



J Gospel of **JOHN**

AN 8-SESSION BIBLE STUDY
to Help You Live What You Believe

This booklet belongs to

ROAD MAP

This has been designed as an 8-week group Bible study journey.
So, let's begin with a few rules of the road:

1. Begin and end your meeting with prayer.
2. Be gentle and respectful of one another. (1 Peter 3:15)
3. Keep private things private. Don't gossip or start rumors.
4. Do what God tells you to do. (John 2:5)
5. Keep in touch throughout the week with members of your group.

Some of my Group Contacts

Name	E-mail	Phone	Notes
Group Leader			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
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INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Key Verse:

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

Author: **John** was a son of Zebedee, the fisherman. Brother of James, Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder." (Mk 3:17) John and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist, then changed their allegiance to follow Jesus instead (Jn 1:40). John was invited to see Jesus transfigured on what is believed to be Mt. Tabor, along with his brother James and Peter. He wrote of himself in the third person and humbly called himself the disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn 13:23, 19:26, 21:7, 21:20).

Gospel = Good News from God

John's version of the gospel story was written decades after Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and is not necessarily a chronological account of events. Rather, it was written to offer apologetic examples of Jesus's claims and actions that logically prove that Jesus met the qualifications of the Messiah (Christ), who was prophesied about in the Old Testament.

Apologetics is a logical explanation and defends why you believe.

Individuals served by Jesus

An intellectual teacher/leader (3:1-21)
 A thirsty woman (4:1-42)
 A paralytic (5:1-15)
 A blind man (9:1-41)
 A doubting man (20:24-29)
 A disciple needing restoration (21:15-19)

Jesus' Miracles recorded by John

Turning water into wine (2:1-11)
 Healing the official's son (4:43-54)
 Healing the paralytic (5:1-15)
 Feeding the 5,000 (6:1-13)
 Healing the blind man (9:1-41)
 Raising of Lazarus (11:1-44)
 Jesus' resurrection (20:1-31)
 Miraculous catch of fish (21:5-6, 11)

Themes: John is the gospel of Life, Light, Love, and Believing. Jesus is the source and the object of all of them.

Session 1. GOD CAME TO LIVE WITH US

Read: John 1:1-46

Memory Verse:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14, NIV)

The Apostle John, who was used by God to write this story of Jesus, addressed the Greek mind using their term, **Logos**, which is translated into English as “**The Word**.” It means God’s expressed mind and will. The man Jesus is that expression.



1. What relationship does Jesus have (see v. 1-5)

- with **time**:
- with **God**:
- with **all creation**:
- with **mankind**:
- with **darkness**: (sin & ignorance):

2. Why didn't the world recognize him, nor the Jews receive him? (v. 10-11)

3. What is the benefit for those who receive Jesus and believe in his name?

God in the Flesh

In in the late 1st Century, there was a heresy that Jesus came only as a spirit, like an angel. The Apostle John knew better. He lived with Jesus for over 3 years. Jesus lived a perfect sinless life as a man. But, when John looked at Jesus, he saw God.

Read verses 14 and 18 (and Hebrews 1:1-3).

Another John

4. What was the mission of John the Baptist? (v. 6-8)
5. What were John the Baptist's credentials? (v. 23, Isaiah 40:3-5)
6. What was John's testimony? (v. 26-34)

Jesus' First Disciples

7. What is the significance of Jesus being called "the Lamb of God?"
(v. 29, 35; See also Genesis 22:1-8, Exodus 12:2-11, Isaiah 53:5-7)
8. What did the disciples do when they heard John's testimony? (v.37)
9. What is the proper response for disciples who spend time with Jesus?
(v. 41 and 45-46)

Session 2. ENLIGHTENED BY THE TEACHER

Read: John 3:1-21

Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16, NIV)

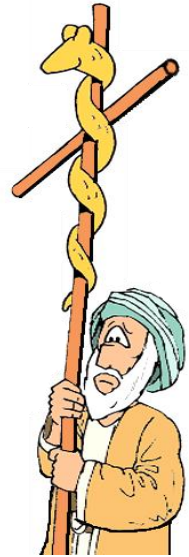
This passage introduces a teacher named Nicodemus. He was a superstar! His name means “Victory.” He belonged to the Pharisee party of the Sanhedrin (like parliament). He was smart, probably having a few PhDs. His title, “Israel’s Teacher” (Jn 3:10), meant “Supervisor of Schools.”

