

GOSPEL OF JOHN INTRODUCTION

WHY ARE THERE FOUR GOSPELS?

While all the Gospels bring the Good News that Jesus is the promised Savior, Son of God, sent by God to redeem the world; God inspired each author to reveal the life and ministry of Jesus with differing emphases:

Matthew = Jesus is King and Lord

Mark = Jesus is the suffering Servant

Luke = Jesus is the Son of Man

John = Jesus is the Son of God

WHY IS JOHN'S GOSPEL UNIQUE?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the "synoptic" gospels and share much in common. John is written quite differently. From his opening words, John centers his gospel on Jesus, who "was God" and was "with God in the beginning" (John 1:1-2) and who came in flesh to live and to redeem the world through His death and resurrection. John chapter one is a beautiful blend of poetry and theology which sets the stage for the whole book as He shows Jesus' place in God's Story from the beginning of Creation to the redemption of the whole world.

As we read, we cannot help but ask ourselves, "who is this 'Word made flesh'?" Prepare yourself for the grand adventure of discovering the answer!

ENCOUNTER JESUS

In chapter twenty John reveals his purpose for writing this gospel, "**but these are written so 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). John wants us to meet Jesus, to know Jesus and to find life in Jesus.

The purpose of this book is to give you an opportunity to engage with the living Word of God found in John's gospel so that you may discover Jesus.

PRO TIP: For a really cool overview of the Gospel of John, check out these videos, "John Part 1" and "John Part 2" on RightNowMedia. These are part of the Read Scripture Series from the Bible Project. **If you don't have access to RightNowMedia, visit whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia to sign up for free access.**

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY BOOK

DAILY BREAKDOWN

For five days each week, you will find an assigned passage from John:

PRAY: Thank God for His Word and ask for His Spirit to give you understanding.

READ: Meditate on the Word as you read it through two or three times.

ASK: What do these words teach me about Jesus?

PRAY: Use a portion of the assigned reading to lead you to respond to God. What is He speaking to you today? Thank God, praise God, confess your sin, ask for Him to transform you to be more like Jesus.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Day six each week gives you an opportunity to “hide God’s Word in your heart” by practicing the discipline of Scripture memorization.

FOUR THEMES

Day six also gives you time to review what you have read throughout the week and reflect on what you learned about four themes from John’s gospel: TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE, and PURPOSE. In the back of this book there is space for you to write your observations.

WEEKLY BONUS CONTENT

At the end of each week, you will find a page detailing a unique aspect of the Gospel of John. Feel free to simply read it over, or let it influence your study for that week.

USE YOUR BIBLE

Daily verses are purposely omitted from this book, so you are able to be in the word, whether paper or digital. Be sure to have your Bible handy. If you prefer an electronic/app version, we recommend:

BIBLE.COM (YouVersion)

ESV.ORG (ESV Study Bible)

MONDAY: DAY 1

JOHN 1:1-51

TUESDAY: **DAY 2**

JOHN 2:1-25

WEDNESDAY: **DAY 3**

JOHN 3:1-36

THURSDAY: **DAY 4**

JOHN 4:1-54

FRIDAY: DAY 5

JOHN 5:1-47

THE WEEKEND

MEMORIZE JOHN 5:24

*“Truly, truly,
I say to you,
whoever hears my word
and believes him who sent me
has **eternal life**.
He does not come
into judgment,
but has passed
from **death to life**”.*

Review what you've learned this week. What do these passages say about TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE and PURPOSE? Record your observations on the theme pages at the end of this book.

LOGOS WORD STUDY

WEEK ONE BONUS CONTENT

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.** - John 1:1

From these first words, John leaves us in no doubt that his gospel points all people, everywhere, to Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the whole world.

The first four verses of chapter 1 echo the first verses of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. In the beginning, God spoke and the world was created. In John's gospel we learn that Jesus is the Word and that "all things were made through Him."

In Greek, the Word = logos (λόγος)

It is significant that Jesus is called the logos. Ancient Greek philosophy was focused on answering the questions, "what is ultimate reality? What is ultimate truth?" In their quest, the term for this ultimate reality, or truth, was logos. The logos came to be understood as that which gave life and meaning to the universe. While their search was aimed at discovering a force, rather than a man, John clearly answers their questions in the incarnation of Jesus- "the Word became flesh."

Jesus is the logos. In Him we find ultimate reality and truth. And even more, we find a personal relationship with the One who created us for a purpose, loves us beyond all measure, and holds the keys to abundant life now and forever. **"I am the way and the truth and the life,"** He declares (John 14:6), and He invites each of us to follow Him.

MONDAY: DAY 8

JOHN 6:1-71

TUESDAY: **DAY 9**

JOHN 7:1-53

WEDNESDAY: **DAY 10**

JOHN 8:1-59

THURSDAY: **DAY 11**

JOHN 9:1-41

FRIDAY: **DAY 12**

JOHN 10:1-42

THE WEEKEND

MEMORIZE JOHN 8:31-32

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and *the truth will set you free.*”

Review what you've learned this week. What do these passages say about TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE and PURPOSE? Record your observations on the theme pages at the end of this book.

