

Journey
Through
John

John: Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Key Verses: John 1:1, 14; John 3:16; John 20:30, 31

Outline:

Birth of the Word 1:1-18

(Prologue)

Exclamations of Witnesses 1:19-51

(John the Baptist, Andrew, John, Peter, Philip, Nathanael)

Life in Public 2-12

(Seven Signs)

Instructions for Disciples 13-17

(Upper Room Discourse)

Examinations and Crucifixion 18-19

(High Priest, Pilate, the Cross)

Verification of Resurrection 20

(The Risen Christ)

Epilogue 21

(Restoration of Peter)

Introduction to John

John means "God is gracious." John was the son of Zebedee and brother of James (Mark 1:19,20); he was surnamed with James as "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). John was an apostle and was one of the three closest to Jesus (Mark 9:2). His book portrays Jesus as the incarnate Word, the Son of God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit as Deity. John was written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

One feature of this Gospel is the occurrence of the number seven, which appears to relate to perfection and completion in the Scriptures (see Genesis 2:1-3). The seven "I ams" are familiar:

1. The bread of life (6:35)
2. The light of the world (8:12)
3. The door (10:7)
4. The good shepherd (10:11)
5. The resurrection and the life (11:25)
6. The way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
7. The vine (15:1)

Not so familiar are the occurrences of "I Am" as a simple statement, found in 4:26, 6:20, 8:24, 8:28, 8:58, 13:19, 18:5, 18:8 (the last one is a double one).

There are seven public miracles (performed before the resurrection) mentioned in this Gospel, each designed to show to men that Jesus is God:

1. The water into wine (2:9)
2. The healing of the nobleman's son (4:46-54)
3. The healing of the crippled man (5:2-9)
4. The feeding of the five thousand (6:1-14)
5. Jesus' walking on the sea (6:16-21)
6. The healing of the blind man (9:1-7)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)

The word *believe* is used over 100 times. *Eternal life* is used 35 times.

What Others Have Said About John

"The profoundest book in the world" -A.T. Robertson

"John specifically tells us that his book is evangelistic-'that you may believe' (20:31). For once the church has followed apostolic precedent: the millions of little pocket Gospels of John given out in the last century witness to that fact.

"But John is also one of the favorite Bible books-if not the very favorite-of mature and devout Christians. John does not merely give the facts of the life of our Lord, but long discourses and mature reflections of an apostle who has walked with Christ from (probably) late teenage years in Galilee to extreme old age in the Province of Asia. His Gospel contains the best known verse in the NT, what Martin Luther called 'the Gospel in a nutshell,' John 3:16.

"If John's Gospel were the only book in the NT, it would still afford enough meat (and milk) of the Word for a lifetime of study and meditation."

--William MacDonald



Chapter Acrostic

Jesus is the Word

Outstanding miracle at Cana

Heavenly birth taught Nicodemus

Need of Samaritan woman

Testimony to Jesus' deity

Holy bread of life

Exclamation at the feast

Grace for adulteress defended

Opposition to removing blindness

Shepherd and His sheep

Power to raise Lazarus

Enter into Jerusalem triumphant

Last supper and discourse

Offer of Holy Spirit

Fruit of the Vine

Believer's comfort and joy

Extended prayer of Christ

Lord's betrayal and denial

Illegal trials and crucifixion

Eyewitnesses to the resurrection

Final charge to Peter

John Chapter One: Jesus is the Word

1:1-18	Birth of the Word
1:1-5	The Word was God
1:6-13	Light
1:14-18	Grace and Truth
1:19-51	Exclamations of Witnesses
1:19-34	John the Baptist
1:35-42	Andrew and Peter
1:43-51	Philip and Nathanael

Verses 1:1-18 are a prologue that describes the Word, who was God, in whom was life and light, and through whom all things came into being. Those who receive Him become children of God. The Word became flesh; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Verses 1:19-34 tell about the witness of John the Baptist.

Verses 1:35-51 tell about the witness of Andrew, John, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael.

