
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

BELIEVE

The image is a complex collage on a textured, light-colored paper background. At the top center is a solid brown circle. Below it is a painting of an eagle with a human face, looking down. The eagle's wings are spread, and its body is rendered in shades of brown and green. To the left of the eagle, there are several pieces of newspaper clippings, some of which are partially obscured by the eagle's wings. The word "BELIEVE" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the collage, overlapping the eagle and the newspaper clippings.



GOSPEL OF JOHN STUDY - PART 1

Fall 2022

PASSAGE BREAKDOWNS

Week 1: John 20:30-31 (Intro)

Week 2: John 1:1-13

Week 3: John 1:14-18

Week 4: John 1:19-34

Week 5: John 1:35-51

John's account of Jesus' life can be summarized in one word, BELIEVE. As a disciple and eyewitness to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, John heard and saw the stories, sermons, conversations, and miracles of Jesus firsthand and states that he didn't even include them all except the accounts that would help people believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God! Today lots of people talk about belief and believing, convinced that the act of believing alone will, no matter what, improve lives and communities. There's a belief in 'belief'. But according to John, belief in Jesus is the goal and not only will believing in who He is and what He has done change a person's life deeply and profoundly, it will produce real and eternal life.

During this sermon series, we will examine John's gospel in its entirety and our prayer is that by God's amazing grace, we will believe not only the signs and wonders performed by Jesus, but in the only One who promises and can provide life - life to the full!

INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT

The deeper you get into the Gospel of John, the more you realize just how unique it is, especially as it compares to the other gospel accounts. Likely written last, John offers a unique perspective on Jesus that is at times quite different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, both in sequence and in story. While John's gospel is the most personal and relational perspective on Jesus, it is the absence of certain things that makes the Gospel of John truly stand out. In John, there are no demons or conflicts with evil spirits. There is hardly any mention of the return of Christ and there are, largely speaking, no parables. However, in the opening verses, we're presented with the themes that John uses to shape this book: light vs. dark, life vs. death, grace and truth, the humanity and divinity of Jesus, and acceptance contrasted with rejection of his claims. Each of these themes fit into John's greater purpose statement for writing his gospel account, which he shares with the reader in John 20:30-31:

"[I have written this] so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name."

This is John's purpose in writing this gospel and this is our prayer for Gospel Life Church as we endeavor to meet Christ in new ways and discover life in his name!

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This study is designed to be used in both an individual devotional setting and in a small group setting. As an individual-devotional study, you'll be invited to interact with the text, make observations about each text, and apply the big ideas of each passage to your everyday life.

This study guide is designed to follow along with the "Gospel of John: Believe" sermon series and we encourage you to join us each Sunday as you make your way through this study. As you do this, you'll be able to take what you've heard and begin to connect it to your own life in specific, Christ-exalting ways.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY: HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

1. READ THE PASSAGE:

Take time each week to read the passage as a Gospel Community. You can have one person read, take turns with each verse, or come up with another creative way to read the text.

2. SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:

Each week you'll be given four to five questions about the text to work through. These questions will help you interact with the passage and understand what it's saying before you apply it to your lives.

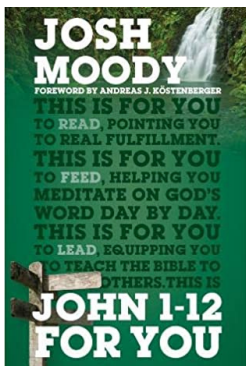
3. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

You'll also be given two to three application questions. These questions are where the gospel truths of the text get to connect to your own life in a transformational way.

4. PRAYER:

Always end your conversation together in prayer for one another as you ask the Lord to help you Trust and follow Jesus in light of what you've learned.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



John For You (Chapters 1-12) by Josh Moody is an excellent introductory commentary for understanding the big picture in the Book of John. It is written “for people at every age and stage” and is a very accessible resource that will help you read, feed, and guide your way through this book alone, or with others. If you’ve never read a commentary before and want a bit more background for John, this is the book for you! You can find this book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/John-112-You-Deeper-Fulfillment/dp/1784982156>



The Bible Project is an interactive, online resource that is designed to help you better understand the Book of James in a fun and easy to digest way. You’ll find videos, downloads, and brief chapter summaries on this website and you’ll particularly their overview of the Book of James in comic-book form! You can check out this resource online at:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john/>



This 12-week study will compliment our sermon series through the elements of (1) reflection questions that engage readers at a deeper level, (2) "Gospel Glimpses" that highlight the gospel of grace through the book; (3) "Whole-Bible Connections" that show how the given passage connects to the Bible's overarching story of redemption, culminating in Christ; and (4) "Theological Soundings" which identify how historic doctrines are reinforced throughout Scripture. You can find this book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/John-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433534525>

WEEK ONE: JOHN 20:30-31

(30) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) 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.



INTERACTION

- Read the passage and underline the words, ideas, or themes that stand out to you.
- Take time to read this passage again as a Gospel Community.



