

**Exploring John:**  
*Discovering Who Jesus Truly is*

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## PREFACE

The book of John tells us about the life, teachings, miracles, and redeeming work of Jesus Christ, and how these relate significantly to our lives. I like the book of John because it records what Jesus says radically about himself. As a follower of Jesus Christ, I find my life is secured in him. He takes care of me. He is my Shepherd and guides me when I am lost. He strengthens me when I face challenging circumstances in life. I find life fulfillment and satisfaction in him. This is the very reason why Jesus came to this world. He came so that you and I may have a new life in him and have it abundantly. I hope this study will help you to discover a new life you can have in Jesus as you journey to discover who he is.

Soli Deo Gloria  
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## Introduction

The book of John was written about 85-90 A.D. by the Apostle John. There were twelve core disciples of Jesus who were called apostles and John was one of them. Apostle means messenger of God.

## Lesson 1 – Who is Jesus?

### Read John 1:1-18

In John 1, we will learn that Jesus has many titles. The first one is *the Word of God* (Revelation 19:13).

What can we know about Jesus, the *Word of God* (v.1-4)?

Just like God, Jesus has life within himself. He was with God in the beginning and was the agent through whom God created the universe. Another title for Jesus is *the Light*. Jesus is our *Light*, who brings light to our hearts and minds. The light of Jesus guides our lives and helps us see in the darkness of this world. The darkness cannot overcome *the Light* (v.5). Once we have Jesus in us, the darkness will not be able to overcome us either.

John—known as John the Baptist, not the Apostle John who wrote this book—was sent by God to prepare for the coming of Jesus to this world (v.6). John baptized many people.

What can we know about John (v.7-8)?

What else can we know about Jesus, *the true Light* (v.9-11)?

What can Jesus make us become, if we receive and believe in him, trusting our lives to him (v.12-13)?

What else can we know about Jesus, *the Word* (v.14-18)?

The Son of God became flesh, born as a human being and was given the name Jesus. Jesus came to reveal who God is to us. He is *the grace* and *the truth* of God for us.

### Read John 1:19-28

What did John say about himself (v.19-23)?

Why did John say that he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals (v.27)?

### **Read John 1:29-34**

What title did John use for Jesus? Why (v.29)?

In the Old Testament time, God taught the people of Israel to offer young and perfect lambs as sacrifices to him. The innocent lambs were temporary substitutions, bearing the punishment and dying for the people's sins, so that the people could live. The lambs pointed to Jesus, *the innocent and perfect Lamb of God*, who sacrificed himself and died on the cross for our sins as our substitute. Jesus has made the ultimate and once for all sacrifice for us, so that we can have a new life in him by repenting from our sins, believing in him and his sacrifice for us, and trusting our lives to him. The new life that Jesus gives us is a personal and loving relationship with God through him.

What did John say about Jesus (v.30-33)?

What other title did John use for Jesus (v.34)?

### **Read John 1:35-42**

What is another title used for Jesus (v.41)?

*Messiah* (Hebrew word) and *Christ* (Greek word) mean *the anointed one, the awaited one, or the promised one*—the promised and awaited Savior sent by God to save people from sin, evil, and darkness. Jesus is *the Messiah* and *the Christ*. He is *the promised Savior*.

### **Read John 1:43-51**

What did Nathanael call Jesus (v.49)?

What title did Jesus use for himself (v.51)?

Several titles have been used for Jesus in this chapter: *the Word of God, the Light, the Christ, the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the King of Israel, and the Son of Man*.

Which ones are meaningful to you? Why?

## Lesson 2 – Why Did Jesus Come to this World?

### Read John 2:1-12

What did Jesus do at the wedding?

A wedding was celebrated for several days in that time. In order to accommodate the guests, it was necessary to plan and prepare a wedding carefully. In Israel's culture, running out of wine in a wedding would bring embarrassment to the couple and their families. Jesus knew their problem. He cared about and wanted to help them. He provided more wine to take away their shame and embarrassment. Similarly, Jesus takes away all our sins that bring shame, guilt, and fear to us.

What did the master of the feast say about the new wine (v.10)?

Just as Jesus gives the best wine to the couple, he gives the best gift to us. The best gift we receive from Jesus is not material thing but himself. He offers himself to come and be in our lives. When we have Jesus in our lives, we experience the best life we can have.

What was the impact of the miracle in the hearts of his disciples (v.11)?

The disciples' understanding about Jesus' identity grew. They believed that he was the Son of God who came to this world to save his people from their sins and misery. The disciples believed in Jesus, trusting their lives to him.

### Read John 2:13-25

The Passover is a Jewish festival celebrating God's rescuing the nation of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

What did Jesus find in the temple of God (v.14)?

What did he do then (v.15-16)?

