

Groups

Gospel of John Bible Study

Overview: This is a 10 week bible study on the gospel of John.

Week 1: The Word Became Flesh

Passage: John 1:1–18

Theme: The Eternal Word Revealed

Summaries:

1. **The Eternal Word (John 1:1–3):** John introduces Jesus as the eternal Word (Logos), existing from the beginning with God and as God, through whom all things were made.
2. **The Light and Life (John 1:4–5):** Jesus is the source of life and light, shining in the darkness, which the darkness cannot overcome.
3. **John's Testimony (John 1:6–8):** John the Baptist is introduced as a witness to testify concerning the light, emphasizing that he himself was not the light.
4. **Rejection and Reception (John 1:9–13):** The true light came into the world, but many did not recognize or receive Him; however, those who did were given the right to become children of God.
5. **The Word Among Us (John 1:14–18):** The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, full of grace and truth, revealing the Father.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the "Word"?
2. How does understanding Jesus as the eternal Word impact your view of creation?
3. In what ways does Jesus bring light into your life?
4. Why do you think many rejected Jesus, despite His divine nature?
5. What does it mean to become a child of God?
6. How do you experience God's grace and truth through Jesus?
7. What does it mean for Jesus to "dwell among us"?

8. How can we reflect the light of Christ in our daily lives?
 9. What does this passage reveal about the nature of God?
 10. How does this passage challenge or encourage your faith journey?
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Week 2: The Testimony of John the Baptist

Passage: John 1:19–34

Theme: Identifying the Lamb of God

Summaries:

1. **John's Identity (John 1:19–23):** John the Baptist denies being the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet, instead identifying himself as the voice calling in the wilderness.
2. **The One Who Comes After (John 1:24–28):** John explains that he baptizes with water, but among them stands one they do not know—Jesus, who comes after him.
3. **The Baptism of Jesus (John 1:29–34):** John identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, testifying that he saw the Spirit descend on Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that John the Baptist denied being the Messiah?
 2. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Lamb of God"?
 3. How does John's humility serve as an example for us?
 4. What is the significance of the Spirit descending on Jesus?
 5. How can we prepare the way for Jesus in our own lives?
 6. What does this passage teach us about recognizing Jesus' identity?
 7. How does this passage deepen your understanding of Jesus' mission?
 8. In what ways can we testify about Jesus to others?
 9. How does this passage challenge your view of Jesus?
 10. What role does the Holy Spirit play in revealing Jesus to us?
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Week 3: Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Passage: John 1:35–51

Theme: Invitation to Follow

Summaries:

1. **John's Disciples Follow Jesus (John 1:35–39):** Two of John's disciples follow Jesus after hearing him call Jesus the Lamb of God.
2. **Jesus Invites Them to Stay (John 1:40–42):** Jesus invites them to come and see where He is staying; one of them, Andrew, brings his brother Simon to Jesus.
3. **Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael (John 1:43–51):** Jesus calls Philip to follow Him, and Philip finds Nathanael, who initially doubts but is convinced upon meeting Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to "come and see" in the context of following Jesus?
 2. How does Jesus' invitation to the first disciples apply to us today?
 3. What role does personal testimony play in bringing others to Jesus?
 4. How does Jesus' knowledge of Nathanael demonstrate His divinity?
 5. What does this passage teach us about the nature of discipleship?
 6. How can we respond to Jesus' invitation to follow Him?
 7. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' approach to calling His disciples?
 8. How can we be more intentional in inviting others to follow Jesus?
 9. What does this passage teach us about faith and doubt?
 10. How does this passage challenge or encourage your walk with Jesus?
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Week 4: The Wedding at Cana

Passage: John 2:1–11

Theme: Jesus' First Miracle

Summaries:

1. **The Wedding Feast (John 2:1–2):** Jesus, His mother, and His disciples are invited to a wedding in Cana, setting the stage for Jesus' first miracle.
2. **The Wine Runs Out (John 2:3):** The wine runs out, and Mary, Jesus' mother, brings the problem to Jesus.