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- Have you ever read the Gospel of John before? If so, what stories, passages, or themes come to mind when you think about this gospel account?

- What is one miracle or sign that Jesus did in his earthly ministry that stands out to you? Why is that miracle or sign significant to you?

- According to the first half of verse 31, what was John's purpose for documenting the signs in the Gospel of John?

- According to the second half of verse 31, what does faith produce in those that believe?

WEEK TWO: JOHN 1:1-13

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (7) He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. (8) He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

(9) The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



INTERACTION

- Read the passage and underline the words, ideas, or themes that stand out to you.
- Take time to read this passage again as a Gospel Community.



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- There are 20 things that we learn about Jesus from this wonderfully rich and doctrinally dense text. Take some time to find them and note them here:

- Is there anything new or freshly significant that you've learned about Jesus from this passage?

- What does this passage tell us about John the Baptizer?

WEEK TWO: JOHN 1:1-13



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- Verse 11 tells us that Jesus came to his own but that they did not receive him. Who is he referring to and why did they not receive him? See Romans 11:25-31.

- According to verses 12 and 13, what two things happen to those that do receive Jesus?



APPLICATION

- This passage tells us that Jesus is the Word of God. How might viewing Jesus this way change your approach to the Bible?

- This passage also tells us that Jesus is the light of men. How might viewing Jesus this way change your perspective of sin, suffering and darkness?

- After studying this passage, what is one truth about Jesus that connects to your life in a transformational way this week?

WEEK THREE: JOHN 1:14-18

(14) 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. (15) (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") (16) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (17) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (18) No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



INTERACTION

- Read the passage and underline the words, ideas, or themes that stand out to you.
- Take time to read this passage again as a Gospel Community.



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- What do we learn about Jesus Christ from verse 14?

- When verse 16 tells us that we have received 'grace upon grace' from Jesus, what does this mean? See Romans 5:20-21.

- In verse 17 John talks about the law. According to Romans 3:19-20, what comes from the law?

- Continuing reading verse 17. What instead comes through Jesus Christ? Why is that significant?

WEEK THREE: JOHN 1:14-18



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- Many world religions deny the deity of Jesus Christ and do not believe that He is in fact God. Is there anything in this passage or the previous passage that clearly teaches the deity of Christ?



APPLICATION

- Have you ever lived under and according to ‘the law’? What has living by ‘the law’ done in your heart, mind and life?

- Have you ever encountered the grace and truth of Jesus Christ? What has Christ’s grace and truth done in your life?

- What is one area of your life where you need to hear the grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ today?

WEEK FOUR: JOHN 1:19-34

(19) And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" (20) He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." (21) And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." (22) So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" (23) He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(24) (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) (25) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" (26) John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, (27) even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." (28) These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

(29) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (30) This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' (31) I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." (32) And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33) I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' (34) And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."



INTERACTION

- Read the passage and underline the words, ideas, or themes that stand out to you.
- Take time to read this passage again as a Gospel Community.



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- Read Isaiah 40:1-5 as well as verse 9. What does this passage tell us about John the Baptizer's message concerning the Messiah?
- We have another New Testament prophecy about John the Baptist from his father, Zechariah, in Luke 1:76-80. What does the passage in Luke say about what John will do and about what God will do?

WEEK FOUR: JOHN 1:19-34



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- According to John 1:29-34, what does he see take place that confirms that Jesus is in fact the Messiah? Why is this significant?



APPLICATION

- Have you been baptized as a follower of Jesus Christ? If so, why did you choose to be baptized? If not, what reservations do you have?

- Why is baptism significant for the follower of Jesus Christ? Consider Romans 6:4 and Ephesians 4:4-6 as supporting texts.

- Using what we've learned about John's message and the message of the gospel from this text, why is it important for unbelievers to hear the message of the gospel? Is there anyone in your life you can share this message with?

WEEK FIVE: JOHN 1:35-51

(35) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (37) The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” (39) He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (40) One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. (41) He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). (42) He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

(43) The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” (44) Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (45) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (46) Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” (47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (48) Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” (49) Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (50) Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” (51) And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”



INTERACTION

- Read the passage and underline the words, ideas, or themes that stand out to you.
- Take time to read this passage again as a Gospel Community.



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- We learn six things about Jesus from this passage. What are those six attributes, characteristics, or names of Christ?
- There are three people that tell others about Jesus in this passage. Who are they and what do they each say?

WEEK FIVE: JOHN 1:35-51



SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- Read verses 40-42 again. What does Jesus say to Simon and why is it significant?

- Read verse 45-49 again. What is Nathaniel's reservation about Jesus and what does Jesus say to his doubt? Why does that matter?



APPLICATION

- Where have you struggled with doubt in your own relationship with Jesus? Is there an aspect of Christ's character or a truth about his nature that comforts you from this text? How?

- In verse 46, Philip said to a skeptical Nathaniel, "Come and see." Is there a skeptic in your life that you can begin inviting to come and see Jesus? How might you do this?