

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Welcome to our new sermon series going through John's Gospel! We're hoping to spend 2022 working our way through this eyewitness account of Jesus' life. John is a deep and complex book. It contains life giving truth for us. I'm certain we're going to have a great time together as we unpack this book over the coming months.

This first Guide accompanies Simon's introduction to the series. Next week we'll start working our way through the Gospel a chunk at a time.

God bless, take care and stay strong

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE **Introduction to John's Gospel**

This Week's BIG IDEA: Exploring the who, when and why of John's Gospel.

A) Who wrote John's Gospel?

1. What do we learn about John through exploring the following verses? How would you describe who he was as he was getting to know Jesus through the Gospels? How might this encourage us?
 - a. Mark 3:17
 - b. Luke 9:49
 - c. Luke 9:54
 - d. Mark 10:35-37
 - e. Matthew 20:20-21
 - f. Mark 5:35-37
 - g. John 13:23
2. Why does it matter that John's Gospel was written by an eyewitness?
[Leaders note: It's a trustworthy account. The things recorded in the Gospel really happened.]

B) When did John write his account?

3. John's Gospel was the last of the four to be written. What affect has this had on what was written?
[Leaders note: John is filling in gaps left by other Gospels. He doesn't tend to repeat what's recorded elsewhere.]
4. Read Acts 12:1-6 and Revelation 1:9-10. What insights do these passages give us about some of the experiences that John had in his life?
5. John's Gospel was most likely written 65-85AD, late in John's life. Given the experiences that John endured, why is this significant?
[Leaders note: John's trust in Jesus endured difficult times. Through it all he held on to God's steadfastness and faithfulness.]

C) Why did John write his account?

6. **Please read John 20:30-31.**
7. What do these verses teach us about Jesus?
[Leaders note: loads of miracles (cf John 21:25)! He is the Messiah and Son of God.]
8. What was John's purpose in writing his Gospel?
[Leaders note: That we may have life in Jesus' name.]
9. What does it mean to "have life in his name"?
[Leaders note: We're going to learn much more about this this year. It does mean eternal life, meaning both life after death, and a quality of life now. Encourage your group to explore the benefits of knowing Christ through their answers to this question.]
10. Let's finish our time together by praying that through studying John's Gospel we would grow in belief and receive life in Jesus' name.