

The Gospel of John

Introduction

Welcome

The Gospel of John is unlike any of the other Gospels.

Rather than simply recording events from Jesus' life, John invites us into a relationship with Him. Throughout these pages you'll discover Jesus as the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, the Resurrection and the Life, and ultimately, the Savior who came so that we might have eternal life.

This guide is designed to help you read one chapter at a time while slowing down enough to notice what God is saying to you personally.

Whether you're new to Scripture or have read John many times, my prayer is that you leave this study knowing Jesus more deeply than when you began.

Chapter 1: The Word Made Flesh

Summary

John begins by revealing who Jesus truly is before telling us anything He did.

Jesus is introduced as the eternal Word who existed before creation, was with God, and is God Himself. John the Baptist prepares the way for Him, declaring that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The chapter ends with Jesus calling His first disciples, inviting ordinary people into an

extraordinary journey.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus is eternal.
- ✓ Jesus is fully God.
- ✓ Jesus is the Creator of all things.
- ✓ Jesus came to bring light into darkness.
- ✓ Salvation begins by believing in Him.
- ✓ Jesus still calls ordinary people to follow Him.

Key Verse

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory..." -
John 1:14

Questions to Think About

- Why does John begin with Jesus' identity instead of His birth?
- What does it mean that Jesus is "the Word"?
- Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?
- How did the disciples respond when Jesus called them?

Reflection

- What area of your life needs the light of Christ today?
- How has Jesus personally invited you to follow Him?
- What darkness have you allowed Him to replace with His light?

Chapter 2: Jesus Reveals his Glory

Summary

Jesus performs His first miracle by turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana,

revealing His divine authority and compassion. Later, He cleanses the temple, reminding everyone that God's house is meant to be a place of worship rather than personal gain.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus cares about everyday needs.
- ✓ Miracles reveal His glory.
- ✓ Worship should be sincere.
- ✓ Jesus has authority over God's house.

Key Verse

“Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.” - *John 2:11*

Jesus Revealed As

- Miracle Worker
- Bridegroom
- Holy One

Reflection

- Where have you underestimated what Jesus can do?
- Is your heart becoming a place of worship?

Chapter 3: You Must Be Born Again

Summary

Jesus teaches Nicodemus about spiritual rebirth and explains God's plan of salvation. John the Baptist humbly points people away from himself and toward Christ.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Salvation comes through faith.
- ✓ New birth is spiritual.
- ✓ God loves the world.
- ✓ Jesus must increase.

Key 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*

Reflection

- Have you experienced new life in Christ?
- What areas of your life still need surrender?

Chapter 4: Living Water

Summary

After leaving Judea, Jesus intentionally travels through Samaria, where He meets a woman at Jacob's well. Although Jews and Samaritans typically avoided one another, Jesus breaks cultural, racial, and social barriers by engaging her in conversation. He offers her "living water," a gift that satisfies the deepest thirst of the human soul. As their conversation unfolds, Jesus reveals His knowledge of her past and declares Himself to be the promised Messiah.

Meanwhile, the disciples return, surprised to find Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman. Jesus reminds them that His mission is greater than physical food. He encourages them to see the spiritual harvest that is ready all around them.

Later, Jesus heals the son of a royal official simply by speaking the word from a distance, demonstrating that His power is not limited by location or circumstance.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus intentionally seeks those who feel forgotten or unworthy.
- ✓ True satisfaction can only be found in Christ.
- ✓ Worship is about the condition of the heart, not merely a location.
- ✓ Your testimony can lead others to Jesus.
- ✓ Jesus' power extends beyond what we can see.

Key Verse

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." - *John 4:14*

Jesus Revealed As

- The Giver of Living Water
- The Messiah
- The One who Knows Our Hearts
- The Savior of the World
- The Healer

Reflection

- What "wells" have you turned to that have left you spiritually thirsty?
- Is there any part of your story you've been hesitant to surrender to Jesus?
- How has God used your testimony to encourage someone else?
- Are you focused on earthly concerns, or are you noticing the spiritual opportunities around you?

Chapter 5: The Authority of the Son

Summary

Jesus travels to Jerusalem, where He encounters a man who has been unable to walk

for thirty-eight years. Rather than focusing on the man's condition, Jesus asks an unexpected question: "Do you want to get well?" With only His command, Jesus heals the man instantly.

