

JOHN 1:1-18

January 13, 2021

1. We are studying the New Testament Book of John this semester. What excites you about this study of John's gospel?
2. John, the disciple of Jesus, is the author of this book. Look up the following verses and record some things you learn about John in Matthew 4:18-22; 17:1-2 and 26:36-38.
3. Read John 1:1. John calls Jesus the Word. Consider how important words are to you in your daily life. What are some ways you use words and why are they so important?
4. Read John 1:1-5. What one or two things about Jesus stand out to you in these verses?
5. Now read John 1:6-9. These verses are about John the Baptist, who is a different John from the author of this book. What do the following verses tell us about John the Baptist?

Luke 1:5-17

Mark 1:1-8

Matthew 3:13-17

What is John the Baptist's purpose in life? Read John 1:6-9 again.

6. Read John 1:9-13. John calls Jesus the true light in verse 9. Share some things you know about light.
7. Read John 1:14-18. What does it mean when it says, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"?

As you consider this amazing truth, in what ways might it change your daily walk with Jesus?

JOHN 1:19-2:12

January 20, 2021

1. Think about what it was like when you were first introduced to Jesus. What are some of the main truths of the person of Christ that touched your heart?

How do you describe Jesus when you share your faith story with others?

2. In today's passages, we will read about some individuals and their realizations of Jesus when they were getting to know Him. Read the following passages and list these people and their specific observations about who Jesus was.

John 1:28-29 and 1:34

John 1:35-38

John 1:40-41

John 1:43-45

John 1:46-49

What are some things we can learn about sharing Christ with others when reading these passages?

3. Read John 1:6-8 along with John 1:19-28. Who was questioning the identity of John the Baptist and why did they question him?

Who does John declare that he is? Also read Isaiah 40:3.

Read John 1:24-27 again. What insights do we glean about John and Jesus from John's reply to the religious leaders' question?

4. The next day John shared much more about Jesus. Read John 1:29-34, along with Matthew 3:13-17. What took place during Jesus' baptism, which convinced John that Jesus was the Son of God?

How would you compare the way John baptized with the way Jesus baptized, according to John 1:29-34? Read Mark 1:4-5, 8 and Ephesians 1:13-14 for more insight.

5. Jesus begins to call His first disciples in John 1:35-42. What things stand out to you about their responses to Jesus?

From these verses we learn that these men heard, followed, sought, came, stayed and shared. Reread verses 35-42 and find these actions. What parts of this story were true in your life when you first began to know Jesus? Please share.

6. Read John 1:43-51. Who are the two newest disciples?

What convinces Nathanael that Jesus is no ordinary man?

Some people believe that Nathanael had been meditating on Jacob under the fig tree because of Jesus' comments to Nathanael in verse 51. Read verse 51 again, along with Genesis 28:10-13. According to Jesus, who will replace the ladder that brought communication between God and man?

Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6. How would the Son of Man accomplish building a ladder between God and men?

7. The first miracle of Jesus was a private one. Read about this miracle in John 2:1-11 and list the few people who would have known about it.

Read verses 1-5 again. While Mary may not have been expecting a miracle here, what do her statements to Jesus reveal about her expectations of her son?

Jesus' response to Mary in John 2:4 is interesting. What do you think He means here? Also read John 5:30.

8. Read John 2:6-10. The stone water jars were used for the Jews to be cleansed and purified before and after meals. Using these jars to serve wine would have been unthinkable for a Jew under the law. Consider the response of the master of the feast. What do we learn from the fact that the wine of Christ was superior to the wine of those bound to Jewish rituals? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 7:6 and Romans 10:4.

Who is the good wine that had been kept until now? Read Galatians 4:4-5.

Record some of the joys that have replaced legalistic strongholds in your life because of your faith in Christ.

9. Read John 2:11-12. What was the result of the first miracle of Jesus for both Jesus and His disciples?

What was the result in your life when you first understood the joy that Jesus brings?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 2:13-3:36

January 27, 2021

1. Write out your definition for “believe.”

What words would you use to characterize belief in Jesus as the Savior?