7 SIGNS + 1

WEEK TWO BONUS CONTENT

In chapter twenty, John reveals his purpose for writing this gospel, **“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so 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 20:30-31). By “signs,” John is referring to significant displays of God’s power through His Son Jesus. We often refer to them as “miracles” and that’s the word used in the other gospels. John, however, intentionally records just 7 of these signs because they bear witness not only to God’s power, but also to deeper realities of faith.

Ask yourself as you read, “what does this ‘sign’ reveal to me about who Jesus Christ is?”

Changing water to wine (2:1-11)

Healing royal official’s son (4:46-54)

Healing paralyzed man at pool of Bethesda (5:1-15)

Feeding the 5,000 (6:5-14)

Walking on water (6:16-21)

Healing the man born blind (9:1-7)

Raising Lazarus (11:1-45)

The 8th and final “sign” in John’s gospel is the resurrection of Jesus (20:1-31). This is the climax of the story. All of the other signs point to the truth of Jesus Christ, who defeats death and offers salvation to all men.

MONDAY: DAY 15

JOHN 11:1-58

TUESDAY: DAY 16

JOHN 12:1-50

WEDNESDAY: **DAY 17**

JOHN 13:1-38

THURSDAY: **DAY 18**

JOHN 14:1-31

FRIDAY: DAY 19

JOHN 15:1-16:33

THE WEEKEND

MEMORIZE JOHN 13:34-35

“A new
commandment
I give to you,
that you *love one another*:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to
love one another.
*By this all people will
know that you are my
disciples*, if you have
love for one another.”

Review what you've learned this week. What do these passages say about TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE and PURPOSE? Record your observations on the theme pages at the end of this book.

OLD TESTAMENT FESTIVALS

WEEK THREE BONUS CONTENT

John structures his gospel around various aspects of the Jewish feasts and festivals. This is intentional. John is showing that Jesus is the heart and soul of each of these festivals. He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and promises for a Messiah.

PASSOVER (2:13-4:54; 6:1-71; 11:1-12:36): At Passover the Jewish people remembered how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). A key element of this celebration is a meal of unleavened bread, lamb, and wine. At the last supper (the Passover meal), Jesus declared that His body would be broken and His blood poured out, not only to rescue the Jewish people from slavery to sin, but so that the whole world could now be “passed over and receive salvation.

SABBATH (5:1-47): This is a day of rest, instituted by God from the beginning of creation (Genesis 2:2-4). The Pharisees turned it into a day what to do and what not to do. Jesus demonstrated that a real observation of the Sabbath day reflects a heart committed to God and His work.

TABERNACLES (7:1-10:21): The feast of Tabernacles (or booth) remembered the wandering of the Israelites in the wilderness after God rescues them from Egypt.

An important ritual of this festival was a water pouring ceremony that called the people to remember that God poured water out of a rock in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7) and that He will one day pour out His Spirit through the Messiah.

It is on this day of the festival that Jesus says **“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”**

DEDICATION (10:22-42): The festival, also called Hanukkah, celebrated the rededication of the Temple and Jewish patriotism. It also anticipated the coming of the Messiah. It is significant that he is asked “if you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” It is also significant to note that Jesus was not the Messiah the people were looking for. They wanted a conquering hero who would overthrow the political oppression of Rome. Instead, Jesus came to overthrow the slavery of their hearts to sin.

MONDAY: **DAY 22**

JOHN 17:1-26

TUESDAY: **DAY 23**

JOHN 18:1-40

WEDNESDAY: **DAY 24**

JOHN 19:1-42

THURSDAY: **DAY 25**

JOHN 20:1-31

FRIDAY: **DAY 26**

JOHN 21:1-25

THE WEEKEND

MEMORIZE JOHN 17:3

“And this is eternal life,
that they know you,
the *only true God*,
and Jesus Christ
whom you have sent.”

Review what you've learned this week. What do these passages say about TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE and PURPOSE? Record your observations on the theme pages at the end of this book.

7 "I AM" STATEMENTS

WEEK FOUR BONUS CONTENT

Perhaps the most important question that we can ask is, "who is Jesus?" The pursuit of an answer should begin with what He says about Himself. John's gospel contains seven passages where Jesus says, "I am." We should pay close attention to His words, for by them He is revealing Himself to us. Reflect on His statements and the meditations that follow:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (6:35),
He says after feeding the 5,000.

In Him we find all that our soul needs to live.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (8:12),
and then He heals a man born blind.

To truly see, as God sees, we must follow the light- Jesus.

I AM THE DOOR (10:9)
through which we find God.

He welcomes us. He defends us.

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (10:11),
as Psalm 23 described.

He cares for us and leads us. We are His.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE (11:25-26),
He says. And then He raises Lazarus to life.

In Him alone is eternal life because He defeated death.

I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE (14:6),
He says. And then He gives Himself as a sacrifice.

Follow Him. Listen to Him. Obey Him. Live for Him.

I AM THE TRUE VINE (15:1)
who will produce much fruit in the lives of many, many who believe.

By the work of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, we are filled with God's power to live and love as a child of God.

THEME: TRUTH

As you read through the book of John,
record your observations here.

Jesus said to him, "***I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.***"— John 14:6

THEME: LOVE

As you read through the book of John,
record your observations here.

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” - John 13:34-35*

THEME: LIFE

As you read through the book of John,
record your observations here.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes
in him should not perish but have *eternal life*.” – John 3:16

THEME: PURPOSE

As you read through the book of John,
record your observations here.

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**”*—John 15:5