Because the healing takes place on the Sabbath, the religious leaders become angry. Instead of celebrating a miracle, they accuse Jesus of breaking their traditions. Jesus responds by explaining His unique relationship with the Father. He declares that He has authority to give life, execute judgment, and receive honor equal to God.

Jesus also points to several witnesses that testify about His identity, including John the Baptist, His miracles, the Father Himself, and the Scriptures.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus has authority over sickness and brokenness.
- ✓ Religious tradition should never overshadow compassion.
- ✓ Jesus is equal with the Father.
- ✓ Eternal life begins by believing in Christ.
- ✓ Scripture points us to Jesus.

Key Verse

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Jesus Revealed As

- The Great Physician
- Son of God
- Judge
- Giver of Life
- Fulfillment of Scripture

Reflection

- Is there an area of your life where Jesus is asking, "Do you want to be made well?"

- Have religious habits ever distracted you from knowing Christ personally?
- How often do you read Scripture looking for Jesus instead of simply information?
- What does believing in Jesus change about the way you live today?

Chapter 6: Jesus, the Bread of Life

Summary

A large crowd follows Jesus because of the miracles they have witnessed. Seeing their need, Jesus miraculously feeds more than five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Later that evening, He walks across the Sea of Galilee during a storm to meet His frightened disciples, reminding them that He is present even in life's most turbulent moments.

The following day, many people continue seeking Jesus, but He challenges their motives. Rather than pursuing temporary food, they should seek the eternal life that only He provides. Jesus declares Himself to be the Bread of Life, explaining that true satisfaction is found in Him alone.

His teaching is difficult for many to accept, and many followers choose to leave. Yet Peter responds with unwavering faith, recognizing that Jesus alone has the words of eternal life.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus provides for both physical and spiritual needs.
- ✓ God often multiplies what we willingly place in His hands.
- ✓ Jesus is present in the middle of life's storms.
- ✓ Only Christ can truly satisfy the deepest hunger of the soul.
- ✓ Genuine faith continues following Jesus even when His teachings are difficult.

Key Verse

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." - *John 6:35*

Jesus Revealed As

- Bread of Life
- Miracle Worker
- Sustainer
- Lord over Creation
- The Holy One of God

Reflection

- What are you depending on for satisfaction besides Jesus?
- Have you offered God the little you have and trusted Him to multiply it?
- How has Jesus been faithful during life's storms?
- Will you continue following Jesus even when obedience is difficult?

Chapter 7: Rivers of Living Water

Summary

As the Feast of Tabernacles approaches, Jesus' brothers encourage Him to go publicly to Jerusalem and reveal Himself. Although they do not yet believe in Him, Jesus explains that He follows the Father's timing, not the expectations of others. Later, He quietly travels to Jerusalem, where people are divided over His identity. Some believe He is a prophet or the Messiah, while others reject Him because they misunderstand His origins.

Jesus teaches boldly in the temple, astonishing the crowds with His wisdom. He declares that His teaching comes from the Father and invites anyone who is spiritually thirsty to come to Him. On the final day of the feast, He promises that those who believe in Him will receive "rivers of living water," referring to the Holy Spirit who would later dwell within believers.

Despite growing opposition from the religious leaders, no one is able to arrest Jesus because His appointed time has not yet come.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ God's timing is always perfect.
- ✓ Jesus' authority comes from the Father.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit satisfies our deepest spiritual thirst.
- ✓ People must choose how they will respond to Jesus.
- ✓ Obedience sometimes requires standing apart from the crowd.

Key Verse

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me... rivers of living water will flow from within them." - *John 7:37-38*

Jesus Revealed As

- The Living Water
- The Teacher Sent by God
- The Messiah
- The Source of the Holy Spirit
- The One Who Follows the Father's Will

Reflection

- Are you trusting God's timing or trying to force your own?
- What areas of your life are spiritually dry?
- How can you become a source of encouragement and life to those around you through the Holy Spirit?
- When faced with opposition, do you remain faithful to Christ?

Chapter 8: The Light of the World

Summary

The chapter begins with the religious leaders bringing a woman caught in adultery

before Jesus, hoping to trap Him. Rather than condemning her, Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of her accusers by saying, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." One by one, they leave. Jesus offers the woman both grace and truth, telling her that He does not condemn her and calling her to leave her life of sin.