When the Jews went to the temple, they usually brought animals that would be sacrificed as a symbol of temporary substitution, taking the punishment and dying for their sins. The religious leaders opened a market to sell animals to help those who came from far away, so that they did not need to bring animals. This market, which was opened with a good purpose, eventually became a business place with dishonest sellers. Furthermore, they did the business in the *Court of the Gentiles*, the area of the temple that was intended for Gentiles (non-Jewish people or foreigners) to worship God. Jesus was very angry when he saw a holy place to worship God had become a "dirty" market.

After what Jesus did to the business sellers, the religious leaders got angry at him and questioned his authority (v.18).

What was Jesus' answer to them, and what does it mean (v.19-22)?

What else did Jesus do in Jerusalem (v.23)?

Jesus knew that many people came to him because they liked to see miracles. They did not truly believe in him. As God, Jesus knew what was in their hearts and minds (v.24-25).

### **Read John 3:1-21**

Jesus told Nicodemus that for a person to enter the kingdom of God, he must be born again. Jesus was talking about spiritual birth, when a person repents from his sins, turns his heart to God, and believes in Jesus, trusting and surrendering his life to him. Spiritual birth is the work of God (the Holy Spirit) in us.

Why did God send Jesus Christ to the world (v.16-17)?

The kingdom of God is the dominion of God's rule in heaven and on earth. Jesus came to this world to show us the way to God's kingdom. He is *the Way* through whom we can be spiritually reborn and enter God's kingdom. He came to sacrifice himself bearing the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that by believing in him and trusting our lives to him, God forgives our sins and gives us a new identity as his children.

God does not condemn us of any sins anymore but credits the honor and righteousness of Jesus to us. He makes us righteous people and gives us a new life in Jesus. This is what spiritually reborn or born of God means. This new life we have in union with Jesus is a personal and loving relationship with God for eternity—an eternal life relationship with God.

### **Read John 3:22-36**

John made some comments about Jesus and himself. He used an illustration of a wedding, in which Jesus was the bridegroom, the bride was the people who believed in Jesus, and John was the friend of the bridegroom. He was joyful seeing people following Jesus.

Where did Jesus come from (v.31)?

John told the people the reason Jesus came to the world.

What did John emphasize about this (v.35-36)?

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

### Lesson 3 – The Gift of God for Us

#### Read John 4:1-26

Samaritans were not pure Jews but a mixed-race people, born from intermarriage between Jews and foreigners. The Jews outside Samaria hated them and would not travel through Samaria. The Jews even considered sharing utensils with Samaritans as unholy or unclean. Jesus, however, purposefully went to Samaria, had a conversation with a Samaritan woman, and asked for a drink using her cup.

How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' request and what was her attitude (v.9)?

How did Jesus respond to her (v.10)?

There are four things in Jesus' statement: (1) what the gift of God is, (2) what *the living water* is, (3) who Jesus is, and (4) how she could receive the gift of God and *the living water*. Jesus knew that the woman was an outcast and lonely, and wanted to fill her life with *the living water* to satisfy the deepest thirst of her soul.

What will happen to a person who receives Jesus' *living water* (v.14)?

Jesus told her that both the Jews and the Samaritans had limited knowledge about the proper way to worship God. God is spirit and is not limited by places. Jesus told her that she could now worship God in spirit and in truth, in a personal and loving relationship with God through him. This was *the living water* that Jesus offered her. Jesus wanted her to believe in him and she did. She asked Jesus a final question to affirm his identity. She knew Jesus might be the Messiah (the Christ, the Promised Savior) who came to save people from sin and darkness and to give them hope for a new life.

What was Jesus' response to her (v.26)?

#### Read John 4:27-42

How did she begin to become *a spring of water* for others (v.28-29)?

How did many other Samaritans receive *the living water* from Jesus (v.39-41)?

What did they say to her about their belief and about Jesus (v.42)?

The woman believed in Jesus and trusted her life to him. She believed that Jesus is the Savior of the world. She received *the living water* in her heart, and she became *a spring of water* to others by simply telling how Jesus changed her life. Her simple testimony made a great impact to her entire town.

**Read John 4:43-54**

How did the man respond after Jesus told him to go (v.50)?

What was the result of his faith in Jesus (v.51)?

What was a further result of Jesus' miracle to his family (v.53)?

**Read John 5:1-18**

The Jewish religious leaders established hundreds of rules including not allowing anyone to carry a mat on the Sabbath, which was considered as a holy day. God told the Jews to keep the Sabbath holy as a day to worship God and to rest from work. The Jewish leaders added many more rules that prohibited the Jews from doing certain things on the Sabbath.

What did Jesus do in Jerusalem on the Sabbath?

Jesus went to heal a sick man who was hopeless and gave him a new life. Similarly, in our hopelessness, Jesus can heal and save us from sin and darkness. He can give us a new life.

Why did the Jews try to kill Jesus (v.18)?

**Read John 5:19-47**

What did Jesus say to the Jews (v.24)?

