

PASTOR'S SERMON NOTES · PULPIT COPY

Introduction to John

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 00 · September 6, 2026

Scripture:

Various

MOTIVATION (WHY YOU NEED THIS)

Ever asked one of these questions but didn't have the courage to say it out loud?

- Does my life matter?
- Is there anything worth believing in?
- Is Jesus really who everyone says He is?

John wrote this Gospel for people asking these questions.

Scholars estimate John wrote these words somewhere between AD 80–95...

...about 50 years after the events of his Gospel took place

...and when all the other disciples were already dead

This means John spent his final years alone as the only original disciple, which makes his perspective unique. He wasn't writing a biography. Why? A biography simply answers what happened. But John was writing for people asking so what.

He was the last disciple alive who could say, "I was there!"

John may have known that when he died, people would be asking these types of questions and wouldn't have anyone to ask. So, he wrote his Gospel and gave them the answers in a way that would outlive him.

John 20:30–31 (ESV)

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Jesus didn't come to fix your life. He came to give you His, and His life never ends or fails. It starts the moment you believe in Him. So, this isn't about a better life. It's about His life. And this life isn't just for later. It's for now.

INFORMATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW)

What does John allow us to see in his Gospel?

- **John allows us to see through his eyes**

John writes as an eyewitness, not a historian working from sources.

✓ He was at the Last Supper

John 13:21–23 (ESV)

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side...

✓ He was at the cross

John 19:26 (ESV)

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

✓ He was at the empty tomb

John 20:2 (ESV)

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

✓ He saw God’s glory

John 1:14 (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

His glory means that when John watched Jesus (touching lepers, weeping at a tomb, forgiving the men driving the nails) he was seeing God Himself. You never have to guess what God is like. The way He treated people is how God feels about you – gracious enough to love you as you are and truthful enough not to leave you that way. John saw it with his own eyes and wrote it down so you could see it too.

✓ He saw the signs and miracles with his own eyes

- Water into wine (2:1–11): Jesus speaks, and creation obeys
- Healing a nobleman’s son 20 miles away (4:46–54): distance can’t stop Him
- Healing a man paralyzed 38 years (5:1–9): time can’t stop Him
- Feeding 5,000 with five loaves (6:1–14): lack can’t stop Him

- Walking on water through a storm (6:15–21): nature can't stop Him
- Giving sight to a man born blind (9:1–41): the impossible can't stop Him
- Raising Lazarus after four days in the tomb (11:1–44): death can't stop Him

John does not argue for Jesus. He shows you Jesus and lets you decide.

▪ **John allows us to see into his mind**

Years of reflection led John to one conclusion: Jesus is God.

John 1:1 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

No other Gospel opens this way. Matthew begins with a genealogy. Mark with a baptism. Luke with an investigation. John begins in eternity.

He writes seven “I AM” statements because he understood what those two words meant to Jewish readers – the name God gave Moses at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:14 (ESV)

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Here's a quick overview of those declarations of Jesus...

- ✓ I AM the Bread of Life (6:35): when nothing satisfies, He fills
- ✓ I AM the Light of the World (8:12): when you can't see the way, He shines
- ✓ I AM the Door (10:7): when you've been shut out, He lets you in
- ✓ I AM the Good Shepherd (10:11): when you're lost, He comes looking
- ✓ I AM the Resurrection and the Life (11:25): when death comes, He undoes it
- ✓ I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6): when you can't get to God, He is the road
- ✓ I AM the True Vine (15:1): when you're running dry, He is the source

- **John allows us to see into his heart**

- ✓ John never once uses his own name.
 - He simply refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”
 - After decades, the only testimony he proclaims is being loved by Jesus
- ✓ John’s motive is God’s motive – a love that gives

John 3:16–17 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- ✓ John (the last disciple) wrote so you could have what he had: life in His name

John 10:10 (ESV)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Jesus did not come to fix your life. He came to give you His.

APPLICATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO DO)

There are two kinds of people in this room.

Some already believe, and this next year is an invitation to believe and actually have life in Him, not just simply know facts about Him.

Some are not sure, and this is the safest place you will ever bring your questions.

John did not write to argue you into anything. He wrote to show you Jesus and let you decide.