He must have been wealthy and popular, and yet, he was missing something... but he risked his reputation by meeting with Jesus, the ultimate teacher.



1. What did Nicodemus already know about Jesus and God? (v. 2)
2. What is the first thing Jesus told the man who seemed to have everything? (v. 3)

3. What did Nicodemus think “born again” meant? (v. 4) Why couldn’t he understand or believe beyond literal naturalism? (v. See 11-12, 1 Cor. 2:14)
4. What does “born again” mean? (v. 5-8)
5. How is Jesus uniquely qualified to speak of heavenly things? (v. 13)
6. **Read Numbers 21:6-9.** How hard was it for the Israelites to look up at the bronze snake? How was it like faith in Jesus?
7. **Recite John 3:16.** What is God’s motive for giving His Son, Jesus, as the source of eternal life?



Light or Darkness?

8. What does it mean to “perish?” Who will perish? (v. 18-20)
9. What does it mean to be saved? Who is the person who can save us? (Acts 4:12)
10. Are you saved? (v. 17, 21)

Session 3. THIRSTY TO WORSHIP

Read: John 4:1-42

Memory Verse:

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

(John 4:24, NIV)

Worship is rooted in the hearts of human beings and binds us into a fellowship with God and each other. We need to worship like we need to drink water.

The Samaritans were a mixture of colonists from conquering people who intermarried with the Jews in the land (2 Chron. 30:6, 10; 34:9). They also mixed their biblical practices with other religious rituals. So, instead of traveling to the temple in Jerusalem, they built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim and worshipped there. Because of their compromises, the Samaritans were hated by the Jews and expelled from Jewish life.

In spite of it all, Jesus went to the small town of Sychar to reconcile with the representative of the Samaritans. She was an outcast among outcasts and thirsty to worship.



1. Why did Jesus leave Judea (v. 1-4)? (See also John 2:23-25)
2. What was Jesus condition (v. 6)? What time was it when Jesus rested at the well?

3. Why did only one woman come to draw water at that time? (A well was an ancient Starbucks, a social gathering place.) What does this say about her?
4. Why was Jesus first question ironic? (See v. 7-10) How did she answer (v. 11-12)?
5. What is the difference between the well water and Jesus' living water (v. 13-15)?
6. Now that she felt safe, what wound did Jesus begin to attend to (v. 16-18)?
Would you trust Jesus to operate on your tender areas?
7. What does she now believe about Jesus (v. 19)? What is the most important question on her mind (v. 20)?
8. What do you learn about worship from Jesus' teaching (v. 21-24)? Who alone is worthy of our worship (v. 25-26, 39-42)?
9. What do you idolize and worship beside God:
 - A man or woman
 - A singer, musician or movie star
 - A sports team or player
 - A political party or philosophy
 - Other: _____



“You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods ... for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God...” (Deut. 6:13-15, NASB)

Session 4. THE BREAD OF LIFE

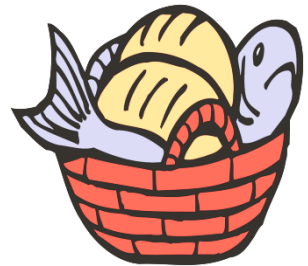
Read: John 6:1-69

Memory Verse:

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:27, NIV)

Jesus moved on to minister in Galilee. There, He healed the many sick as He taught about the Kingdom of God. At the same time, Jesus gave His disciples on-the-job training by sending them out on short missions trips (Mk 6:7-13). It was after one such mission trip that Jesus took them on a vacation (Mk 6:30-31).

John 6 continues the story. The focus is on the disciples’ continued training, on the crowd’s change in motive from true neediness to greediness, and Jesus’ divine identity as the Passover meal to satisfy humankind’s two appetites: physical and spiritual.



The Potential of a Disciple’s 5 Loaves and 2 Fish

1. What did Jesus ask Philip and why did He ask? (v. 5-6)
2. Compare Philip’s response to Andrew’s action. (v. 7-9) Which one did Jesus use?

3. How might participating in this miracle make you more like Jesus? (See Phil. 2:1-4)

Walking on Water

Jesus turned water to wine. He healed. He quenched thirst. He fed the hungry. Now, Jesus caught up with His disciple's boat walking on water (v. 16-21).