Questions

1. What does John say about the "Word" in the first five verses?
2. What is the function of light? (Verses 6-9)
3. How does one enter God's family according to verses 12 and 13?
4. How do you define "grace" and "truth"? (Verses 14-18)
5. What does John say about Jesus? (Verses 19-34)
6. How does Andrew describe Jesus? (Verses 35-42)
7. What does Nathanael say about Jesus? (Verses 43-51)

John Chapter Two: Outstanding Miracle at Cana

2:1-12 Water into Wine at the Wedding (First Miracle)

2:1-5 the Wedding

2:6-11 Water into Wine

2:12 Capernaum

2:13-25 Cleansing the Temple

2:13-17 the Temple

2:18-22 Answering the Challenge

2:23-25 Many Believed

The first miraculous sign occurred at a wedding in Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine. In verses 12-25 Jesus went to Capernaum and then to the temple in Jerusalem, where He made a scourge of cords, and drove out the moneychangers. He told the Jews, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Questions

1. What significant things took place during Christ's visit to the wedding? (Verses 1-11)
2. What does this miracle imply about Jesus?
3. What led Jesus to act the way He did when He cleared the Temple?
4. Why didn't anyone fight back?
5. What did Jesus mean by saying He would raise the Temple in three days?
6. What took place at the Passover Feast?
7. How would you describe your response to Jesus today? Questioning? Sympathetic?

John Chapter Three: Heavenly Birth Taught Nicodemus

3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus
3:1-8	Must be born again
3:9-15	Teaching the Teacher
3:16-21	The Love of God and the Cross of Christ
3:22-36	Jesus and John the Baptist
3:22-30	He must increase and I must decrease
3:31-36	Believe, eternal life; not believe, God's wrath

Jesus told Nicodemus about the new birth in verses 3:1-21. He said that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Verses 3:22-36 are about Jesus and John the Baptist.

Questions

1. What did Jesus say about a new birth in this conversation with Nicodemus?
2. What does it mean to be born again? (Ephesians 2:1-5)
3. How can you tell if someone is born again? (Verse 8)
4. How is the lifting up of Jesus like the lifting up of the serpent in the wilderness? (Numbers 21:4-9)
5. For what purpose did God the Father send Christ? Why?
6. In what ways did John's view of Jesus differ from Nicodemus' view?
7. If you could have a personal visit with Jesus tonight, what do you think He would say is your greatest need?
8. Why is it important to believe according to John the Baptist? (Verse 36)

John Chapter Four: Need of Samaritan Woman

4:1-42 The Samaritan Woman

4:43-54 Healing the Official's Son (Second Miracle)

In verses 4:1-42, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman, who later influenced other Samaritans. Verses 4:43-54 tell about Jesus' second miraculous sign, healing the official's son.

Questions

1. When talking to the Samaritan woman, what claims did Jesus make about "living water"? What did he mean by "living water"? (Isaiah 44:3, 4, John 7:37-39)
2. What did He mean by "thirst" in verse 14?
3. What did the Samaritan woman do to try to keep the conversation from getting too personal? (Verses 19, 20) How did Jesus handle her evasive tactic? (Verses 21-24)
4. Who did Jesus claim to be? (Verse 26)
5. What was Jesus' food? What did He mean by this?
6. Who are the reapers? (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
7. Who did the Samaritans declare Jesus to be?
8. What was the second sign Jesus performed?

John Chapter Five: Testimony to Jesus' Deity

5:1-18 Healing the Lame Man (Third Miracle)

5:19-47 Authority of the Son

Jesus' third sign, healing a lame man, is described in verses 5:1-18. Verses 5:19-47 tell how all should honor the Son as they honor the Father, and how John the Baptist, Jesus' miraculous works, the Father, and the Scriptures all bear witness that Jesus was sent by the Father.

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the lame man if he wanted to get well? What could be worse than being sick for thirty-eight years? (Matthew 5:29, 30; 2 Thess. 1:6-9)
2. Is it possible to stop sinning? (2 Cor. 3:5; Rom. 3:9-23) What must occur to change our nature so that we don't have to sin? (John 3:3; 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1, 2)
3. Why were the Jews persecuting Jesus? What claim did Jesus make about Himself?
4. What promises did Jesus make in verse 24? According to this verse, what must a person do to receive these promises?
5. Jesus presented several witnesses who attested to His deity. Who were they?
6. What obstacle to faith is mentioned in verse 44?

John Chapter Six: Holy Bread of Life

6:1-15	Miracle of the Loaves (Fourth Miracle)
6:16-21	Walking on the Sea (Fifth Miracle)
6:22-51	The Bread of Life
6:52-71	Words are Spirit and Life

The miracle of the loaves, the fourth sign, is described in verses 6:1-15. Verses 6:16-21 tell about Jesus walking on the water (the fifth sign). In verses 6:22-51, Jesus is described as the bread of life, and in verses 6:52-71, Jesus said that His words are spirit and are life.