When we believe in Jesus, trusting our lives to him, God forgives our sins and credits us the honor and righteousness of Jesus. We will not face the judgment of God for the punishment of our sins anymore, because Jesus has taken our punishment and died for us as our substitute. We also begin to have a personal and loving relationship with God in Jesus, and this relationship will never end. It goes on for eternity—an eternal life-loving relationship with him.

Jesus gave his testimony as the Messiah sent by God, and his testimony was confirmed by John the Baptist (v.33) and God the Father (v.36). In addition, Scripture also confirmed him (v.39). Several writers of the Bible, including Moses wrote about Jesus (v.45). The Jews did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. They believed the Messiah would be a powerful political leader, who would deliver them from the Romans' oppression. However, Jesus came to save people spiritually from sin and darkness, and to take away people's shame, fear, and guilt. He did not come to this world to claim power. He came to give up his power and glory and to die for our sake, so that we can have a new life in him. He is our Savior.

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 4 – Jesus is the Bread of Life**

### **Read John 6:1-15**

What miracle did Jesus perform in this story?

We can trust in God's power, even we have only a few things. Just as Jesus used a few bread and fish and multiplied them abundantly to feed the crowd, God can multiply a few things and use them to accomplish great things and to bless many people through us.

Thinking that Jesus might be a powerful political figure, what did the Jews intend to do to him (v.15)?

Jesus withdrew from them. He did not come to the world to gain power, but to give up power and to die for our sake.

### **Read John 6:16-21**

What happened to Jesus' disciples in the sea?

Jesus was God in human form and had control over nature. He was revealing his deity to his disciples so that they might believe in him. Once Jesus came into their boat, they had joy and peace, and found their trouble had passed. Similarly, once Jesus comes into our lives, he will give us joy and peace. He will help us to overcome our troubles.

### **Read John 6:22-59**

What question did the people ask Jesus and what was his answer (v.28-29)?

What did Jesus say about himself (v.35)?

What do you think it means?

What is the will of God the Father (v.39-40)?

The crowd misunderstood Jesus. They thought he was talking about physical bread, but Jesus was talking in a spiritual sense. He was talking about himself as the true bread from heaven who gives eternal life to those who believe in him. He sacrificed his life for us and died on the cross for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He came to save us, so that by believing in him and trusting our lives to him, we can have a new life—a personal and loving relationship with him that gives us joy and peace for eternity.

Many of Jesus' followers started to leave, because they could not believe that he was from heaven (v.42). They followed Jesus with selfish ambitions. They wanted more free food or other things for themselves. They wanted what Jesus could give them. Many people think that God is supposed to give them whatever they ask. They are disappointed when they do not get what they want. This is a wrong belief about God. God wants us to love him as he loves us. He wants a personal and loving relationship with us. Rejecting and dishonoring God is the nature of our sins. Our selfishness or self-centeredness is the essence of our sins and rebellion against God.

### **Read John 6:60-71**

Jesus then asked the Twelve—his core disciples—if they wanted to leave as well.

What was Simon Peter's answer to him (v.68-69)?

Peter believed that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, who came from heaven to this world to give us a new life—a personal and loving relationship with God for eternity. Peter believed and put his faith in Jesus, trusting his life to him.

### **Read John 7:1-13**

Jesus' parents were Joseph and Mary, but Jesus was not born naturally through a physical union of Joseph and Mary. He was born supernaturally. Mary was pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit (for more details, read Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25). After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had other children, Jesus' half siblings. They also did not believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah. However, they later believed in Jesus, most likely after his resurrection. One of his brothers, James, became a leader of the early church in Jerusalem.

What did Jesus say to his brothers (v.6-8)?

Why does the world hate Jesus (v.7)?

What might be a reason the Jewish religious leaders were looking for Jesus at the feast (v.1, 11-12)?

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 5 – Jesus is the Light of the World**

### **Read John 7:14-36**

How did the Jews react to Jesus' teaching (v.15)?

What did they think about Jesus' identity (v.25-27)?

Did anyone believe in Jesus (v.31)?

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, he would return to heaven. People would not be able to find him (v.33-34). Later, Jesus told his disciples that he would prepare a place in heaven for all his followers.

### **Read John 7:37 – 8:11**

What will followers of Jesus receive and what is the significance of it (v.38-39)?

How did the religious leaders try to find some charge against Jesus (v.3-6)?

How did Jesus save the woman's life (v.7-10)?

What did Jesus tell her to do (v.11)?

Jesus confronted her sin but also gave her forgiveness. He wanted her to repent from her sins, turn her heart to God, and live a new life. Likewise, God wants us to repent from our sins and to put our faith in Jesus, trusting and surrendering our lives to him. God offers forgiveness for us if we believe in his Son, Jesus, who has died in our place bearing the punishment of our sins as our substitute. In Jesus, we find our hope and new life—a life of a personal and loving relationship with God.

### **Read John 8:12-30**

What did Jesus say about himself (v.12)?