4. How does the record of Jesus walking on water help to believe in Him?

Jesus, the Bread of Life

5. When the crowd found Jesus again, what did Jesus say that unmasked their changed motive for coming to Him? (v. 15, 26)

6. How does Jesus define food and work? (v. 27, 29, see also Matt. 6:33)

Think about Jesus' symbolic references to His flesh and blood (v. 53-59) based on the Passover festival (Ex. 12) and manna (Ex. 16) and the communion that Christians would practice in remembrance of Him (Lk 22:19-20).

7. Why was this a "hard teaching" that caused many to turn away? (v. 60, 66)
8. Why didn't Peter leave also? (v. 67-69) Will you leave when things get hard?

Session 5. I WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE

Read: John 9:1-41

Memory Verse:

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” (John 9:39)

In John 8, Jesus proclaimed that He is the Son of God and the Light of the World (Jn. 8:12-14, 9:5), the only solution against the darkness of sin and ignorance. Nevertheless, Jesus’ popularity was a threat to the authority of the religious and government leaders. After all Jesus had said and done, they planned to have Him killed (v. 8:40, 59).

In contrast, John Chapter 9 introduces us to a man who had been born blind. Think about the added difficulties the man had while growing up. How had the sighted children treated him? Did he fit in at baseball or football games? What kinds of worries might his parents have had about his future? Do you think this blind beggar liked living in the dark? Enter Jesus, the light of this man’s world!

So that the Works of God Might Be Displayed

1. What were the disciples’ assumptions about God, sin, and suffering? (v. 2)
2. What was Jesus answer? (v. 3)



3. What did Jesus do to the man and what was His specific instruction? (v. 6-7a)
4. When the man obeyed, what was the result? (v. 7b)

The Progression of Testimony and Faith

5. Describe the man's interaction with the neighbors. (v. 8-12)
Did the man embellish his story or did he stick to the facts?
6. Describe the man's first experience with the Pharisees. (v. 13-17)
What did the man now believe about Jesus? (v. 17b)
7. Describe the Pharisees' interrogation of the parents. (v. 18-22)
Why were they afraid to acknowledge Jesus?
8. During his second interrogation, how did the man's faith grow? (v. 25, 27, 30-33)
What is the one thing you know?
9. Describe the man's response to seeing Jesus. (v. 35-38)
10. What does Jesus mean in verse 39?

Session 6. TIME TO WAKE UP



Read: John 11:1-43

Memory Verse:

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

In one particular family, there was a brother and two sisters. It is believed that Jesus would stay at their house in the Jerusalem suburb of Bethany, when He visited Judea. (Lk 10:38-42, Jn 12:1-3)

While Jesus was away ministering across the Jordan River, something happened to His friend Lazarus. Perhaps it started as a cough or maybe a skin rash. Lazarus was a typical guy and figured that he could just ignore the problem and it would go away. But, it didn't go away, and Lazarus grew worse. It was the sisters who sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick” (Jn 11:1-3, 5).

So That You May Believe (v. 1-16)

1. Why did Jesus delay when He heard of Lazarus' illness? (v. 4-5, 15)
What does this teach us about praying and seeking God's will?
2. What is Jesus' view of death? (v. 11; see also Matt 9:24, Acts 7:60, 1 Cor 15:6)

Faith & Compassion (v. 17-37)

3. What was the environment that Jesus found in Bethany? (v. 17-18)
4. How did the sisters express their fatalistic doubts to Jesus? (v. 21-24, 32, 37)
5. How did Jesus share in the pain? (v. 35-36, Romans 12:15, Matt. 5:4)
6. How did Jesus' presence and word begin to change the environment from doubt to faith? (v. 38-41) Think about how you might be an environment-maker.

The Glory of God (v. 43-52)

7. What was Jesus' command and what was the result? (v.43-44)
8. What future events do the raising of Lazarus point to?
9. Why did witnesses of the same miracle respond in different ways? (v. 45-53)
10. What does Jesus want us to learn? (v. 25-26)



Session 7. SERVANT-LEADERS WASH FEET

Read: John 13:1-38

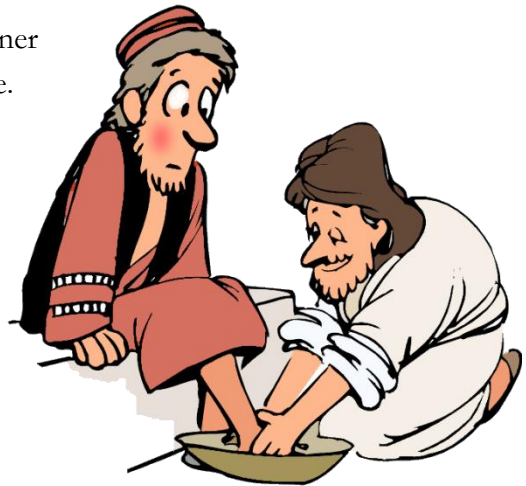
Memory Verse:

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also should wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)*

So many things happened in such a short time. There was parade in the streets of Jerusalem and crowds shouted “Hosanna!” The disciples enjoyed the popularity. They had plans to be leaders in Jesus’ coming kingdom.