2. Read John 2:13-17. As Jesus enters the temple at Passover, describe His findings and His reaction.

What led Him to take bold action according to verse 16? Read Psalm 69:9.

What is the reaction of His disciples?

3. Although the temple marketplace was meant to be a convenience for Passover worshippers, it had become a distraction to true worship. What are some distractions to our worship of God today?

How can you guard your worship experience?

4. Read John 2:18-25. What do the Jewish authorities demand after Jesus removes the temple vendors? Why? Read Mark 8:11.

When will Jesus’ prophetic reply to the authorities in John 2:19 be fulfilled?

5. Jesus has a prominent visitor in John 3:1-21. What do you learn about him in verses 1-2?

6. What are some reasons Nicodemus might choose to talk with Jesus at night?

How does the nighttime visit characterize Nicodemus' spiritual state? See John 11:10.

Jesus responds to Nicodemus with truth about how spiritual transformation occurs. What is needed to enter the kingdom of God according to John 3:3-8?

In verse 8, Jesus compares the work of the Holy Spirit in spiritual transformation to the wind. List the similarities that He shares with Nicodemus.

7. Why does Jesus rebuke Nicodemus in John 3:9-12?

Record the truths that Jesus reveals about Himself as the Son of Man in John 3:13-15.

Read Numbers 21:4-9. What similarities do you see between the story of the serpent lifted up on Moses' staff and Jesus' crucifixion on the cross?

8. John 3:16 is arguably the most well-known verse in the Bible. Read John 3:16-21 and answer the following questions:

What is God's motive for salvation? *v. 16*

To whom is He offering salvation? *vv. 16-17*

Who is the sacrificial offering that provides salvation? *v. 16*

Why did God send His Son into the world? *v. 17*

What is the role of *belief* in salvation? *v. 18*

Why do people love the darkness and hate the light? *vv. 19-20*

9. Read John 3:22-36. John the Baptist and Jesus are both in the Judean countryside doing ministry along with their followers. What definitive statements does John the Baptist make about his identity and role in verses 28-30?

List some characteristics of John the Baptist that you see in these verses.

10. In John 3:31-36, John the Baptist testifies to the origins and supremacy of Jesus. What do you learn about Jesus from his testimony?

According to verse 36, what are the only two options given to people when confronted with the truth of Jesus and eternal life?

11. Reread John 3:16. What are the important truths from chapter 3 that you would want to share with someone who has not yet chosen to believe in Jesus? Now pray about who you might share these truths with in the weeks to come.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 4:1-54

February 3, 2021

1. Read John 4:1-10. From Judea to Samaria is approximately a three-day journey on foot. Look closely at verses 6-7 and use your imagination. What do you think Jesus is experiencing?
2. Rather than responding to Jesus' request, what does the Samaritan woman emphasize in verse 9?

Read Jesus' reply in verse 10. What two important things has this woman failed to recognize?

3. Read John 4:11-15 where the Samaritan woman is focused on literal, physical water, but Jesus is talking about "living water." List the things that are expressed about each kind of water.

Physical water

Living water

Jesus speaks of water as a religious symbol. Read the following passages and note some truths of God expressed with the symbol of water.

Isaiah 44:3-4

Isaiah 55:1-3

Ezekiel 36:25-27

4. Jesus says He is here to grant a "gift." What makes something a gift?

Read John 7:37-38 and write down who receives God's gift of living water.

5. Jesus' talk of a gracious gift is followed with raw truth. Read John 4:16-19. What do we learn about this woman?

How does the woman respond to the truth of her life? What is surprising about her response?

6. How do you normally respond when God's Word pierces your heart or exposes your sin?

What have you seen in Jesus' encounter with this woman that will make you less defensive when He exposes your sin? Read John 3:16-17.

7. Read John 4:20-26. The Samaritan woman brings up an age-old dispute regarding temple worship. According to verse 23, what is God looking for?

Considering the argument over the proper location for worship and this woman's history, what do you think is meant by "worship in spirit and truth"?

