

GOOD NEWS

Good News Message Series Week 1

John 20:30-31

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

September 13, 2026

In order to understand and benefit from our study in John, it is helpful to answer these three questions:

A. Who is the author?

1. John, who was one of the 12 disciples.
(Matthew 4:21-22)
2. John and his brother James were known as the Sons of Thunder. (Luke 9:54-56; Mark 3:17)
3. John was part of Jesus' inner circle. (Mark 9:2)
4. John refers to himself as the "disciple whom Jesus loved." (John 19:25-27)
5. John was an eyewitness of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (1 John 1:1-2)

B. How is the book of John unique?

1. The book of John's focus: Jesus is God. (John 1-3, 14)

*Recommended article: *Guide to the Four Gospels* by Jeffrey Kranz at overviewbible.com/four-gospels/
(includes video)

2. The book of John emphasizes and refers to the miracles of Jesus as "miraculous signs." (John 2:11, 23)
3. Forty percent of the book of John is focused on the last week of Jesus' life on earth and His resurrection.
(John 12:1-21:25)

C. What is the purpose of the book of John?

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.

John 20:30-31 (ESV)

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God”

- “*Jesus*” – a name, people would have identified Him as Jesus the carpenter’s son or Jesus of Nazareth
- “*Christ*” – a title, synonymous with Messiah
- “*Son of God*” – to be of the same nature as God – to in fact be God

“Later, before Pontius Pilate, ‘the Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God”’ (John 19:7). Why would His claiming to be the Son of God be considered blasphemy and be worthy of a death sentence? The Jewish leaders understood exactly what Jesus meant by the phrase ‘Son of God.’ To be the Son of God is to be of the same nature as God. The Son of God is ‘of God.’ The claim to be of the same nature as God—to in fact be God—was blasphemy to the Jewish leaders; therefore, they demanded Jesus’ death.”

gotquestions.org/Jesus-Son-of-God

- “*believe*” – to put one's faith into something or someone

“To believe in Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God requires more than mere intellectual adherence to a set of facts about the life of Christ. It requires *trusting* one’s whole self *into* who Christ said he was and what he was sent to accomplish...John did not write his Gospel just so we could know facts about Jesus’s life. He wrote his Gospel so we would know facts about who Jesus is and what he was sent to do and in response trust in him completely.”

Matt Carter and Josh Wredberg, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in John*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2017, p. 6.

- “*life*” – spiritual and eternal (John 1:4, 3:16, 5:24, 10:10, 11:25-26)

“Life in Christ is not an exchange; it’s being drawn into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. He illustrated it for his disciples by comparing their relationship to a vine with branches. The branch doesn’t get a one-time injection of life from the vine. It gets daily nourishment from its connection to the vine, and if something were to sever the branch from the vine, the branch would die. When we truly believe, we truly begin to live.”

Matt Carter and Josh Wredberg, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in John*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2017, p. 7.

Challenge:

1. Study and determine for yourself who Jesus is.
2. Come alongside others and point them to Jesus.
 - Pray for them
 - Initiate friendship
 - Share story
 - Give invite