

The
GOSPEL
of
JOHN

2024

Gardendale church of Christ

J O H N • T H E G O S P E L O F B E L I E F

Lesson 1

Introduction

Teacher's Note: The lesson material we will use for this thirteen lesson study of the Gospel of John was originally written by Sewell Hall, and taught at Embry Hills in the fall of 1984. Brother Hall drew the outline presented in this Introduction from material by Homer Hailey, and includes references from *John: The Gospel of Belief*, by Merrill C. Tenney.

I. The Author: John, the Apostle

A. Internal Evidences

1. He was a Jew. This knowledge is reached because:
 - a. Of his knowledge of the Jewish opinion concerning:
 - The Messiah
 - The hostility between Jews and Gentiles (Chapter 4)
 - The position of women (4:27)
 - The dispersion
 - Abraham and the prophets
 - b. Of his familiarity with Jewish usages such as:
 - Purification
 - Jewish feasts
 - Circumcision and the Sabbath
 - The law and evidence
2. He was an eyewitness to most of what we wrote:
 - a. He gives exact notes of time as:
 - The feasts
 - The days (1:29, 35, 43; 2:1)
 - The hours (1:39; 4:6, 52)
 - The time of day (3:2, 6:16, 13:30)
 - b. He gives the number present at different times:
 - The number of persons (1:35, 4:18)
 - The number of objects (2:6; 6:9, 13, 19)
 - c. The very vividness of the narrative
3. He was an apostle. This is shown:
 - a. In his knowledge of the thoughts of the disciples
 - b. In his knowledge of the private words of the disciples that others would not know
 - c. In his knowledge of the private resorts of the apostles
 - d. In his knowledge of the Lord's motives
 - e. In his knowledge of Christ's feelings -- intimacy
4. We conclude the gospel was written by the apostle John.

B. External Evidence

1. From the earliest it was ascribed to John
2. Unbroken tradition ascribed it to John
3. It is of too high a character to have been a forgery

II. The Apostle John

- A. He talks little of himself
 - 1. He wrote five books and mentions his name five times, all in Revelation (1:1, 4, 9; 22:2, 28)
 - 2. He did not talk about his family although:
 - a. A prominent family; his father operated fishing boats
 - b. His mother was prominent in other gospels, but he makes no mention of her
 - c. His brother, James, would furnish a basis of family pride
 - 3. In this he differs from other New Testament writers:
 - a. Peter tells much of himself, hope, sufferings, etc.
 - b. Paul tells frequently of his former and present life
- B. Others say little of him
 - 1. His name is mentioned only 20 times in the gospels, and then in more than half of them little or no information is given; he is only named.
 - 2. Compared with other important New Testament characters:
 - a. John the Baptist is mentioned 83 times in the gospels; twenty times in John. In Acts, John the Baptist is named nine times; John the Apostle nine times.
 - b. Peter is named over thirty times in John; John, only twenty times in all the gospels.

III. Characteristics of the Gospel of John

- A. A Gospel of the **Incarnation**
 - 1. Matthew emphasizes the Messianic functions of Jesus Kingship
 - 2. Mark portrays His wonderful work as the Son of God Servant
 - 3. Luke describes His character as the world's redeemer Savior
 - 4. John emphasizes His person as "the Word become flesh" Godhood
- B. A Gospel of **Symbolism**: "I Am" (8:58)
 - 1. "The bread of life" 6:48
 - 2. "The light of the world" 8:12
 - 3. "The door of the sheep" 10:7
 - 4. "The good shepherd" 10:11
 - 5. "The resurrection and the life" 11:25
 - 6. "The way and the truth and the life" 14:6
 - 7. "The true vine" 15:1
- C. A Gospel of **Contrasts**
 - 1. Light and Darkness
 - 2. Truth and Falsehood
 - 3. Good and Evil
 - 4. Belief and Unbelief
 - 5. Life and Death
 - 6. God and Satan
 - 7. Friends and Foes
 - 8. Faithful Disciples and Criticizing Pharisees
 - 9. Confessions of Peter & Thomas, Betrayal of Judas
 - 10. Raising of Lazarus, Death of Jesus
 - 11. Reasonableness of belief, Unreasonableness of unbelief
 - 12. Gradual development of Thomas to confession, decline of Judas to betrayal
- D. A Gospel of **The Holy Spirit**, whom Jesus would send in His stead
 - 1. He should come as a "Comforter" 14:16-18
 - 2. Teach them all things, bringing to their remembrance 14:26
 - 3. Bear witness of Jesus 15:26
 - 4. Convict the world of sin 16:7-11
 - 5. Guide the apostles into all truth 16:12-14
 - 6. Declare the things to come 16:12-14
 - 7. Glorify Christ 16:12-14

