

Walking with a Friend through the Book of John

Handout: In Their Shoes

You've read our [Training Article](#) and are looking forward to approaching your friend about reading the Bible together.

If you're nervous, that's okay. Remember, though, this isn't performative. You are just opening the Bible together and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through his own words. He is able.

Maybe it's been awhile since you read the Bible with someone who was new to it. In this handout, we want to invite you to put yourself in their shoes. Not assumptively, but empathetically.

- 1. Read John 2:1-12.**
- 2. Reread it prayerfully, letting go for a moment (as best you can) of all of the teachings and studies you have experienced about this passage.**
- 3. Then consider, what would it be like to read it without that context?**
 - **What would seem familiar, if anything?**
 - **What would seem striking or surprising?**
 - **What questions would jump out at you?**
 - **What might be confusing?**
- 4. If you have more time, you can also walk through the 5 Questions.**
Remember, read it with fresh eyes:
 - 1) What is happening here in this story?
 - 2) What is the need being expressed or problem being depicted?
 - 3) What is Jesus offering?
 - 4) How do people respond to him?
 - 5) How should we respond to Jesus?

Remember, when we come to Scripture with our friend, we do not need to be experts or download all of the minutiae of our knowledge onto our friend. We can simply be like Philip speaking to his friend Nathaniel in John 1:46: "Come and see."