8. The Samaritans were waiting for God's Messiah. Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and describe what the Messiah would do for them.

What startling revelation does Jesus make in John 4:26?

9. Read John 4:27-38. While the disciples worry and wonder about food, what is it that nourishes and sustains Jesus?

Read John 6:40 and record God's work/will.

Jesus uses farming language to teach His disciples. Sowing is preparing the soil/people, and reaping is gathering in the crop/belief. Read John 4:35 and 4:28-30 back-to-back. When Jesus tells the disciples to lift their eyes, what do they see? What is Jesus' hope for them?

10. Read John 4:39-42. What two things contribute to the Samaritans' belief?

Have you ever told someone about your personal experience with Jesus? Read 1 Peter 3:15. Consider these verses and record the significance of sharing your own testimony.

Prayerfully consider who you should share with and how you will do it. Write it here.

11. Read John 4:43-54. From verse 45, why did the Galileans welcome Jesus at this time?

Look back at John 2:13-17 and 23. What had the Galileans seen Jesus do?

12. Who approaches Jesus in John 4:46-47 and what is his request?

What does Jesus discern about the people's true motivation in verse 48? Also read Matthew 16:1-4.

Why do you think it offends Jesus when people demand or rely on supernatural signs to believe?

13. What instruction and assurance does Jesus give in John 4:50?

How does the man demonstrate belief in Jesus?

Two times in John 4:50-54 it is recorded that the man "believed." Look at both instances and describe the progression of this man's belief.

14. Reflect on your life and share how your belief in Jesus has progressed and grown. List some words, signs and interactions with Jesus that have helped your belief grow.

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

JOHN 5:1-47

February 10, 2021

1. Read John 5:1-17. Imagine yourself at the pool described in verses 2-5. Describe what you see.

What might you be feeling and thinking as you watch the scene around you?

2. Read John 5:5-8. What does Jesus ask the paralyzed man?

Based on the man's answer to Jesus' question, where do you think he had placed his only hope for healing?

Look again at John 5:8-9. *How* does Jesus heal this man?

What does this reveal to you about Jesus?

3. Read John 5:9-18. In these verses, "Jews" refers to the Jewish religious leaders. Summarize how these men react to the miraculous healing of the suffering man.

What specific complaint do the Jews have in John 5:10 and 16?

Read Exodus 20:8-11. The Sabbath was meant to be a day of physical rest and worshipful refreshment. Unfortunately, over time Jewish tradition added many cumbersome rules to what God intended as a blessing. What does the response of the leadership reveal about their hearts?

4. Read John 5:19-23. Jesus uses simple language to reveal profound truths about Himself. What does Jesus teach us about Himself in the following verses?

5:19-20

5:21

5:22

5:23

5. Read John 5:19-21 once again along with John 10:10, 28-30. What insight do you glean from Jesus' own words about the life He gives to those who believe in His name?

In John 5:20, Jesus says that we will marvel as we see His great works. To marvel means to be filled with wonder or astonishment. Spend a few moments quietly marveling at the works of the Father and Son in your own life and write out your personal response.

6. Read John 5:22-25 along with John 14:6-7 and Acts 4:11-12. What essential truth about salvation does God's Word make clear for us?

What do you conclude about any faith system that omits or denies the words and works of Jesus?

7. Read John 5:26-30 along with John 6:28-29. What is the good work that Jesus speaks of in John 5:29?

What is the evil that Jesus speaks of in the same verse?

Read and ponder Daniel 12:1-3. These verses speak of the End Times, just as John 5:28-29 does. How does the great promise of eternal life with Christ for those who believe contribute to abundant life with Christ *now*, in your everyday life?

8. Read John 5:31-47. In response to the Jewish leadership's accusation of blasphemy, Jesus speaks of several witnesses that prove the truth of His claim to be the Son of God. List each witness to Jesus' identity and jot down why you think this witness should be valid in the eyes of the Jewish leadership.

5:32-35

5:36

5:37-38

5:39-47

9. Thinking back over everything that Jesus says and does in chapter 5, how would you describe His heart for humanity? How does that encourage you today?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.