E. A Gospel of Feasts

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| 1. The Passover | 2:13 |
| 2. A feast of the Jews (Chapter 5: if a Passover, then we have four Passovers, which gives us the three years plus of His ministry) | |
| 3. The Passover | Chapter 6 |
| 4. The Feast of Tabernacles | Chapter 7 |
| 5. The Feast of Dedication | Chapter 10 |
| 6. The Last Passover | Chapters 11-18 |

F. A Gospel of the Individual

Throughout the book the emphasis is on the individual. One feels that Jesus is speaking to the individual:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Each disciple as He calls him (1) | 6. The woman taken in adultery (8) |
| 2. Nicodemus (3) | 7. The man born blind (9) |
| 3. The Samaritan woman (4) | 8. Mary and Martha (11) |
| 4. The nobleman (4) | 9. Pilate (18, 19) |
| 5. The lame man whom Jesus healed (7) | 10. Mary, Thomas, Peter, etc (20, 21) |

F. A Gospel of Testimony and Witnesses

The general theme of the book is a **gospel of belief**. Merrill C. Tenney, in his book *John, a Gospel of Belief*, analyzes John 20:30-31 in this manner:

A Selective Gospel	Many other signs . . . not written
An Attested Gospel	in the presence of the disciples
An Apologetic Gospel	that ye may believe
An Interpretive Gospel	that Jesus is the Christ
A Definitive Gospel	the Son of God

Tenney also suggests the following divisions of the book, which we will follow in our class:

Prologue	1:1-18
The Period of Consideration	1:19 - 4:54
The Period of Controversy	5:1 - 6:71
The Period of Conflict	7:1 - 11:53
The Period of Crisis	11:54 - 12:36a
The Period of Conference	12:36b - 17:26
The Period of Consummation	18:1 - 20:31
Epilogue	21:1-25

(Excerpt from Sewell Hall)

Lesson 2 Chapter 1

1. Who is being spoken of in **verses 1-5**? Explain your answer.
2. Who is the “John” that is mentioned in **verses 6-9**? For what purpose was He sent into the world?
3. Jesus came to earth so that mankind could become children of God. What does it mean to be born of God? (**vs.10-13**)
4. From **verses 14-18**, explain why it was important for Jesus to become a physical man.
5. What prophecy did John point out that he was sent to fulfill? (**vs.19-25**) Why is this important to us?

6. What sign would Jesus show the Jews which would ultimately prove that He had the authority to do these things? **(vs.17-21)**

7. What Scripture is being referenced that the disciples believed after Jesus rose from the dead? **(v.22)**

8. Why did Jesus not place any stock in what most men thought of Him at this point? **(vs.23-25)**

Lesson 4 Chapter 3

1. What specific role would Nicodemus have played as a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews?
(v.1)
2. Was Nicodemus' statement to Jesus in **verse 2** correct? How does this set Him apart from most of his people at the time?
3. What type of birth was Jesus speaking of which Nicodemus couldn't understand?
(vs.1-10)
4. What Old Testament event does Jesus reference regarding Himself in the future?
(vs.11-15) How does this apply?
5. What does it mean to be a believer as verse 16 states it? (cf. Acts 2:44: 16:31-34)

6. What does Jesus mean by the statements “does the truth” and “done in God”? (**v.21**)

7. What answer did John give and what did he mean by it when questioned by the people regarding those coming to Jesus to be baptized? (**vs.22-30**)

