

# **INVESTIGATIVE BIBLE STUDY**

GOSPEL OF JOHN

LEADER'S GUIDE

WHO IS JESUS?

WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO?

## **INVESTIGATIVE BIBLE STUDY**

From a strictly historical point of view, Jesus of Nazareth was the most remarkable person in all of human history. Whatever one's opinions of Him may be, almost everyone would seize an opportunity to spend a day with one of His closest friends.

### **PURPOSE**

1. To bring the gospel to people. 2 Cor 6:1,2 Rom 10:13,14
2. To get a person to look into the Bible. Is 55:10,11
3. To give the Holy Spirit time to work in a person's heart. Jn 16:8
4. To encourage a person to make a thoughtful decision. Acts 17:1-4,11

### **GROUND RULES**

1. The discussion will center around answering two question, "Who is Jesus?" and "What does He want of me?".
2. Avoid discussions concerning religion, denominations etc. Stick to the text.
3. Remember that the goal of the study is for each person to understand what the text says and not to debate its reliability or agree with what it says.
4. Don't make value judgments. Create an atmosphere where people feel free to ask questions.
5. Have everyone use the same translation.
6. Make the transition from opinions to what the Bible says.
7. Encourage everyone to share thoughts.
8. Don't preach. Help the people to understand by asking questions. Try to let them discover the answers on their own as much as possible.
9. Pray before and after the meeting, but not during it. Make the environment as natural as possible for the nonChristian.
10. Avoid Christian jargon. Speak in plain language.
11. Limit time to 30-40 minutes. Keep people hungry for more rather than bored.
12. Don't try cover every detail of the passage. Focus on Jesus.
13. Plan your questions. Launch, guide, summarize. Questions should be relevant to John, open ended (Why?), opinion (What do you think?). Crystallize key concepts.

Background: This book was written by the Apostle John. He was an eyewitness of Jesus' life and teachings and was one of Jesus' closest companions during His 3 years of public ministry. He wrote the book so that others might believe in Jesus and find life. Jn 20:31

### **Lesson 1 John 1:1-18 – God has made Himself known.**

Purpose: To introduce people to the nature of God and in particular to the visible manifestation of God in Jesus. In this section are 3 powerful evidences that there is a God: the existence of the universe itself, man's moral nature, and Jesus.

- Introduction questions:
  - Is there a God? How can we know?
  - What is He like?
  - If you were God and wanted to communicate with people, how would you do it?
- 1. What is John referring to when he speaks of the "Word"?
  - a. Jesus 1:14 To Jews, "word" was a surname for God. It was also the Law, God's written revelation "Word." They believed that the Law or Wisdom of God existed before creation, was God's agent in creation and was His agent in revealing Himself to people. To Greeks it meant The Principal or force that controls the universe.
- 2. Why do you think Jesus is described as the Word? What is the function of a word?
  - a. Because Jesus is the "word" or description of God.
  - b. Pencil illustration: When you hear the word "pencil" a mental picture of one comes into your mind. Describe it. What comes to your mind when I say the word, "Jesus"? Jesus should give us a mental picture of what God is like.
- 3. What can you learn about the Word in these verses?
  - a. Substitute Jesus for the word, "word" in 1:1-3.
  - b. Jesus is the Creator.
  - c. In the beginning Genesis 1:1 He is eternal, not created.
  - d. One of the evidences for the existence of God is the creation itself. Where did it come from? What caused it to exist?
    - i. Romans 1:19-20 Psalm 19:2-4
    - ii. One of the most reasonable explanations for the existence of the universe is a designer or creator.
- 4. In what ways do you think life is found in Jesus? :4 What kind of life do you think He is talking about?
  - a. Jn 10:10 Abundant life here and now in this life. If He created us, He also know the best way for us to live.
  - b. 11:25 Eternal life after death.
  - c. 14:6 He is the source and fountain of all true life – physical and spiritual.
  - d. 17:3 Life found in a relationship with God.