Jesus was revealing his deity as the Savior who came from heaven above. He came to bring light to the world, not just to the Jewish people but to people from all nations. We live in sin and darkness, but Jesus has come to save us, so that we can have a new life in him.

What was Jesus' answer to the Pharisees' question about God the Father, and what do you think it means (v.19)?

What did Jesus say to the Jews (v.23-24)?

Many people believed in Jesus (v.30). However, for some of them, their belief was insincere or shallow.

**Read John 8:31-47**

What did Jesus say about our relation to sin (v.34)?

What can Jesus do for us (v.36)?

What did Jesus say about the devil (v.44)?

In what ways do you think the devil deceives us?

**Read John 8:48-59**

What did Jesus say to the Jews (v.51)?

Keeping Jesus' words means believing in him continuously and firmly. People may say they believe in Jesus, but later they do not. This shows that they never had a true faith in Jesus.

The Jews questioned if Jesus was greater than Abraham—the ancestor of the Jewish people—and all other prophets (v.53). Jesus affirmed this. He even claimed that he knew Abraham personally—Jesus revealed himself to Abraham in the Old Testament time—and Abraham rejoiced to know that Jesus would one day come to the world and be born as a man (v.56). By saying this, Jesus was revealing his deity to the Jews, but they rejected him.

What did Jesus say to them and what did they try to do to him (v.58-59)?

They were angry at Jesus because he was claiming to exist before Abraham. He also used the word “I Am”—the same expression God used for the Jewish ancestors in the Old Testament time—indicating his eternal nature. They wanted to kill Jesus because he claimed to be equal with God. They could not believe he was the Messiah and the Light of the world, who came from heaven to save people from sin and darkness.

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 6 – Jesus is the Good Shepherd**

### **Read John 9:1-12**

What miracle did Jesus do in this story?

Some people think physical disability from birth is a punishment of sin. This is not necessarily true. Jesus could use the blind man's suffering to show the great works of God. Likewise, God can use our suffering or difficult situations to change us and other people. Our faith in God and his work in our lives can greatly impact the people around us.

### **Read John 9:13-41**

How were the Pharisees (religious leaders of the Jewish community) divided regarding Jesus (v.16)?

What did the parents of the healed man tell the Pharisees? Why (v.20-23)?

What did the man think about Jesus (v.30-33)?

The healed man was cast out by the Pharisees, and Jesus came to find him (v.35). Jesus had given him physical healing. Now, Jesus gave him spiritual healing—forgiving his sins, saving his soul, and initiating a personal and loving relationship with him.

What did Jesus ask him (v.35)?

What was his answer and what did he do (v.36-38)?

The man worshiped Jesus and entrusted his life to him. He believed that Jesus is the Savior who came from heaven to save people from their sins and misery. Jesus healed his physical and spiritual blindness. Jesus opened his eyes to see that he was the Messiah and the Light of the world, who brought light to his life physically and spiritually. Jesus gave him a bright new life—a life of a personal and loving relationship with him. The Pharisees did not believe in Jesus, and therefore they remained spiritually blind. We can be like the healed man and receive spiritual healing, when we put our faith and trust in Jesus.

### **Read John 10:1-21**

What did Jesus say about himself (v.7)?

What happens to the sheep who enter through Jesus? What do you think it means (v.9-10)?

What did Jesus say about himself and what was he willing to do to prove it (v.11)?

Jesus foretold about his sacrifice on the cross to save us from the ultimate danger—sin and evil. He laid down his life to save us. He is the Good Shepherd, and we are his sheep. In him, we are saved. In him, we find true spiritual peace and the well-being of our lives.

What is the difference between a hired hand and a good shepherd (v.12-15)?

Jesus repeatedly said that he would lay down his life for us. He was speaking about his future death on the cross, bearing the punishment for our sins as our substitute and saving us from sin and evil. This is his love for us, and he is faithful and committed to us.

**Read John 10:22-42**

What were the Jews anxious to know (v.24)?

What was Jesus' answer to them (v.25)?

Why did the Jews try to kill Jesus (v.30-33)?

Jesus said that his claiming to be God was not wrong at all from the perspective of Jewish history. In the Old Testament time, before the Jewish people had kings, God appointed judges to be their rulers. These judges were representatives of God and thus called “gods”—not the true God, but humans acting in God’s place to rule and judge the people. Therefore, Jesus was saying if these judges can be called “gods,” there was nothing wrong in Jesus calling himself the Son of God. He was indeed sent by God the Father.

What did Jesus say to prove his identity as the Son of God and his unity with God the Father (v.37-38)?

The Jews believed there was only one God. Anyone who claimed equality with God was considered blasphemous and deserved to die. They did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, who came from heaven to save the world. Jesus encouraged them to at least believe that his miracles were divine (the works of God). While many Jews rejected him, many others believed in him (v.42).

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## Lesson 7 – Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

### Read John 11:1-16

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were siblings and disciples of Jesus.

What happened to Lazarus (v.1-3)?