8. In John’s words, how would one certify that God is true? (**vs.31-36**) How would one do so today?

Lesson 5 Chapter 4

1. Research Question: Did the Jews normally travel through Samaria to get to Galilee? If not, then why not? (vs.1-4)
2. How would this apply to the initial discussion between Jesus and the woman at the well? (vs.5-9)
3. What is the gift of God that Jesus speaks of? What is living water? (vs.10-14)
4. From the words of Jesus, what can we ascertain about this woman's marital situation? (vs.15-18)
5. Do you think that this woman has changed the subject to deflect from her present situation? (vs.19-20)

6. What do we learn from Jesus about true worship before God? (**vs.21-24**)

7. What are the significances of this woman leaving her waterpot, going back into the city and addressing the public? (**vs.25, 28-30, 39-42**)

8. What is Jesus trying to explain to His disciples that they obviously misunderstand? (**vs.27, 31-38**)

9. Did this time that Jesus spent with the Samaritans have any effect on what they did in the future? Can we prove such biblically?

10. What was different about the nobleman of Capernaum than most that Jesus encountered? (**vs.48-50**)

Lesson 6 Chapter 5

1. Do you think it was just a coincidence that Jesus shows up at the pool of Bethesda?
(vs.1-9) Explain your answer.
2. What did Jesus mean by His statement to the man He healed in **verse 14**?
3. Why were the Jews wanting to kill Jesus? What was so mistakenly faulty about their reasoning? (vs.16-18)
4. What can be determined from the words of Jesus in **verses 19-23**?
5. Jesus is stressing the importance of believing in Him based upon what future event?
(vs.24-29)

6. What application can we make to ourselves from Jesus' statement in **verse 30**?

7. Who and or what are the witnesses that Jesus gives of Himself? (**vs.31-39**)

8. How is this statement, which was true about the Jews, still true concerning many today?
(**vs.41-44**)

9. What prophecy is alluding to being fulfilled in **verse 46**?

10. What present day application can we make to what is said in **verse 47**?

Lesson 7 Chapter 6

1. According to **verse 6**, for whom was the following miracle primarily performed?

2. What lesson was Jesus wanting them to learn from the feeding and leftovers? (**vs.11-14**)

3. Was there a lesson that Jesus wanted His disciples to learn from the storm on the sea?
(**vs.15-21; c.f. Mark 6:45:52**)

4. For what reason did the people seek out Jesus the next day? (**vs.22-27; see also v.15**)

5. How was Jesus using the manna given to Israel as an analogy that they should apply to Him? (**vs.28-35**)

6. From what you know of the New Testament...
 - a. How will these the Father has given to Jesus come to Him? (**v.37**)
 - b. What is the raising up that Jeus speaks of in the last day? (**v.39**)
 - c. How can we see the Son today and believe in Him? (**v.40**)
7. What can we learn from Jesus' use of the prophets' writings in **verse 45** regarding how disciples are made?
8. How should we understand Jesus when He says that one must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life? (**vs. 47-59**)
9. What explanation would you give for **verse 63** and how would it apply to what Jesus says in **verse 65**?
10. Based on the context of the chapter, for what reason do you see that many walked away? (**v.66**)

Lesson 8 Chapter 7

1. Considering His conversation with His brothers, what did Jesus mean when He said that their time is always ready? (**vs.1-9**)
2. How would the people know whether or not Jesus spoke on His own authority? (**vs.16-18**)
3. What does it mean to judge with righteous judgment, and how would such apply in this context? (**vs.21-24; cf. Matt. 7:1-5**)
4. What is it that the people know and don't know according to Jesus? (**vs.25-31**)

5. The people didn't understand the saying of Jesus in verse 34. Answer the question that they asked in verse 36.

6. How do we reconcile what Jesus has to say in **verses 37-40** with the rest of the New Testament?

7. What was it that the people were divided over concerning Jesus? (**vs.40-44**) How could it have been cleared up?

8. According to **verse 48**, what was the religious standard that was expected to be followed? Was this a good standard? Explain your answer.

