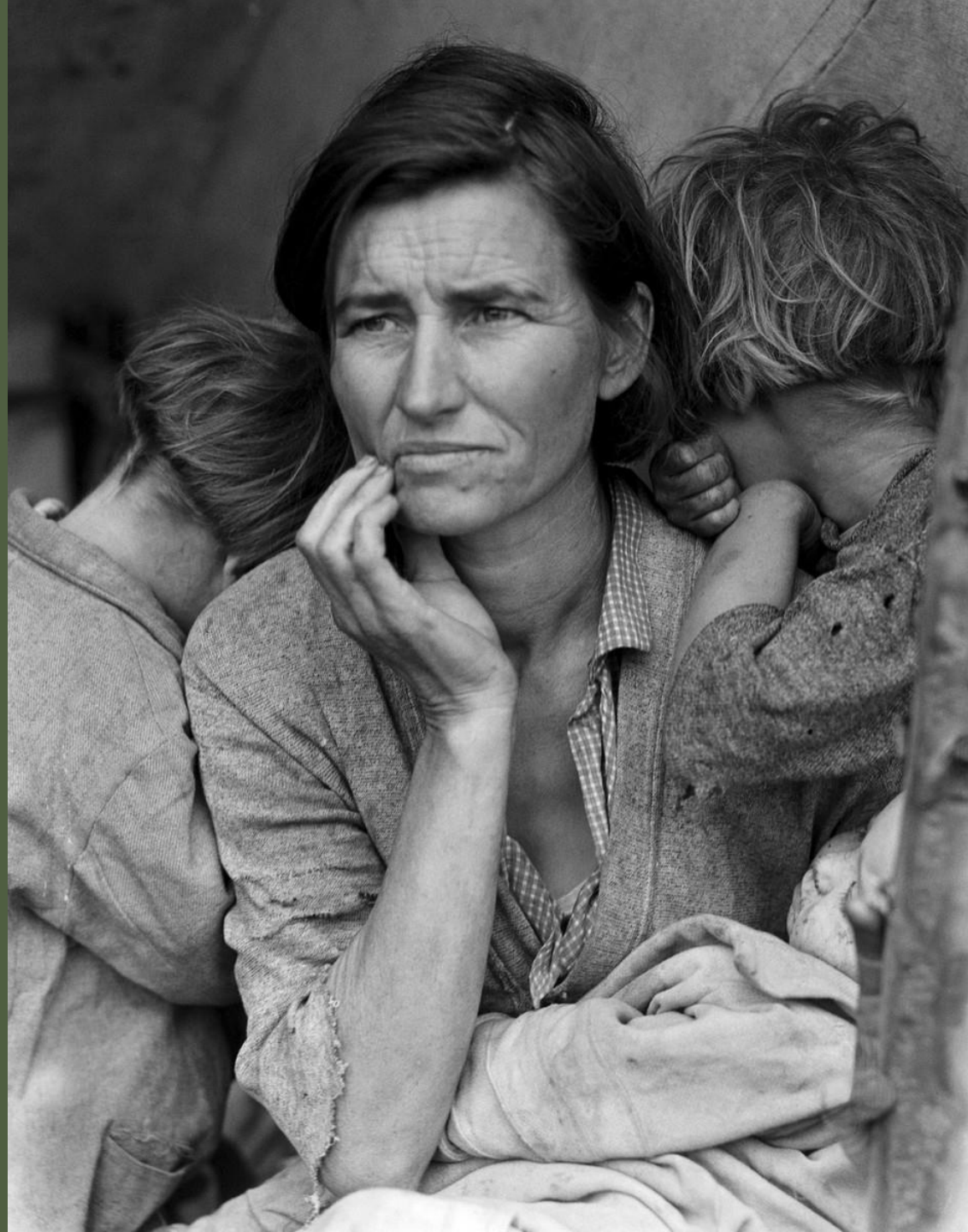
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Jesus' Conversation with
Nicodemus
John 3:1-21