Questions

1. What motivated the people to follow Jesus? How did Jesus react to them?
2. What is the work of God? (Ephesians 2:8-10)
3. What was Jesus trying to teach the crowd when He fed them bread? (Isaiah 55:1, 2) What does this bread signify?
4. Why does Jesus call Himself the Bread of Life? What does Jesus mean by the phrase, “eat my flesh and drink my blood”? (John 6:47; Gal. 2:20)
5. What are spirit and are life? (verse 63)
6. According to Peter, who had words of eternal life? (verse 68)

John Chapter Seven: Exclamation at the Feast

7:1-13	Jesus and His Brothers
7:14-24	Willing to Do His Will
7:25-36	He Sent Me
7:37-53	Rivers of Living Water

In chapter 7 Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, and proclaimed that whoever believes in Him, from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living waters.

Questions

1. How can a person know if Jesus' teaching comes from God? (Verse 17)
2. What things influenced the people in deciding who Jesus was?
3. Did some of the people have preconceived notions about the Messiah? What were they and where did they come from? (Luke 24:25-27; Mark 7:7-9)
4. How did Christ reveal that He was more than a man?
5. What offer does Jesus make in 7:37-39?
6. The guards were impressed with Christ's words. How did the authorities try to diminish this impression? (7:48, 49)
7. What point did Nicodemus make?

John Chapter Eight: Grace for Adulteress Defended

8:1-11 Casting Stones

8:12-59 True Disciples

8:12-30 Unless you believe

8:31-47 the Truth shall make you free

8:48-59 Before Abraham was born

Verses 8:1-11 tell the story of the adulteress, and Jesus' declaration, "He who is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." According to verses 8:12-59, true disciples abide in His word, and the truth shall make you free. Jesus also said, "before Abraham was born, I am."

Questions

1. Why did the Pharisees take the woman to Christ?
2. What was Christ's attitude toward the woman? Why didn't He condemn her? (John 3:16-18; 1 Pet. 3:18)
3. What did Jesus mean by calling Himself the light of the world?
4. According to verse 24, what will happen to a person who does not believe?
5. What shows that a person is really a disciple according to verse 31? What will result according to verse 32?
6. What was Jesus claiming about Himself in verse 46? In verse 58? (see Exodus 3:14)

John Chapter Nine: Opposition to Removing Blindness

9:1-12	Healing the Blind Man (Sixth Miracle)
9:13-23	Pharisees and the Parents of the Blind Man
9:24-34	Pharisees and the Blind Man
9:35-41	Jesus and the Blind Man

Jesus healed a man born blind in verses 9:1-12 (The sixth miraculous sign). In verses 9:13-23, the parents of the blind man have an encounter with the Pharisees. And in verses 9:24-34 there is a description of the interaction between the Pharisees and the blind man. Jesus and the blind man interact in verses 9:35-41.

Questions

1. What did the disciples think about the blind man (verse 2)? What did Jesus say about him in verse 3?
2. What were the reactions among the neighbors?
3. What did the Pharisees say?
4. What were the parents afraid of?
5. How did the Pharisees react when questioning the blind man?
6. What did Jesus ask the man who had been blind? Who did Jesus claim to be?
7. What did Jesus say about the Pharisees in verse 41? What did He mean?

John Chapter Ten: Shepherd and His Sheep

10:1-18	The Good Shepherd
10:19-30	They Shall Never Perish
10:31-42	I Am the Son of God

In verses 10:1-18, Jesus described Himself as the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, and the hireling does not care about the sheep, but the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. In verses 10:19-42, Jesus declared that He and the Father are one, and the Jews took up stones to stone Him.

Questions

1. According to verse 10, why did Jesus come? What does this mean?
2. What does the good shepherd do for the sheep?
3. In what ways are people like sheep? (Isaiah 53:6; Jer. 10:23, 24)
4. What bore witness that Jesus was the Christ? (verse 25)
5. What does Jesus give to His sheep? What does this mean?
6. What did Jesus claim in verse 30? How did the Jews react to this?

John Chapter Eleven: Power to Raise Lazarus

11:1-16	Lazarus is Dead
11:17-37	Martha and Mary
11:38-44	“Lazarus, Come Forth” (Seventh Miracle)
11:45-57	Reactions of the Jews

Lazarus of Bethany, brother to Mary and Martha, was sick, and he died. Jesus went to Bethany and told Martha that He is the resurrection and the life. Jesus wept. He raised Lazarus from the dead (the seventh sign). Many Jews believed in Him, but the chief priests and Pharisees plotted to put Jesus to death.