Later, Jesus declares, "I am the Light of the World." He teaches that those who follow Him will no longer walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Throughout the chapter, He speaks about truth, freedom, and His relationship with the Father. The religious leaders reject His claims, but Jesus boldly declares His eternal identity by saying, "Before Abraham was born, I am," identifying Himself with the divine name revealed to Moses.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus offers grace without excusing sin.
- ✓ Only Jesus can free us from the bondage of sin.
- ✓ Truth leads to freedom.
- ✓ Jesus is the Light that overcomes darkness.
- ✓ Jesus is fully God.

Key Verse

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - *John 8:12*

Jesus Revealed As

- The Light of the World
- The Truth
- The Great "I AM"
- The Forgiver
- The Liberator

Reflection

- Is there an area of your life where you need to receive Christ's forgiveness?

- Are you allowing God's truth to shape your decisions?
- What darkness is Jesus calling you to leave behind?
- How can you extend both grace and truth to others?

Chapter 9: From Blindness to Sight

Summary

Jesus encounters a man who has been blind since birth. His disciples assume the man's blindness must be the result of someone's sin, but Jesus explains that his condition will display God's power. Jesus heals the man by making mud, placing it on his eyes, and instructing him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.

The miracle sparks controversy among the religious leaders. Instead of celebrating the healing, they question both the man and his parents because the miracle occurred on the Sabbath. As the formerly blind man courageously defends Jesus, his spiritual understanding grows. Eventually, he worships Jesus as Lord, while the religious leaders remain spiritually blind despite their knowledge of Scripture.

This chapter reminds us that physical sight is meaningless without spiritual vision.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ God can use suffering to display His glory.
- ✓ Spiritual blindness is more dangerous than physical blindness.
- ✓ Following Jesus often requires courage.
- ✓ Our testimony is powerful.
- ✓ True faith leads to worship.

Key Verse

"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" - *John 9:25*

Jesus Revealed As

- The Light of the World
- The Healer
- The Son of Man
- The One Worthy of Worship
- Giver of Spiritual Sight

Reflection

- Has God ever used a difficult season to reveal His faithfulness?
- What has Jesus opened your eyes to spiritually?
- Are you willing to stand for Christ even when others oppose you?
- What part of your testimony could encourage someone today?

Chapter 10: The Good Shepherd

Summary

Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who lovingly cares for His sheep. Unlike a hired worker who abandons the flock in danger, Jesus willingly lays down His life for His people. He knows each of His followers personally, and they recognize His voice and follow Him.

Jesus also calls Himself the gate through which the sheep enter, emphasizing that He alone provides salvation and abundant life. He contrasts His mission with that of the thief, who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.

Later, during the Festival of Dedication, Jesus openly declares His unity with the Father. His statement causes many religious leaders to accuse Him of blasphemy, yet others believe because of the works they have witnessed.

This chapter paints one of the most comforting pictures of Jesus in all of Scripture: a Shepherd who knows, protects, guides, provides for, and sacrifices Himself for His flock.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus knows each of His followers personally.

- ✓ His voice guides those who belong to Him.
- ✓ Jesus willingly gave His life for us.
- ✓ Eternal security is found in Christ.
- ✓ Abundant life is found through following the Good Shepherd.

Key Verse

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." - *John 10:11*

Jesus Revealed As

- The Good Shepherd
- The Gate
- Protector
- Provider
- One with the Father

Reflection

- How are you learning to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd?
- Are there voices competing for your attention that you need to silence?
- In what ways has Jesus protected or guided your life?
- What does living an abundant life in Christ look like for you today?

Conclusion

As you finish this first section of the Gospel of John, take a moment to reflect on everything you've discovered about Jesus. In these first ten chapters, He has revealed Himself as the eternal Word, the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Light of the World, and the Good Shepherd. Through miracles, conversations, and powerful teachings, John continually points us to one truth: **Jesus is the Son of God, and believing in Him leads to eternal life.**

John doesn't simply want us to know *about* Jesus. He invites us to know Him personally. Each chapter has challenged us to trust Him more deeply, follow Him more closely, and allow Him to transform every area of our lives.

Before moving on to the next section, spend a few moments in prayer. Ask God to help these truths take root in your heart and shape the way you live each day. As you continue through John's Gospel, you'll witness even greater displays of Christ's love, power, and ultimate purpose as He moves toward the cross.

May you continue to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, walk in the Light of the World, and find lasting satisfaction in the One who alone gives eternal life.



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