What did Jesus say regarding this (v.4)?

Jesus did not immediately go to help Lazarus but waited two more days. Before Jesus departed, he told his disciples that Lazarus had already died. Jesus had a purpose to show his divine power over death to his disciples and others.

### Read John 11:17-37

By the time Jesus and his disciples arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha believed in Jesus and in the Resurrection Day—the day that Jesus would return to resurrect God’s people and to give them a new heavenly body (v.24).

What did Jesus say about himself? Did Martha believe in Jesus (v.25-27)?

Jesus grieved with Mary and the others over the death of Lazarus. Particularly, Jesus grieved for the consequence of people’s sins that brings death and sorrow to their lives (v.35). Jesus is *the Resurrection and the Life*. True life comes from Jesus. He gives an eternal life to those who believe and put their faith in him, trusting their lives to him. Our sin brings physical death and spiritual death (separation from God) to us. Our faith in Jesus brings a new life to us—a personal and loving relationship with God in Jesus.

### Read John 11:38-57

What did Martha say to Jesus, when he asked to remove the stone that covered the tomb, and how did Jesus respond to her (v.39-40)?

What did Jesus do after people removed the stone (v.41-44)?

Jesus has power over life and death. He called Lazarus, and Lazarus heard the voice of his Creator and responded. He woke up and came out. Jesus put Lazarus’ soul back into his body and healed the decayed body. Jesus resurrected Lazarus and gave him life again. Many people, who saw this miracle, believed in Jesus (v.45).

Why did the Jewish religious leaders plan to murder Jesus (v.47-53)?

### **Read John 12:1-11**

What did Mary do for Jesus (v.3)?

Why did Judas Iscariot think that it was a waste of money (v.4-6)?

Mary knew that Jesus was the Messiah and gave him a sacrificial gift that probably cost all her savings. Jesus told the disciples that there would always be opportunities to help the poor, but only a short time to honor him. He was speaking indirectly that he would sacrifice himself and die on the cross to save people from the punishment of their sins as their substitute (v.7-8).

### **Read John 12:12-26**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd welcomed him with palm branches and praise. Jesus rode a donkey, as it had been prophesied by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9).

How did Jesus illustrate his sacrifice with a grain of wheat (v.24)?

### **Read John 12:27-50**

What did Jesus ask of the Father and what was the Father's response (v.27-28)?

In his humanity, Jesus felt troubled because he was going to a journey of sacrificing himself to die on the cross to bear the punishment of the sins of his people as their substitute. He did not ask God the Father to save him but was obedient to his purpose in coming to this world. He would be lifted up and crucified on the cross (v.32).

The crowd misunderstood the prophecies about Christ (v.34). Christ would remain forever, but he needed to die to redeem us.

What did Jesus say to the people? What do you think it means (v.35-36)?

What did Jesus say about believing in him (v.44-46)?

Jesus has come from heaven to this world to bring light to us and to save us from sin and darkness. He has revealed the truth about his identity, our sins, darkness, and God's judgment. Those who do not believe in Jesus will regret it at the end. He will judge them when he returns to this world. There will not be a second chance for them (v.48).

Now, God is patiently giving us time to turn our hearts to him. God also wants us to tell other people about His love and saving grace, and the new life they can have by believing and trusting their lives to His Son, Jesus, *the Resurrection and the Life*.

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 8 – Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life**

### **Read John 13:1-20**

How much does Jesus love his own people (v.1)?

What did Jesus do for his disciples (v.5)? Why (v.15)?

Jesus gave a clear example to his disciples on how to serve one another. Jesus, God in human flesh, taught and modeled the true meaning of loving others by serving them. Later, he would demonstrate the greatest act of love by sacrificing himself to die for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. This was what he meant by loving us to the end.

### **Read John 13:21-38**

Who would betray Jesus (v.26)?

Judas believed Jesus was a great teacher and leader but did not believe Jesus was the Savior whom God sent to bear and die for the punishment of our sins. Judas, like the Pharisees, believed that the Messiah was a political figure, and for Judas to follow a great political figure, it would bring him benefits. Therefore, when Jesus talked about sacrificing himself, he did not meet Judas' expectations of a leader.

What is Jesus' command to all his disciples (v.34)?

What is the significance of it (v.35)?

What did Jesus say to Peter (v.38)?

### **Read John 14:1-14**

What did Jesus say to his disciples (v.1-3)?

All people who follow Jesus will have troubles in this world. Jesus comforts us by letting us know that he has prepared a place in heaven for us and will come again to take us to live with him in heaven forever.

What did Jesus say about himself and what do you think it means (v.6)?

Jesus is the way that God the Father has provided us for our salvation from sin and darkness. Jesus is the truth, the reality of God himself, who has come to show us the truth about our lives. He is the source and giver of life (1:4). He is the way that leads to truth and eternal life.

What did Philip ask Jesus to do (v.8)?

What was Jesus' answer to him (v.9-10)?

Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. He reveals what God is like. He is in union with God the Father. This union ensures that whoever sees Jesus, sees the Father, and whoever believes in Jesus, believes in the Father.

### **Read John 14:15-31**

What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit (v.16-17, 26)?

The Bible describes God as one God—singular, not plural “Gods”—but there is plurality in God. We call this the Trinity or the Triune God, one God in three persons. The Bible describes God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit as three distinct persons, yet they are in unity; they are one. They are equal in substance, power, and glory. They exist eternally and love one another. Their love is not self-centered or self-oriented but other-oriented.

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we enter into a covenant relationship with him—a personal and loving relationship with the Triune God. The Holy Spirit lives in us and patiently raises us up as God's children. The Holy Spirit will be our *Helper* and *Guide*. God promises us that he will always love and be faithful to us, even though we are not always faithful to him. This is God's covenant love for us.

What will someone who loves Jesus do and what will God do for him (v.23)?

God is always with us, making his home with us. He never leaves us. His love for us is a covenant love.

What does Jesus give us (v.27)?

Jesus' peace is a divine peace. It is peace that he has in his loving relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. When we believe in Jesus, trusting our lives to him, he gives us his own peace to strengthen us to face troubles and difficulties in life. Once we have Jesus' peace in our hearts, it cannot be taken away by the world or the evil one.

Would you like to have the peace of Jesus in your heart?

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 9 – Jesus is the True Vine**

### **Read John 15:1-17**

What is the relationship between God the Father, Jesus, and his followers in the vine illustration (v.1, 5)?

The branches are people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, both true and false followers. When Jesus spoke about removing dead branches, he was speaking of those who claim to be his followers but fail to produce the fruit of obedience. These are false followers who will never produce fruit. No branch that remains fruitless truly belongs to Jesus, and no branch that truly belongs to Jesus will remain fruitless. True followers will produce fruit, though in varying degrees.

How can followers of Jesus bear much fruit (v.5)?

What will abiding in Jesus' love bring to us (v.11)?

In John 14:27, we learn that Jesus gives us his peace. Here we learn that Jesus gives us his own joy, and his joy will make our joy full. Jesus' joy comes from having a perfect loving relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives us his divine and perfect joy when we trust our lives to him. Our joy from Jesus is inward (in our hearts) and cannot be affected by our external circumstances. The joy of having a personal and loving relationship with Jesus will strengthen us when we face difficulties in life.

What is Jesus' command to his followers (v.12)?

How much does Jesus love us (v.9, 13)?

The love between God the Father and Jesus is an eternal and unchanging love. It is without measure. Similarly, Jesus' love for us is eternal, unchanging, and without measure. He demonstrates his love and commitment for us until the end of his life by laying down his life for us. This is his covenant love for us.

### **Read John 15:18 - 16:4**

Why does the world hate followers of Jesus (v.18-19)?

When we follow Jesus, we will be hated by the devil and the world. The world is controlled by the devil and hates the things of God. When we suffer because of following Jesus, we can be assured that Jesus knows our suffering because he has suffered for us. We can find our peace and comfort in him.

If Jesus had not come, the Jews would not have been guilty of the greatest sin, which is rejecting God (v.22). Since Jesus came and revealed God to them, they were accountable for rejecting Jesus, the Son of God, sent by God the Father. Whoever rejects and hates Jesus, rejects and hates the Father (v.23).

What is the work of the Holy Spirit (v.26)?

What has Jesus asked his disciples to do (v.27)?

### **Read John 16:5-15**

Jesus had been speaking to his disciples about his death and departure. The disciples were filled with sorrow of being left alone without him and uncertain of the direction of their lives. Jesus comforted them by promising the coming of the Holy Spirit (the Helper) to guide their lives.

What would the Holy Spirit do in the world and for followers of Jesus (v.8-11, 13-14)?

None of us is righteous before God. He will one day bring judgment upon all sins and evils in the world. The Holy Spirit helps us to see our sinfulness and convicts us of our sins. Our sins bring guilt, fear, and shame. Jesus has carried all our guilt, fear, and shame on his shoulders. He died on the cross bearing the punishment of our sins as our substitute. If we believe by faith that Jesus has died for us, God will forgive us of our sins and give us a new life in Jesus—a life of a personal and loving relationship with him.

### **Read John 16:16-33**

Jesus used an illustration of a woman giving birth to explain his disciples' sorrow due to his death. Their sorrow would soon turn to joy when they saw him again after his resurrection (v.21). Jesus taught them to pray to the Father in his name. Anything they asked, that would bring glory and honor to God, they would receive it. When we pray and ask God in Jesus' name, we can also have confidence to receive it. As our heavenly Father, God is delighted in our prayers. He wants us to pray for things that bring glory and honor to him, and not for our selfish desires.

What did Jesus say that would happen to the disciples (v.32)?