They gathered at the Passover holiday dinner and looked forward to being served at the table. But there was a bad odor that they had not noticed; and it was coming from them.

Be thinking about how the characters of Jesus, Peter, and Judas Iscariot compare.



Love, Humility & Service (v. 1-17)

1. What did Jesus know about Judas? (v. 2)
What motivated Judas?
2. What did Jesus know about himself? (v. 1, 3) What motivated Jesus? (Jn 14:21-23; 15:9-10, 13; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 13:4-7, Jn 13:34-35)

3. Break down each step of Jesus' action described in verses 4 and 5.

When having honored guests at one's home for a meal, the lowliest slave in the house would have greeted each guest at the door, untied and removed their sandals, washed the soil off their feet, then dry them. Yet, here was the Lord, the most honored guest, looking like and carrying out the task of the lowliest slave. See how John the Baptist referred to himself. (Jn 1:26-27)

4. What was Peter's reaction? (v. 6, 8a, 9) What was Peter's problem?
5. Look at Jesus statement in v. 8, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." This was a serious matter! What was Jesus alluding to beyond foot washing?
6. What is the point of the foot washing? (13-17) What should we do? (1 Jn 3:16, Phil 2:5-11)

Pretention & Presumption (v. 18-38)

7. Think about how Judas pretended to be a follower of Jesus, but Satan used him as a betrayer instead. How dangerous is it to only pretend to accept Jesus? (v. 27, 29)
8. Think about Peter's presumed commitment. (v. 37) What did Jesus know about Peter? (v. 38) What does He know about you?

Session 8. FEED MY SHEEP

Read: John 21:1-25

Memory Verse:

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”
(John 21:16)

So much happened: the upper room discourse ([Chap. 13-16](#)); high priestly prayer ([Chap. 17](#)); arrest and trials ([Chap. 18](#)); crucifixion, death and burial ([Chap. 19](#)); and Jesus’ resurrection and appearances ([Chap. 20](#)). Hallelujah! Jesus has overcome!

Nevertheless, these were challenging times for the disciples. For one, they were targets of manhunts because the Jewish leaders lied and said that the disciples had stolen Jesus’ body. Secondly, they were going through withdrawal. They were formerly with Jesus continuously for over 3 years. Now, Jesus would appear and then disappear. What should a disciple do while they wait for Jesus to come again?

Come & Have Breakfast (1-14)

1. What was Peter’s suggestion to 6 other disciples?
What was their result? ([v. 2-3](#))
2. What did the stranger on the shore tell them
and what was the result? ([v. 6](#))
3. Had something like this ever happened
before? ([See Luke 5:1-11](#))



While waiting on God, those who are called out (“church” means “the called out ones”) often return to the familiar, even if it is unfruitful (Eph. 5:10-12). For instance, the Israelites often went back to idolatry and threatened to go back to Egypt while waiting for Moses to consult with God.

4. How might the miraculous catch of fish be an example of evangelism?

Do You Love Me? (v. 15-23)

5. Why did Jesus ask Peter, “Do you love me?” 3 times?

6. **Read Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:11, & John 10:2-16.** List the qualities of a good shepherd?

7. What must those do who love Jesus and wait for Him to appear again?

8. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-6.** Did Peter get it? Do you get it?

This passage is about Jesus’ call for evangelism AND discipleship. It is not enough to bring people in to confess that Jesus is Lord and be baptized. He wants believers to hear and obey the whole *Great Commission*, stated in Matthew 28:19-20, “**teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.**”

Do you love Jesus? Will you learn to be a disciple-maker and walk at least one other person through this Gospel of John study?

TurnONtheLight-Bowie.org is a website produced locally for the churches in Bowie, Maryland, and the surrounding areas.

Register as a website contributor and share what you have learned from your Bible Study.

Read articles under the Lighthouse and Resource menus to help you better understand biblical concepts.

We list our local events, which includes the 2014 season of the Bowie Prayer Walk.

Other Group Bible Study materials are available for you from our Download page.