Questions

1. Why did Jesus delay going to Lazarus?
2. What does Thomas' comment reveal about him (John 11:16)?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the resurrection, and the life”?
4. Why did Jesus weep?
5. What concern did the chief priests and Pharisees have?
6. What is the significance of the high priest's statement in verse 50?

John Chapter 12: Entry into Jerusalem Triumphant

12:1-8	Mary Anoints Jesus
12:9-19	Seated on a Donkey
12:20-43	A Voice out of Heaven
12:44-50	Light into the World

Chapter 12 begins with Mary anointing Jesus with costly oil. Later, a few days before Passover, a great multitude took palm branches and cried out, “Hosanna!” as they met Jesus riding on a young donkey. A voice from heaven said that He would glorify His name, and Jesus declared that if He is lifted up, He will draw all men to Himself. Jesus declared that He has come as a light into the world.

Questions

1. Why did Mary anoint Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus made Judas the treasurer?
3. What did the people do when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem? (See Zechariah 9:9)
4. What did the voice from heaven say?
5. Who is the prince of this world?
6. What did Jesus say He would do if He were lifted up?
7. Will everyone believe? Why or why not? (See 2 Cor. 4:3, 4; Rom. 1:18-31; Pro. 1:28-31; John 7:17)

John Chapter 13: Last Supper and Discourse

13:1-20	He Washed Their Feet
13:21-30	Judas Went Out
13:31-38	A New Commandment

After a Passover supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Satan entered Judas, and he went out. Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as He loved. He also predicted Peter's denials.

Questions

1. What did the devil put into Judas' heart?
2. What was Jesus teaching the disciples by washing their feet?
3. What did Jesus claim in verse 13? Do you accept Him as your teacher? As your Lord?
4. What commandment did Jesus give in verse 34? Why was this new? (See 1 John 3:16)
5. Do you think Peter was sincere in what he said in verse 37? Why do you think he failed? (See John 15:5 and 2 Cor. 3:5)

John Chapter 14: Offer of Holy Spirit

14:1-3 I Go to Prepare a Place

14:4-15 Prayer and Commandments

14:16-31 Holy Spirit and Peace

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them. He told them that He would send another Helper, who would be with them forever. The Helper would teach them all things. Jesus said He would give them His peace.

Questions

1. What did Jesus promise in verses 14:1-3?
2. Are there other ways to God the Father? (See verse 14:6)
3. What did Jesus mean in verse 9? (See Col. 1:15)
4. Who is the Helper mentioned in verse 16? How would He be with them?
5. How do we demonstrate our love for Jesus? (See 14:15, 21)
6. What will the Holy Spirit do according to verse 26? How does He teach us? (See 2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
7. What do you think is the difference between the peace Jesus gives and the peace the world gives?

John Chapter 15: Fruit of the Vine

15:1-17 Glorified by Much Fruit

15:18-27 The World and Persecution

Jesus told His disciples that He is the vine, and they are the branches. If they abide in Him, and His words abide in them, they can ask what they wish, and it shall be done for them. He tells them that greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. Jesus appointed them that they should go and bear fruit. The world would hate them.

Questions

1. If Christ is the vine and the Christian is the branch, what fruit does the Christian produce? (See Galatians 5:22, 23; 1 Cor. 13:1-8)
2. What does it mean to abide?
3. What promise is given in verse 7? What are the conditions?
4. What will glorify the Father according to verse 8?
5. How can we have full joy according to Jesus?
6. How can we be Jesus' friend?
7. What would the attitude of the world be toward Christians?

John Chapter 16: Believer's Comfort and Joy

16:1-4	Persecution
16:5-15	The Holy Spirit
16:16-33	Going to the Father

The Helper would come and convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. The Spirit would guide them into all truth. Jesus told His disciples that if they ask anything in His name, they would receive it, that their joy would be full. In the world they would have tribulation, but Jesus had overcome the world.

Questions

1. Where was Jesus going?
2. Of what would the Helper convict the world?
3. What would the Holy Spirit do according to verses 13 and 14?
4. What promise did Jesus make in verse 24?
5. Why should Christians take courage when they face tribulation in the world? (Verse 33)

John Chapter 17: Extended Prayer of Christ

17:1-3	Eternal Life
17:4-17	Thy Word is Truth
17:18-26	That They May Be One

Jesus prayed to the Father, and said that eternal life was to know Him, and Jesus Christ. Jesus had glorified the Father on earth. He prayed that the Father would keep His disciples from the evil one. He said that His word is truth, and He prayed that they all may be one.