3. **Jesus' Response (John 2:4–5):** Jesus' response to Mary seems hesitant, but He ultimately acts, indicating that His mission is not bound by earthly concerns.
4. **The Miracle (John 2:6–10):** Jesus turns water into wine, showing His authority over nature. The wine is of better quality than the original, signifying the new covenant He brings.
5. **The Significance (John 2:11):** This is Jesus' first miracle, and it reveals His glory, leading His disciples to believe in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding?
 2. What does Jesus turning water into wine say about His power over creation?
 3. How does this miracle speak to the concept of abundance and blessing in God's kingdom?
 4. Why did Mary bring the problem to Jesus, and how does His response reflect His mission?
 5. What is the significance of Jesus showing His glory through this miracle?
 6. What role does faith play in this miracle (e.g., the servants' obedience)?
 7. How can we invite Jesus into the "ordinary" areas of our lives?
 8. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between Jesus and His disciples?
 9. How does this miracle foreshadow other aspects of Jesus' ministry?
 10. How does this passage challenge or encourage you in trusting Jesus with your needs?
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Week 5: Jesus Clears the Temple

Passage: John 2:13–22

Theme: Purifying Worship

Summaries:

1. **The Scene in the Temple (John 2:13–14):** Jesus arrives at the temple and finds merchants selling animals and exchanging money, turning the temple into a marketplace.
2. **Jesus' Zeal (John 2:15–17):** Jesus, in righteous anger, drives out the merchants and overturns the tables, quoting scripture to justify His actions.

3. **The Disciples' Understanding (John 2:17):** The disciples recall the prophecy that "zeal for Your house will consume me," showing that Jesus' actions were a fulfillment of Old Testament expectations.
4. **The Challenge (John 2:18–20):** The religious leaders demand a sign for His actions, to which Jesus responds with a cryptic reference to His death and resurrection: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
5. **The Disciples' Revelation (John 2:21–22):** After His resurrection, the disciples understand that Jesus was speaking of His body as the true temple.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Jesus so upset by the commercialization of the temple?
 2. What does this incident tell us about how Jesus views the purity of worship?
 3. What can we learn from Jesus' zeal for God's house in terms of our own passion for worship?
 4. How does Jesus' response to the temple leaders challenge our understanding of authority and spiritual practices?
 5. Why do you think the disciples didn't fully understand Jesus' words until after the resurrection?
 6. How can we ensure that our worship is not tainted by distractions or selfish motives?
 7. In what ways do we "temple" God with our actions and attitudes today?
 8. What is the significance of Jesus declaring His body to be the true temple?
 9. What does this passage teach us about God's desire for holiness in worship?
 10. How do you see the connection between Jesus' death and resurrection and the temple imagery?
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Week 6: Jesus and Nicodemus

Passage: John 3:1–21

Theme: The New Birth

Summaries:

1. **Nicodemus Visits Jesus (John 3:1–2):** Nicodemus, a Pharisee, seeks out Jesus at night, acknowledging Him as a teacher sent from God.

2. **The Need for New Birth (John 3:3–7):** Jesus tells Nicodemus that in order to see the kingdom of God, one must be born again—a spiritual rebirth through the Holy Spirit.
3. **The Mystery of the Spirit (John 3:8):** Jesus explains that the work of the Holy Spirit is like the wind—unpredictable and beyond human control.
4. **Jesus Explains His Mission (John 3:9–15):** Jesus tells Nicodemus about His divine mission to bring salvation through His death, likening it to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.
5. **God’s Love and Salvation (John 3:16–21):** Jesus reveals the heart of the Gospel: God so loved the world that He gave His Son for salvation, but people must choose light over darkness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be “born again” spiritually?
 2. Why do you think Nicodemus struggled to understand Jesus’ words about new birth?
 3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in spiritual rebirth?
 4. How does the analogy of the wind help explain the work of the Spirit?
 5. Why is John 3:16 considered the essence of the Gospel message?
 6. How do you respond to the idea that God’s love is for the entire world?
 7. How can we live in the light as opposed to the darkness Jesus mentions?
 8. What does this passage teach us about God’s plan for salvation through Jesus?
 9. How can we help others understand the need for spiritual rebirth?
 10. How does this passage deepen your understanding of God’s love for humanity?
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Week 7: The Samaritan Woman at the Well

Passage: John 4:1–26

Theme: Living Water

Summaries:

1. **Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1–9):** Jesus engages a Samaritan woman at the well, breaking social norms by speaking to a woman and a Samaritan.
2. **Jesus Offers Living Water (John 4:10–14):** Jesus offers her “living water” that leads to eternal life, contrasting it with the water she’s used to drawing.