5. What is said about the light? :5-9
  - a. Jesus is described as a light. Overcomes darkness.
  - b. It is not understood by those in darkness. See verse 10.
    - i. People in the world did not even recognize the creator when He came!
  - c. A man named John came from God. He was sent to introduce people to the light. John the Baptist.
6. What does light do?
  - a. Gives life; source of life for most living things
  - b. overcomes darkness - disease - wrong thinking/lies
  - c. Reveals things that were hidden. Shows thing the way they really are. Reveals truth. It shows us what is true, real versus what is false or imagined.
  - d. Moral term – good, right    Darkness = evil
7. Why do you think Jesus is called "the light"?
  - a. Jn 1:18, 3:19-21, 8:12, 12:35,36 - He shows us what God is like, what we are like, the way to find life. He defeated death and Satan.
  - b. 1:9 In what way has Jesus given light to every man?
    - i. A moral sense of right and wrong. A conscience.
    - ii. Romans 2:14-15 All men have the laws of God written on their hearts.
    - iii. How can we explain man's moral nature apart from the existence of a moral God who created us in His image?
8. According to :10-13, how does one become a child of God? Is there another response a person can make?
  - a. By believing and receiving Jesus. His Name – the essence of His character, His nature, what He is like.
  - b. Yes, not recognizing who He really is, not believing or receiving Him. :10,11
  - c. Being born of God is not something man can do. God must take the initiative. In the same way, a common man cannot make friends with the King. The King must take the initiative.
9. What does it mean to believe in His name? What does it mean to receive Christ?
  - a. To believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be as revealed to us in the Bible. To accept His gift of salvation. To trust Him as the person who shows us what God is like.
10. What do you think it means to be born of God? What are some of the privileges of being a child of the King?
  - a. To begin a new spiritual life with God as our Father.
  - b. Access to the King and His resources, all good things
11. Why was it important that the Word became flesh?
  - a. So that we might see Him and know Him
  - b. Jesus is visible proof that God exists and what He is like.

12. John 1:14 Do you think that it is really possible that the Word, the creator of all that exists, actually came to this earth and lived for a time with mankind? How does this make you feel?
13. Jesus showed us glory. What is this?
  - a. An appearance of God's nature, character, power, or presence to the senses of mankind. The visible presence of God.
  - b. God Himself is Spirit, so glory is means by which we can "see" God.
14. Why did Jesus show us grace and truth? What do these words mean? Jn 1:17
  - a. They are primary qualities of God.
  - b. Grace – steadfast love, unearned merit, gift,
  - c. Truth – reliable, integrity, faithfulness. God is the standard, the measuring stick of truth. Who else but God can show us what is really true?
  - d. What are other reliable sources of truth in the world? Science? Parents, other people? Logic – self evident truths.
15. What claims do John the Baptist and John the writer make about Christ in verses 15-18?
  - a. before me..., He has blessed us, grace and truth from Him.
16. What was Moses primarily known for? What is grace?
  - a. The Law.
  - b. God's Riches At Christ's Expense. God's unmerited love for us.
17. What is the difference between the work of Moses and the work of Jesus?
  - a. Moses and the Law showed us our sin while Jesus has the cure for our sin. x-ray illustration - X rays only show us the problem, it is not the cure. The Law shows us our sin but it is not the solution.
18. What claim does Vs. 18 make about Jesus?
  - a. That Jesus is God, the one and only (He is unique), who is at the Father's side. He has shown us what God is like. The mystery of the trinity. One God in three expressions.
    - i. Sun - God the Father - the Source, cannot look directly at.
    - ii. Sunlight - visible expression of the sun. Jesus
    - iii. Solar energy - invisible power of the sun. Holy Spirit
  - b. God is invisible – cannot be seen
  - c. There is only one God
  - d. Jesus has made God known
  - e. The close, intimate relationship between the Father and Son. This enables Jesus to make the Father known.
19. Review: What have you learned about Jesus?

