



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

While the first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) focus more on what Jesus did and taught, the Gospel of John focuses more on who Jesus is. John shows the reader more of who Jesus is through His miracles (six out of the seven miracles in the book of John are not mentioned in the other Gospels), Jesus' own words about Himself (commonly referred to as the "I am" statements in John, and the testimony of witnesses regarding who they proclaimed Jesus to be.

The Gospel of John is referred to as the Gospel of "believing." The verb "believe" is found 11 times in Matthew, 14 times in Mark, 9 times in Luke, and 98 times in John. John desires his audience to not just know facts about Jesus Christ but to live lives that have been transformed and are actively being transformed by the presence and power of Jesus. The Gospel of John focuses on Jesus being the literal expression of God's heart and mind in human form.

John 20:30-31 are often referred to as the theme verses of the book of John and while this may be true, it is important to note that the "life in His Name" that is being spoken of in verse 31 concerns the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual realms. Jesus can and does indeed transform and make new in the here and now and as a result, these transformations have eternal implications not only enabling us to spend eternity with the Father but also empowering us to live with and for Him every single day and moment that we are granted.

JOHN CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is the one the craziest questions you have ever been asked?
- What is one of the craziest questions you have ever asked?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (John 1:1-51)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

John 1:1-14

- When Jesus is referred to as "the Word," this has the meaning behind it that Jesus was and is the literal expression of God's heart and mind. Just as God used the spoken word to bring the world into existence in Genesis chapter 1, God has spoken and is speaking through Jesus to express His heart and mind to the world including us.
 - What do you think it means and looks like to treat Jesus as the literal expression of God's heart and mind? How are you currently embracing Jesus as the literal expression of God's heart and mind?
 - *These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.*
 - Does thinking about Jesus as the Creator of the universe change your perspective of him in any way? If so, how?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- While verse 14 may be rather common to us, why would it have been so startling to both Jews and Greeks of that time?
 - The Jews generally conceptualized God as too high, certainly too high for Him to take on a human form and have an intimately close connection with human beings. The Greeks generally conceptualized God as too low, ranking Him (if they ranked Him at all) as on par with their other gods. For both the Jews and Greeks, Jesus taking on a human form was not aligned with who they believed God to be in any way.
 - Jesus left heaven to take on a human body. In what ways is this reality daily changing your life?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

John 1:15-37

- What do verses 15, 20, 27, and 30 have in common?
 - In all these verses and throughout all of chapter 1, John the Baptist is constantly and consistently pointing people away from himself and towards Jesus.
 - How would you characterize the life and ministry of John the Baptist? In what ways do you need to more fully point people away from you and towards Jesus?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Do you think that there are times when people view grace and truth (that came from Jesus Christ---verse 17) as mutually exclusive? Why or why not?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - How would you encourage someone to walk and live in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ?

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John 1:38-51

- What is significant about the stories of Andrew and Philip?
 - There would be no Peter and Nathanael without Andrew and Philip because Andrew and Philip were not only followers of Jesus but also “bringers” and “sharers” of Jesus. They weren’t content to just follow Jesus but also were intentional in sharing what they had been given.
 - In what ways are you daily a bringer to and sharer of Jesus? What hinders you from doing this? What motivates and inspires you to do this?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- In what ways did Nathanael have pre-conceived ideas about Jesus?
 - Nathanael believed that Jesus was supposed to have greater physical origins than He had. From Nathanael’s perspective, the Messiah was supposed to come from a far more prominent place than He did.
 - What pre-conceived ideas have you had about God that have been blown out of the water? How did you respond when this happened?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 2)



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JOHN CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

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