When Jesus was arrested by the authorities, his disciples would leave him because they were scared. Jesus has spoken that his disciples will experience troubles in this world. This applies to all his disciples in the past, the present, and the future, including us.

What encouraging word has Jesus given to all his disciples (v.33)?

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 10 – Jesus’ Prayer for His Followers**

### **Read John 17:1-5**

Jesus knew that the time to sacrifice himself had come. His purpose of coming to this world was to sacrifice himself to bear and die for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He came to take away our guilt, fear, and shame. He came to free us from the slavery of sin and to give us a new life in him—an eternal loving relationship with him.

How does Jesus define eternal life? What do you think it means (v.3)?

Eternal life is God’s gracious gift for us. We receive eternal life when we repent from our sins and put our faith in Jesus Christ, trusting and surrendering our lives to him. Eternal life is a growing relationship with God—a personal and loving relationship with God that never ends.

### **Read John 17:6-26**

What did Jesus ask God the Father for his disciples (v.11, 15)?

God’s name reveals his attributes. To be kept or protected in God’s name means to be protected in him by his sovereign power, wisdom, goodness, and love for us. Jesus knew that all his followers would experience trouble and be constantly attacked by the evil one, therefore he asked God to protect them.

What else did Jesus pray for his disciples (v.17)?

Sanctification is the work of God in us, renewing our whole being and enabling us to be more and more righteous children of God. We are sanctified by the truth of God’s word (the Bible).

What did Jesus pray for all his followers (v.20-21)?

The unity and love of followers of Jesus will impact other people to believe in Jesus. The unity and love among followers of Jesus is based on the unchanging, eternal, and loving relationship between Jesus and God the Father. All followers of Jesus are one family of God.

What else did Jesus pray for all his followers? What do you think it means (v.24)?

This prayer impacts our present and future hope. We are united with Jesus in the present and future. We will live in heaven with Jesus and see his glory—his holiness and greatness.

### **Read John 18:1-14**

With whom did Judas come to arrest Jesus (v.3)?

When Jesus said, “I am he” (v.6), he was using the same declaration that he had used in other “I am ...” statements, such as “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (14:6). It was the same declaration God used to identify himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Therefore, Jesus was again declaring his deity. Perhaps the authority and power in declaring himself made the soldiers fall to the ground. Jesus chose to surrender rather than used his power to defeat the soldiers. He told Peter that he should drink *the cup* that the Father had given him—the cup of God’s wrath and judgment upon our sins (v.11).

What did the soldiers do to Jesus (v.12-13)?

### **Read John 18:15-27**

How did Peter deny Jesus (v.17)?

What did one of the officers do to Jesus (v.22)?

How did Peter deny Jesus for the second and third time (v.25-27)?

### **Read John 18:28-40**

The Jews did not enter the Roman governor’s headquarters because, according to the Jewish law, entering a non-Jewish house would make them unclean and would prohibit them from celebrating the Passover feast at the temple (v.28). Ironically, they tried to keep their religious ceremonial requirements while at the same time accusing Jesus, an innocent man. They brought Jesus to the Roman governor because, during the Roman occupation, only a Roman official could give a death sentence. The Jews were not allowed to give the death penalty in their own court (v.31).

What did Jesus say about his kingdom (v.36)?

What did Jesus say about his mission in the world (v.37)?

Pilate found no evidences to punish Jesus (v.38). He knew it was only a religious matter between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. He wanted to release Jesus and to please the Jews at the same time. He asked them which one they wanted him to release, Jesus or Barabbas—a political terrorist. Ironically, they wanted Barabbas. Pilate was very close to the *Truth* (Jesus), yet he also walked away from believing in Jesus.

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 11 – It is Finished**

### **Read John 19:1-16a**

What did the soldiers do to Jesus (v.1-3)?

What did the chief priests and their officers want Pilate to do (v.6)?

Crucifixion was a death punishment for criminals. It was a shameful punishment performed in public. The Jewish religious leaders wanted to humiliate Jesus in public.

What was Jesus' answer to Pilate regarding Pilate's power over him (v.11)?

All human governments' power and authority come from God. Human governments are supposed to represent God and perform justice in this world. Therefore, Pilate, who could free Jesus, committed a great sin. He chose to neglect justice in order to get favor from the Jews. The Jewish religious leaders, who handed Jesus over to Pilate, committed a greater sin. They knew God's law and were supposed to be good examples for the people, but they chose to murder an innocent man. Pilate finally handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified.

### **Read John 19:16b-27**

What did the soldiers force Jesus to do as he walked to Golgotha (v.17)?

How many other people were crucified with Jesus (v.18)?

What did Pilate put on Jesus' cross (v.19)?

The inscription was written in three languages—Aramaic, Latin, and Greek—so that anyone who passed by could read it. The inscription was a mocking statement because, as the king of the Jews, Jesus was hanged on the cross without clothes. It was humiliating. However, the meaning of the sign is true. Jesus is the true king of the Jews and of all people. His kingdom is spiritual and from above.