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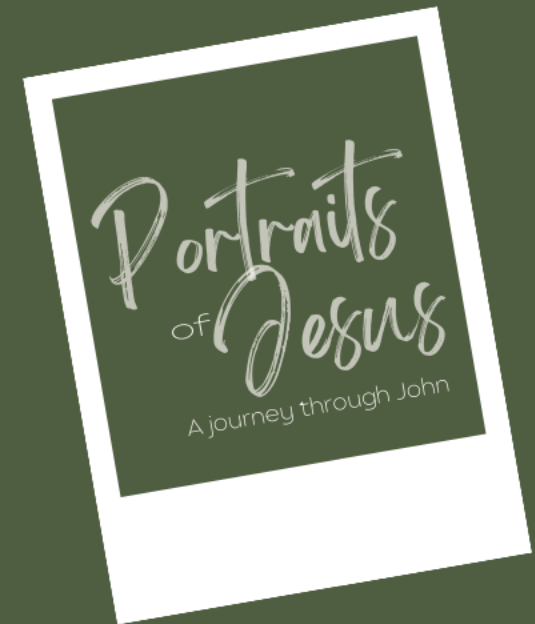
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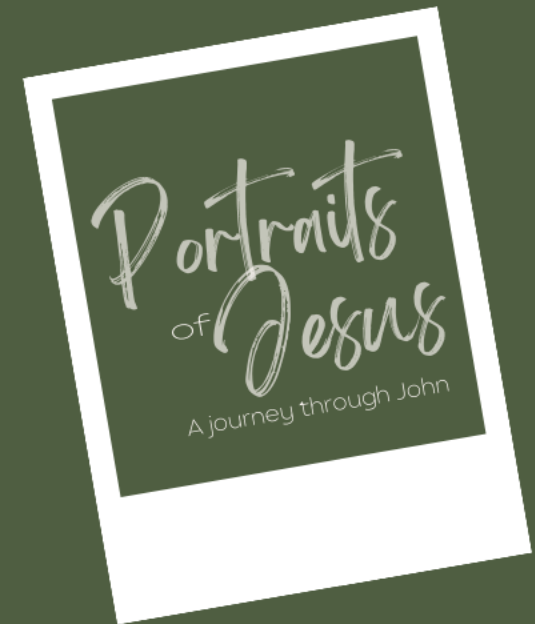
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“What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. . . (Because) we tend, by a secret law of the soul, to move toward our mental image of God.”

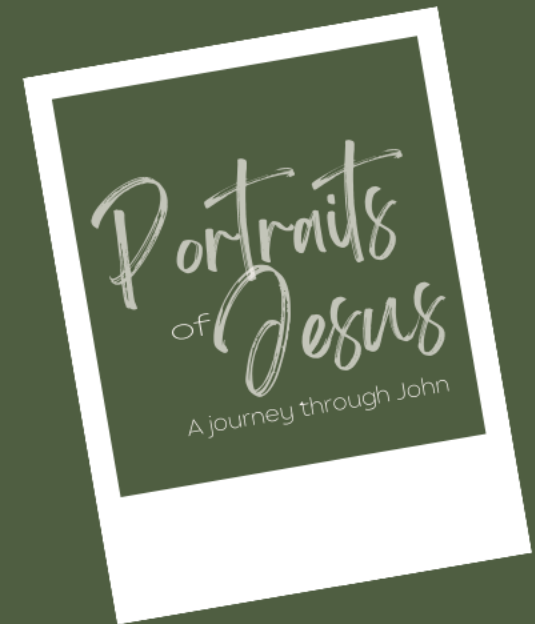
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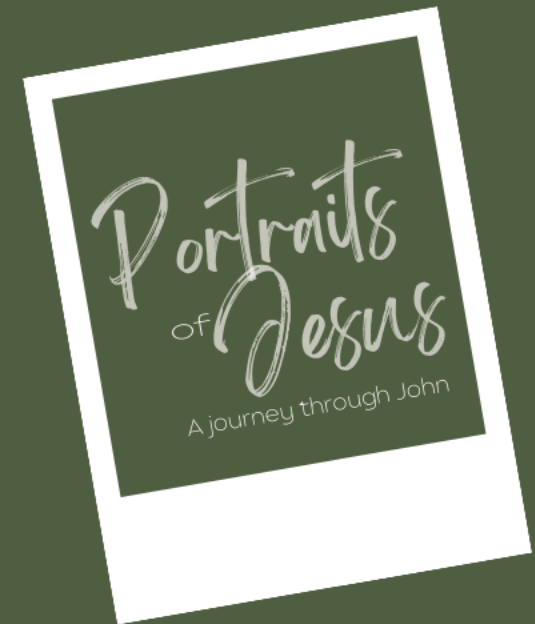
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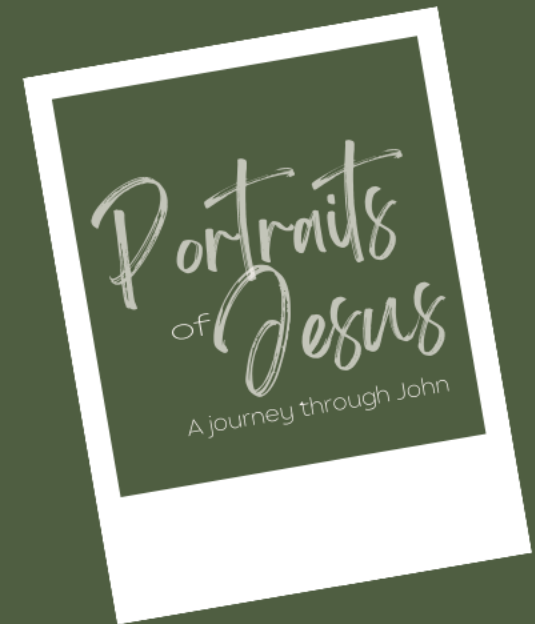
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“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” v. 3

