

5. There is a shift in emphasis in the middle of the gospel of John
chapters 1 – 11 Jesus' pre-existence; miraculous signs
chapters 12 – 21 Jesus' last week; teaching his disciples

Write a title for each chapter in the last section chap. 12 - 21

Chapter 12 After Lazarus' resurrection, Jesus' death nears

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 16

Chapter 17

Chapter 18

Chapter 19

Chapter 20

Chapter 21

6. I will read the whole Gospel of John at least once by Easter.

_____ (sign)

_____ (date)

Recommended resources I found on the internet

1. An excellent overview of John's gospel that's easy to read and helpful <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-1-nature-and-purpose-john-s-gospel-john-2030-31>
2. A series of booklets to help you read John's gospel one-to-one 1-2-1 with a friend. You can purchase them or download FREE PDFs. These are produced in the UK but available in print in the USA. The evangelistic approach is very well done <http://www.theword121.com/>

Why Read the Gospel of John?

John 20:24-31

January 31, 2016

BIG IDEA: *these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is 'the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.* (John 20:31)

Four things will happen if you read John's book about Jesus

1. Jesus will **challenge** your doubts

Thomas was loyal with a firm grasp of the **obvious**

Jesus is going to die . . . let's go die with him (11:16)

Where is Jesus going? How do you get there? (14:5)

Thomas was **desperate** to believe

Jesus does a complete re-enactment (20:19 and 26)

Jesus confronts Thomas

With his **own** words

With a command "Stop doubting and believe!"

Many people don't like to read the Bible because they don't like being read by God.

2. Jesus will move you to worship . . . or maybe not

"My Lord and my God!" What did Thomas mean?

- a. An embarrassed **shout** like "OMG!"
- b. A realization that the others told the truth; He's alive!
- c. A confession of faith that Jesus is Lord and God

[c] Jesus says in the next verse (20:29) that Thomas has seen and "**believed.**" Jesus also pronounces a blessing for all "those who have not seen and yet have believed." (see 17:20).

The Father is **seeking** worshippers (John 4:23-24)

To believe goes along with **worship** (John 9:38)

Superficial belief is lacking **commitment** (John 2:23-25; 8:31-59)

3. Jesus will give you **multiple** reasons to believe

“these things have been written so that you may believe”

Jesus **encountered** the religious, outcast, respectable, disabled, misunderstood, entitled, scared, distraught, empty

Jesus teaches, **heals**, confronts, loves, reveals, predicts, commands, promises, grieves, serves, explains, suffers

Jesus is called Savior, a **prophet**, *Rabbi* (teacher), master, King, demon-possessed, insane, friend, Lord, God

Jesus is “I **AM**” the Bread of Life, the Light of the World; the Door; the Good Shepherd; the Resurrection and the Life; the Way and the Truth and the Life; the True Vine

Jesus came to make God **visible**.

“No one has ever seen God” (John 1:18a)

“no one has ever seen [God] or can see” (1 Tim. 6:16)

“even though you do not see him [God]” (1 Peter 1:8)

Jesus is God on **display**.

“but the only begotten God who is at the Father’s side has made him known” (1:18b)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (14:9)

Jesus did many “**signs**” pointing people to God (2:11)

So many, in fact, that John didn’t have the time or space to record them all (see 21:24-25)

“that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God”

Confessions of faith in Christ have **content**

“I believe that . . .” (John 6:68-69; 11:27; Rom. 10:9-10)

4. Jesus will give you life

“and that believing you may have life in his name.”

The life that Jesus offers has peace (14:27) that conquers fear now and is victorious over death (11:25-26) forever.

It is life **undefeated** and **unending**.

Life Group Homework

1. Do you have a favorite story, person, miraculous sign, chapter or teaching in John? Write it below and share it with the group.
2. Is John mainly for non-Christians? If so, why should Christians bother to spend time reading it?
3. Read John 11:45-53 and 12:9-11, 37. How differently did the people respond who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

Why do you think that a doubter doesn’t always get a personal sign of God’s miraculous power, even when they ask for one?

4. Over 90% of what John includes in his gospel is ‘new’ material, not found in Matthew/Mark/Luke. What are five things recorded in John and nowhere else in the New Testament?