9. What can we infer about Nicodemus from his words in **verse 51**?

10. Were the Pharisees right in their reasoning about a prophet from Galilee? (**v.52**) Explain your answer.

Lesson 9 Chapter 8

1. Research Question: What was the problem with the adulterous scenario presented to Jesus? (**vs.1-11; Duet. 22:22**)
2. What meaning should be taken from Jesus' statement in **verse 12**?
3. How does Jesus point out the error of the Pharisees accusation against Him? (**vs.13-20**)
4. What about Jesus in the context of **verse 24** must be believed or else?
5. What two things can one be assured of if they continue in the words of Jesus? (**vs.31-32**)

6. If the Jews had truly been like their father Abraham, what would they have done? (**vs.37-40**)

7. Thought Question: What can we necessarily infer from **verse 41** about fornication?

8. How are the Jews more comparable to Satan than to Abraham? (**vs.42-47**)

9. How do **verses 31-32** harmonize with **verses 51-52**?

10. What about Jesus' statement in **verse 58** caused the Jews to immediately want to stone Him? (**vs.53-59**)

Lesson 10 Chapter 9

1. What can be inferred from the disciples' question to Jesus? (**vs.1-2**)

2. What New Testament act and the results of it can correspond with what Jesus asked the blind man to do? (**vs.6-7**)

3. What was the difference in the Pharisees reasoning about Jesus from others who were present that day? (**vs.16-23**)

4. What three arguments did the formerly blind man use to make his case about Jesus?
(**vs.24-30**)
 - i.

 - ii.

Lesson 11 Chapter 10

1. What or whom do each of the characters in the parable represent in reality? (**vs.1-5**)
 - i. The sheepfold -
 - ii. The door -
 - iii. Thief\robber -
 - iv. The doorkeeper -
 - v. The sheep -
2. Shepherding was a common practice in Jesus' day. Why was it that the people didn't understand the parable? (**v.6**)
3. What is this abundant life that Jesus offers? (**v.10**) Why is it greater than the present?

Lesson 12 Chapter 11

1. **(Please read the entire chapter before answering this question)** Why was it necessary for John to reaffirm Jesus' love for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in **verse 1**?
2. How does the light of the world reference apply in this context? What about the time factor? (**vs.6-10**)
3. Why does Jesus make this statement about belief regarding His disciples? What does it say about them? (**vs.14-16**)
4. Compare Martha's words to Jesus in **verse 21-22** with her words in **verse 39**. What understanding does Martha have currently?
5. How do you explain the various life and death statements that are made by Jesus in **verses 23-26**?

6. Twice, in **verse 33 and 38**, John says that Jesus feels deeply indignant (literal translation). This tells us that Jesus was angry. Why was this so?

7. Why did Jesus speak out loud to the Father at the tomb of Lazarus? (**vs.42-44**)

8. What do we learn about the Jewish leaders that shows us why they rejected Jesus as the Messiah? (**vs.45-48**)

9. Do you think that Caiaphas understood what he prophesied? What about the other members of the council? (**vs. 49-53**) Explain your answer.

10. Would it have been acceptable for Jesus not to come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover since His life was threatened? (**vs.54-57**) Explain your answer.

Lesson 13 Chapter 12

1. Who was an honored guest along with Jesus for the meal in Bethany? Why would this one be honored? (vs.1-2)
2. What does the anointing of Jesus say about Mary and her understanding of Jesus? (vs.3-8)
3. What do we learn about Judas in John's account of this incident? In what way could this shed some light on his betrayal of Jesus?
4. Thought Question: Where would Lazarus have been for those four days that He was dead? How does that contrast with what he came back to? What could Lazarus know that would have comforted Him? (vs.9-11)

5. In applying Zechariah 9:9 to Jesus in paying Him homage, what did the Jews misunderstand about Him? (vs.12-19)

6. How are we to explain Jesus' response to the Greeks who wished to see Him? (vs.20-26)
What application can we make to ourselves?

