



## **What is It?**

**John** is the fourth gospel and tells of the life of Jesus in a way that differs from the other three, or synoptic, gospels. John focuses on theology and tells of many different events in Jesus' life.

## **Who, What, When, Where and WHY**

**Who** – John was one of the twelve apostles, the brother of the apostle James, and frequently called the “apostle that Jesus loved.” He was clearly an eye-witness to most of the events he describes.

**What** – John tells of different events in Jesus' life than the other gospels; events that are more concentrated into His later life, and more clearly demonstrate Jesus' divinity. In addition to being an eye-witness, John was much closer to Jesus than many of the other apostles and this gospel shows it.

**When** – The Gospel of John was probably written sometime between 80 and 95 AD, though there are a few experts who place its writing much earlier (prior to 70 AD).

**Where** – Obviously, John was written in about events in the Eastern most portion of the Roman Empire – modern-day Israel (and Palestine), Jordan and Syria on the Eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. It was probably written while John was in Ephesus (in in modern-day Turkey).

**Why** – John himself explained why he wrote his gospel: “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (20:31). The Gospel of John has long been an evangelistic book, helping us reach out to those who don't know Jesus.

## **Reading Advice**

To read John in one week you will need to read 3 to 4 chapters a day (20 chapters/6 days = 3.3 per day). We recommend 10 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and/or minutes per day a little. This book will be very familiar to you, so you should be able to read it through quickly like a familiar (and favorite) novel.