Questions

1. What is eternal life according to Jesus in verse 3?
2. What was the work Jesus accomplished for the Father? (17:4) (See Mark 3:14, 15; Luke 6:12, 13)
3. What did Jesus give His disciples according to verse 8 and verse 14?
4. What is God's word? What can it do? (Verse 17)
5. What would the disciples' purpose be according to verses 18, 19, and 20? (See Luke 19:10, Matt. 4:19, 1st Tim. 1:15, 2 Cor. 5:18-21, 2 Tim. 2:2)

John Chapter 18: Lord's Betrayal and Denial

18:1-11	I Am
18:12-27	Peter's Denial
18:28-40	What is Truth?

Judas, accompanied by a cohort of soldiers, betrayed Jesus in the garden of Gethsemene. When Jesus said, "I Am," they drew back and fell to the ground. Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus. Jesus was led to Annas, then Caiaphus, then Pilate. Peter denied the Lord three times. Jesus acknowledged that He was a king.

Questions

1. Where was Jesus arrested? Who arrested Him?
2. What happened to the cohort when Jesus said, "I am"?
3. What did Peter do after Jesus was arrested?
4. What did Pilate ask in verse 38? Is there an answer?
5. What did Pilate say about Jesus in verse 38?
6. What did Pilate ask the Jews in verse 39?

John Chapter 19: Illegal Trials and Crucifixion

19:1-17 Crown of Thorns

19:18-22 Crucified

19:23-37 It is Finished!

19:38-42 Laid in the Tomb

Pilate had Jesus scourged. The soldiers mocked and beat Him. The chief priests cried out, “Crucify Him!” Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified. He wrote a title, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” The soldiers gambled for His clothes (Psalm 22). Jesus from the cross said, “It is finished!” Joseph of Arimathea took His body and laid it in a new tomb.

Questions

1. How did the soldiers treat Jesus? What did they do to Him?
2. Who allowed Pilate to be in authority? (See Romans 13:1)
3. How did the chief priests respond to Pilate when he asked, “Shall I crucify your King?”
4. What was written on the inscription on the cross?
5. What prophecy was fulfilled in verses 23 and 24?
6. What did Jesus do for His mother in verses 26 and 27?
7. What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished!”? (See Mark 10:45, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pt. 2:24, 3:18)
8. Who asked Pilate for Jesus’ body? What was done with the body?

John Chapter 20: Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection

20:1-10 Mary, Peter and John at the Tomb

20:11-18 I Have Seen the Lord

20:19-31 My Lord and My God!

On the first day of the week, Mary saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Peter and John ran to the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. Mary saw two angels and saw Jesus, and then she told the disciples. Jesus appeared to the disciples. Later He appeared to Thomas, who said, “My Lord and My God!”

Questions

1. Who came early to the tomb on the first day of the week?
2. What did the disciples discover at the tomb in verses 5-8?
3. What did Mary see at the tomb in verses 12-17?
4. What happened when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the evening? Who was not with them?
5. What did Jesus say to Thomas? What was Thomas' response?
6. What is the purpose of this book according to verse 31?

John Chapter 21: Final Charge to Peter

21:1-14 You Will Find a Catch

21:15-25 Tend My Sheep

Jesus showed Himself at the Sea of Tiberias, where Peter and others were fishing. He directed them to cast the net, and they caught 153 fish. Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me?” and told Peter to “feed my lambs.” He predicted how Peter would die. John closed by saying that there are many other things that Jesus did.

Questions

1. When did the disciples find a catch of fish?
2. Why did Jesus ask Peter those questions?
3. What did Jesus prophecy about Peter? (Verses 18 and 19)
4. What was Jesus’ charge to Peter in verse 22?
5. Does this charge apply to Christians today?
6. Do the gospels contain everything about Jesus?

Good News from the Gospel of John

1. Do you have a need?

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” --John 3:3

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” --John 3:7

“I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.” --John 8:24

2. Has God made provision for your need?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” --John 3:16-21

3. Who is Jesus Christ?

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

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” --John 1:14

“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” --John 1:17

“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” --John 1:29

4. Is Jesus the only way to God?

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” --John 14:6

5. What must you do to have eternal life?

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” --John 3:36 (NIV)

6. Can you have eternal life right now?

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” --John 5:24

7. What does Jesus want you to have?

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” --John 10:10