7. What incident was Jesus referring to in **verses 27-30**, and what does He say that the purpose of it was?

8. Believing in Jesus also corresponds with what according to verses 42-50? How does Jesus emphasize the importance of this?

Lesson 14 Chapter 13

1. As chapter 13 begins, what does Jesus realize about His earthly existence? (**vs.1-3**)
2. For what reason did Jesus wash the feet of His disciples? (**vs.4-5, 12-15**)
3. What is the meaning of Jesus and Peter's discussion in **verses 6-10**?
4. What application can we make to Jesus' words in **verse 16**? What will be the benefit of applying such to our lives? (**v.17**)
5. Jesus prophesying His betrayal would be what to His disciples when it was fulfilled? (**vs.19**)

6. How did Jesus feel about having to reveal this? How did the disciples react? (**vs.21-24**)

7. Who is the disciple that Jesus loved? What does it mean when the text says that this disciple was leaning on His bosom? (**vs.25-26**)

8. Compare **verse 2 and verse 27**. What explanation would you give regarding what this means?

9. What was the command that Jesus gave? How was it exemplified? How can someone know a disciple of Jesus? (**vs.34-35**)

5. Who is to be considered in the context of **verses 12-14** concerning the works and the asking in Jesus' name?

6. How was Jesus going to come to the apostles and not leave them as orphans? (**v.18**)

7. According to **verses 19-24**, what all will obedience to the words of Jesus accomplish?

8. What two-fold work would the Holy Spirit accomplish within the apostles? (**v.26**)

9. Jesus proved His love for the Father in the same way that the apostles proved their love for Him. How was this proven? (**vs.15, 31**) What application can we make to this? (**Matt.28:20**)

Lesson 16 Chapter 15

1. Who are the branches that Jesus is referring to? (v.2)
2. In what way are the branches “clean”? (v.3; cf.13:10)
3. How were the branches to remain on the vine? What would this accomplish? (vs.4-5, 7-8)
4. What would be the consequences for a branch not remaining on the vine? (vs.5-6)
5. Considering this, is there any application that can be made to us as disciples today?
(cf. Rom. 11:17-22)

6. How had the Father loved Jesus? How had Jesus loved the apostles? (**v.9**)

7. If the apostles were to abide in that same love, what would that look like? (**vs.10-13**)

8. According to Jesus, what is the difference between a friend and a servant? (**vs.14-17**)

9. If the world persecuted the apostles, what would that prove about them? What would such prove about the world? (**vs.18-25**) Can the same be said about disciples and the world today? (*cf.* **Phil. 1:27-30**)

10. What further will the Holy Spirit do when He comes to the apostles? What will such allow the apostles to do? (**vs.26-27; Acts 1:1-8**)

Lesson 17 Chapter 16

1. Who are the murderers that Jesus speaks of in **verse 2**? What well-known Bible character fits this picture well?
2. When Jesus told the apostles that it was advantageous that He go away, what reason did He give? What would this accomplish? (**vs.5-11**)
3. According to **verses 12-16**, what will the Holy Spirit do for and through the apostles?
4. What was Jesus referring to in **verses 17-18**, and why did the apostles not understand it?

5. Why would Jesus need to initially speak to the apostles in figurative language? (**v.25**)
Could this relate to what He said in **verse 12**?

6. What explanation should be given to what Jesus says about Himself regarding the apostles' prayers? (**vs.26-28**)

7. Does the claim of the apostles in **verses 29-30** seem impulsive? If so, why?

8. What time of peace is Jesus speaking of that the apostles could have? (**vs.31-33**) Can we have this same peace as disciples today?

Lesson 18 Chapter 17

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, “**The time has come**”? (vs.1)
2. What are some applications that we can take away from the words of Jesus in **verses 1-4**?
3. How does **verse 5** compare with **Philippians 2:5-11**?
4. Who are the men that the Father had given to Jesus? (v.6) In what way had they previously belonged to the Father?
5. Compare **verses 7-8** with **chapter 16:12**. What explanation can be given regarding this contrast?