3. **Revealing Her Past (John 4:15–19):** Jesus reveals details about her past, showing His divine knowledge and calling her to deeper faith.
4. **True Worship (John 4:20–24):** Jesus teaches about true worship, which is not about location (like the temple or mountain) but in spirit and truth.
5. **Messiah Revealed (John 4:25–26):** Jesus openly reveals Himself as the Messiah to her.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus break social norms by speaking to the Samaritan woman?
 2. What is the significance of “living water” that Jesus offers?
 3. How does Jesus’ conversation with the woman reveal both His divinity and His compassion?
 4. What does true worship look like according to Jesus?
 5. How does Jesus’ revelation of Himself to the Samaritan woman change her life?
 6. What role does honesty and openness play in this encounter with Jesus?
 7. How can we offer “living water” to others in our lives?
 8. How does this passage speak to the universal nature of Jesus' mission?
 9. What do we learn about Jesus' approach to evangelism here?
 10. How does this passage challenge you in your own spiritual walk?
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Week 8: The Healing of the Official's Son

Passage: John 4:46–54

Theme: Faith and Healing

Summaries:

1. **The Official’s Request (John 4:46–47):** An official asks Jesus to heal his dying son.
2. **Jesus’ Response (John 4:48–50):** Jesus challenges the man’s faith, telling him to go home, as his son will live.
3. **The Healing (John 4:51–54):** The man believes Jesus' words, and when he returns home, his son is healed, confirming Jesus’ authority and power.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Jesus initially challenge the official’s faith?

2. What does the official's faith in Jesus' word teach us about trusting God?
 3. How does this miracle demonstrate the power of Jesus' words?
 4. What role does faith play in receiving healing and answers from God?
 5. How do you respond when God asks you to trust Him before seeing the evidence?
 6. What does this passage teach about the nature of miracles?
 7. How can we grow in faith when faced with difficult situations?
 8. How does the official's experience of healing reflect God's grace?
 9. What impact does this miracle have on the official and his household?
 10. How can this story challenge your own faith in God's promises?
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Week 9: The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Passage: John 5:1–15

Theme: The Healing Power of Jesus

Summaries:

1. **The Sick Man (John 5:1–5):** Jesus encounters a man who has been ill for 38 years, waiting for healing at the pool of Bethesda.
2. **Jesus' Question (John 5:6):** Jesus asks the man if he wants to be healed, challenging his desire for healing.
3. **The Healing (John 5:7–9):** Jesus heals the man, instructing him to pick up his mat and walk, demonstrating authority over sickness.
4. **The Controversy (John 5:10–15):** The healing occurs on the Sabbath, leading to controversy with the religious leaders.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed?
2. What can we learn about Jesus' timing and His approach to healing?
3. How does this miracle challenge traditional views of the Sabbath and work?
4. Why is it significant that the healing happened on the Sabbath?
5. How does this healing reflect Jesus' authority over both physical and spiritual matters?
6. How can we respond when Jesus asks us to take action in faith?
7. What role does faith play in this man's healing?
8. How does Jesus' interaction with the man teach us about compassion?

9. In what ways do we see Jesus challenging religious traditions to reveal God's heart?
 10. How can we be a part of God's healing work in the world today?
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Week 10: The Bread of Life

Passage: John 6:25–40

Theme: Jesus as the Bread of Life

Summaries:

1. **The Crowd Seeks Jesus (John 6:25–27):** The crowd follows Jesus after He miraculously feeds the 5,000, seeking more signs.
2. **Jesus' Teaching (John 6:28–34):** Jesus teaches that true food is the bread from heaven, which gives eternal life.
3. **The Bread of Life (John 6:35–40):** Jesus declares Himself as the Bread of Life, emphasizing that those who come to Him will never hunger or thirst.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Bread of Life"?
2. How does Jesus contrast physical hunger with spiritual hunger in this passage?
3. How does Jesus offer eternal life through Himself?
4. Why do you think the crowd was focused on seeking physical food instead of the spiritual nourishment Jesus offers?
5. What does it mean to "come to Jesus" for spiritual sustenance?
6. How can we share the Bread of Life with others who are spiritually hungry?
7. How does this passage deepen your understanding of Jesus' mission?
8. What does Jesus' offer of eternal life mean to you personally?
9. How can we apply Jesus' teaching to our daily lives?
10. How does this passage challenge or encourage your faith in Jesus as the source of life?