Mary, Jesus' mother, was a widow. Jesus asked John, his disciple, to take care of her (v.26-27).

### **Read John 19:28-42**

Jesus knew that he had accomplished his mission to sacrifice himself and to die for the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that we can have a new life by believing and putting our faith in him and trusting our lives to him.

What did Jesus say on the cross (v.30)?

What did the soldiers do to him (v.34)?

In the Old Testament, God had given prophecies about the coming of the Messiah—the Savior of the world—and about his death. Jesus fulfilled all these prophecies (v.36-37).

Who took the body of Jesus and who accompanied him (v.38-39)?

What did they do with Jesus' body (40-42)?

### **Read John 20:1-18**

What did Peter and the other disciple (John) see inside the tomb of Jesus (v.6-8)?

The condition of Jesus' burial clothes and linen indicated no unwrapping by robbers or anyone. They were left neatly. Unlike Lazarus—see chapter 11—Jesus rose with his body glorified, able to pass through clothes and a locked room (v.19). Peter and John did not understand the Old Testament prophecy that Jesus would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10). After seeing the empty tomb, they believed Jesus had risen. They began to understand what Jesus had said to them that he would die and rise from the dead.

Whom did Mary see inside the tomb (v.12)?

Who else appeared to Mary (v.14)?

Whom did Mary think he was and what did she think he had done (v.15)?

Mary feared losing Jesus again. She wanted to hold on to him. She wanted Jesus to stay. However, Jesus said he would need to return to God the Father. He asked Mary to tell the other disciples the good news about his resurrection. Jesus changed Mary's sorrow to great joy. He would soon do the same to the other disciples.

The resurrection of Jesus means that he has defeated death for us. It was the first resurrection of a human being to live eternally with a glorified body. It brings hope to our future resurrection when Jesus return again to raise us from the dead and give us a glorified body (1 Corinthians 15:23).

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## **Lesson 12 – A New Life**

### **Read John 20:19-31**

Why did the disciples meet in a house and lock the doors, and who suddenly appeared to them (v.19)?

The disciples were fearful after Jesus' death. They lost hope and guidance without their master. Jesus came and gave them peace they needed. He said, "Peace be with you" (v.19, 21, 26).

What else did Jesus say to the disciples (v.21)?

Jesus commissioned them to tell the world about him. This commission is for all followers of Jesus Christ. He wants his followers to tell others about his sacrifice and death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and his resurrection that brings hope to our lives.

The message of Jesus, carried by his followers, is a message of God's love and forgiveness of sins. This message has a great impact on the listeners. Those who believe in Jesus are forgiven, and those who do not believe are not forgiven (v.23). Jesus had said this in 3:16-18.

What did Thomas say to the other disciples (v.25)?

What did Jesus ask of Thomas (v.27)?

What did Thomas say to Jesus (v.28)?

What did Jesus tell him (v.29)?

What is John's message to the readers of his book (v.30-31)?

### **Read John 21:1-14**

What did Simon Peter and six other disciples do (v.2-3)?

Jesus came to meet them, but they did not recognize him because he had a new glorified body (v.4).

What did Jesus ask them to do, and what was the result (v.6)?

How did they know that the man was Jesus (v.7, 12)?

How many fish did the disciples catch (v.11)?

What did Jesus prepare for them (v.12-13)?

The disciples were tired and hungry after fishing all night and catching nothing. Jesus appeared to them to strengthen their faith in him. He prepared a warm fire and breakfast for them. He comforted them in their confusion and uncertainty of their lives and what they must do. He assured them that he was in control and had a plan for their lives.

### **Read John 21:15-25**

How many times did Jesus ask Peter about Peter's love for him, and what did he ask Peter to do (v.15-17)?

What did Peter say to Jesus the third time (v.17)?

Peter denied Jesus three times, and here Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Jesus wanted Peter to think deeply about his love and life commitment to him. Jesus wanted Peter to serve in his kingdom and to take care of his people, feeding and raising them up.

Jesus told Peter the kind of death he would experience for the sake of following and serving him (v.18-19). Tradition indicated Peter was crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy of dying as Jesus did. Jesus also told Peter that he did not need to be concerned about what would happen to John. Jesus wanted Peter to follow him faithfully (v.22).

What else did John say about Jesus (v.25)?

Jesus claims to be the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the Life, the Way, the Truth, the True Vine, and the Son of God.

John wanted to show the readers of his book that Jesus was the Savior of the world, who came down from heaven to this world to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute and to take away our shame, guilt, and fear. Jesus has given his life for us, so that we can have a new life in him, a life of a personal and loving relationship with him for eternity. He offers this life to those who believe and put their faith in him, trusting their lives to him. Do you believe in Jesus?

What are your thoughts from this lesson?

## Resources

Sproul, R.C., ed. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

*The Westminster Standards*. Suwanee, GA: Great Commission Publications, 2011.