Lesson 19 Chapter 18

1. According to other gospel accounts, which garden was this (**vs.1**), and what did Jesus continue to do while there?
2. Who would have made up the attachment of troops that Judas led to the garden to arrest Jesus? (**vs.1-3**)
3. What was the name of the High Priest's servant of whom Peter cut off his ear? (**vs.10-11**) What did Jesus do after this? (**Luke 22:50-51**)
4. Who was Annas, and why was Jesus taken to him first and not Caiaphas? (**vs.12-15; cf. Luke 3:2**)
5. Who would have been the other disciple who let Peter into the courtyard of the High Priest? (**vs.15-18**)

6. Considering verses 19-23, do we see Jesus practicing what He preached? (**Matt. 5:39**)

7. What would Peter have realized about himself when the rooster crowed? (**vs.25-27**)
What application can we make to this?

8. Why did the Jews not want to go into Pilate's residence? What does this have to do with eating the Passover? (**v.28**)

9. What points did Jesus make to Pilate about His kingdom and kingship? (**vs.33-38**)

10. Research Question: What custom was Pilate referring to regarding the release of a prisoner? (**vs.39-40**)

Lesson 20 Chapter 19

1. If Pilate found no fault in Jesus, why did he have Him scourged? (**vs.1-4**)
2. What explanation do you give for Jesus' statement in **verse 11**?
3. What seems to be the main reason that Pilate gave Jesus over to be crucified? (**vs.12-16**)
4. Did Pilate have an ulterior motive for writing the title that he placed on Jesus' cross? (**vs.19-23**)
5. Research Question: Would the dividing of garments have been a common thing done by the soldiers at crucifixions or was this only providential for another purpose? (**vs.23-24**)

6. Who is the disciple that Jesus is speaking of and to in **verses 26-27**? What does Jesus mean by making these statements?

7. What was Jesus referring to when He said, “**It is finished**”? (v.30)

8. Research Question: Why was this particular sabbath in the context considered a “high day”? (v.31)

9. Thought Question: Does **verse 33** have any correlation to what John writes in **1 John 5:6-8**?

10. What is significant about the two men that took the body of Jesus and buried it? (vs.38-42)

Lesson 21 Chapter 20

1. The other gospel accounts tell us that there were several women with Mary at the tomb. Why does John only address Mary being there? (**vs.1-3**)
2. When running to the tomb of Jesus, which disciple proved to be faster? Which one proved to be more impulsive? (**vs.4-10**)
3. Considering **verse 9**, what was it that was believed by John in **verse 8**?
4. We see Mary speaking to two angels at the tomb. How do we explain Matthew and Mark's account of only one? (**vs.11-14; cf. Matt.28:1-8; Mark 16:5-8**)
5. How do you explain Jesus' words to Mary in **verse 17**?

6. How do we reconcile **verses 22-23** with what is said in **Acts 2:1-4**?

7. When you consider the words of Thomas in **verses 24-25**, do you credit such to him negatively or positively?

8. In there any application that we can make to ourselves regarding what Thomas said?

9. Who are those who have not seen and believed? (**v.29**)

10. What does the Holy Spirit place emphasis on when it comes to sufficient evidence for believing in Jesus? (**vs.30-31**)

Lesson 22 Chapter 21

1. Is the Nathanael in verse 2 the same one that we met in chapter 1? If so, what do we learn about him?
2. How did John know that it was Jesus who was speaking to them from the shore? (vs.4-7)
3. What characteristic of Peter do we see again? (v.7) What is the practicality of this?
4. What are some other like things that have taken place with Jesus in their time that would coincide with the events here?
5. Based on **verse 12**, do you think that Jesus had somewhat of a different appearance after His resurrection?

6. For what purpose did Jesus ask Peter three times “**Do you love me**”? (vs.15-17)

7. What did Jesus mean by the statements about His lambs and sheep in the same verses?

8. Considering **verses 18-19**, what type of death are we to infer that Peter will face?

9. What lesson did Jesus teach Peter in responding to his question about John? (vs.20-22)

10. Knowing that there was an abundance of things that could have been written about Jesus, how should we feel about what has been revealed? (vs.24-25)