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God,” v. 5

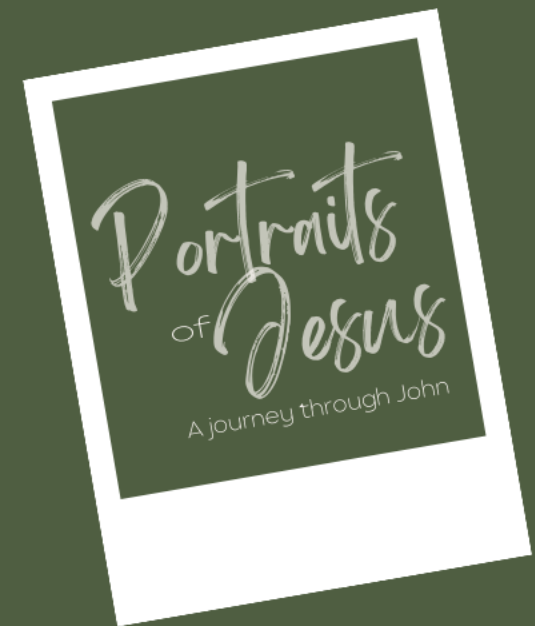


“ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” Ezekiel 36:25-27

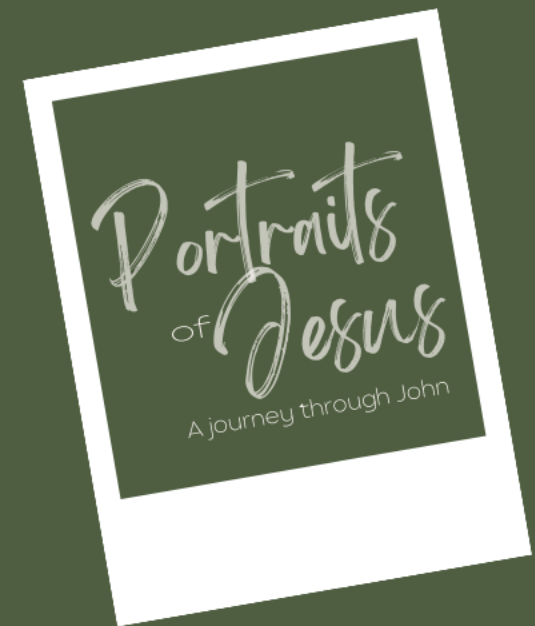


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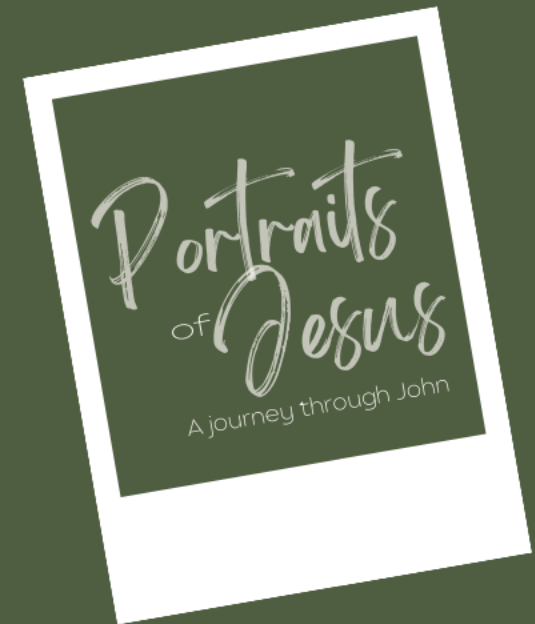
Ezekiel 37:1-10



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"I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven,
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days,
and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion,
and glory and a kingdom,
that all people's, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13-14

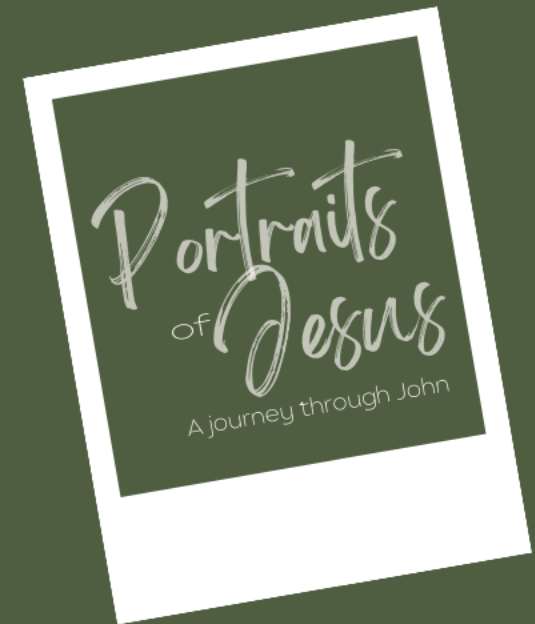


“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed,” Isaiah 53:3-5

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A journey through John

The image shows a Polaroid-style graphic for a book. The text 'Portraits of Jesus' is written in a large, elegant cursive font. Below it, 'A journey through John' is written in a smaller, simpler font. The entire graphic is set against a dark green background and framed by a white border.

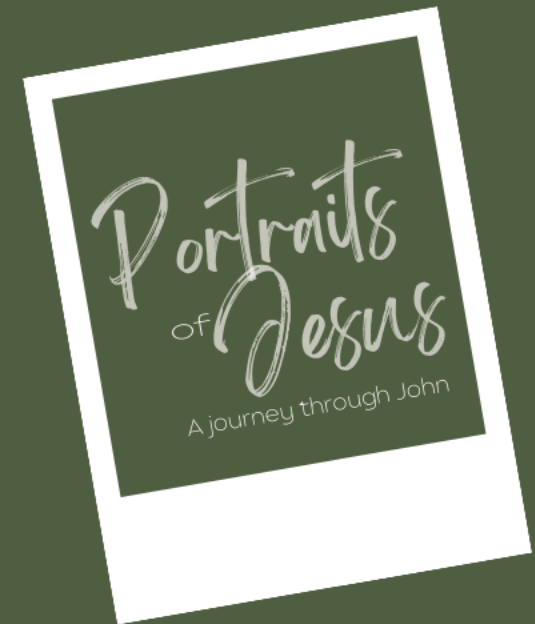
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him,” John 3:16.



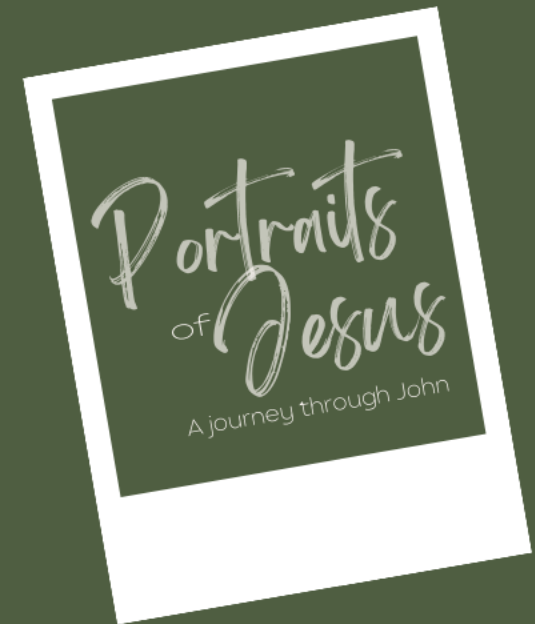
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“Not my will, but yours be done,”
Luke 22:42