## **Lesson**     **John 1:29-34**

1. What are some things that John the Baptist says about Jesus?
  - a. He is greater than himself, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, He was before me, saw God's Spirit descend on Him (proof that He belonged to God), Son of God.
- 2** Why do you think John called Jesus the "lamb of God"?
  - b. O.T. Law required the sacrifice of 2 lambs each day to symbolically pay for the sins of the people. Passover lamb. Penalty for sin is death.
  - c. Also a symbol of a great conqueror of God.
2. What is sin?
  - a. Sin is falling short of God's standard. Disobedience, rebellion, living our own life apart from God.
3. How did Jesus take away the sin of the world?
  - a. Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin. Because He was God and did not sin Himself, His sacrifice was good enough to the penalty for all people. Rom 6:23  
1 Pet 3:18
4. What did he mean in Vs. :30?
  - a. Although John was 6 months older, Jesus was from the beginning
5. What was the purpose of the Spirit coming down from heaven? :32
  - a. It pointed to Jesus as the One who came from heaven.
6. What was John's conclusion regarding the identity of Jesus? :34
  - a. The Son of God.

## **Jn 1:35-51**

7. What question did Jesus ask the men who followed Him?
  - a. What are you looking for? What do you want in life?
  - b. How would you answer that question yourself?
  - c. They wanted some extended time with Jesus to get to know Him, not just a short conversation along the road. Where are you staying?
  - d. Jesus' answer, "Come and see."
  - e. Can we still "come and see" Jesus today? How?

8. Why do you think these men followed Jesus? What attracted them to Jesus?
  - a. The testimony of John the Baptist and the testimony of their friends, Andrew and Philip.
  - b. The claim that they had found the Messiah, anointed one, the promised One who was predicted to come in the OT of the Bible. :41, 45 Dt 18:15,18
  - c. They spent some time with Jesus, listened to His words
9. How did these men respond after meeting Jesus? Why did they do this?
  - a. They went to tell others. Nathaniel believed.
10. Why do you think Nathaniel's attitude changes so quickly between :46-49? What does Nathaniel call Jesus?
  - a. Jesus' statements that He knows Nathaniel inside and out before they ever met? Jesus' statement somehow revealed something that only Nathaniel and God could have known.
  - b. Rabbi (teacher), Son of God, King of Israel.

Was there ever a time in your life when you feel like God "saw" you? Explain.
11. What is the word picture Jesus uses in Vs. 51? What does this tell you about Jesus' identity and purpose?
  - a. A picture of a ladder between earth and heaven with angels on it. Jesus is the bridge between heaven and earth. Jesus will reveal heavenly things to people on the earth.
12. Summarize what you learned about Jesus in this chapter.
  - a. Word for God, Life, Light of men, true light, Lamb of God, Son of God, Messiah, Rabbi, King of Israel, etc.
13. How does this chapter change your concept of who Jesus is?
14. Does anything you have learned make you want to follow Jesus?
15. Maybe someone invited you here to learn about Jesus. While Jesus is not physically present on the earth today, He is here. He has left His Spirit here to live inside of believers and He has given us His words. So we too can come and spend some time with Jesus, listen to His words and ask His Spirit to show God to us.

## **Lesson 3**

## **John 2**

Background: Weddings in ancient Israel. The bridegroom and friends brought the bride to the groom's house on the evening of the wedding and then a feast or party would follow that could last up to a week. In the OT, the wedding symbolized the time of the Messiah Is 54:4-8, 62:4-5, when God will marry His bride, Israel. Hospitality was important and running out of wine was a great embarrassment to the host family and could even result in a lawsuit against them. Wine was considered a symbol of joy, was drunk well diluted with water and was essential to a festive occasion. Rabbis said, "Without wine there is no joy." The six stone water jars were used by the Jews for ceremonial washing before eating, between courses and for the washing of feet. To the Jews, 7 was the number of perfection or completeness. Six is a number that represented something unfinished or imperfect. These jars held around 120 gallons of water. Jesus turned the imperfection of the Law (represented by the water of purification) into the perfection of grace (represented by the wine) as a gift of God.

### **Read John 2:1-12**

1. What do you think Jesus meant by this answer to His mother's request? :4
  - He was not ready to show the world His true identity.
2. What time do you think Jesus is talking about?
  - Jn 7:6, 12:23,27,33, 17:1 The right time to reveal Himself to the world.
3. Why do you think Jesus honors His mother's request anyway?
  - Out of love for and respect for His mother.
  - A concern for the family hosting the wedding.
4. What is the miracle Jesus performs?
  - Note: Fermentation was considered an act of the gods by the Greeks
  - Water is instantly turned into wine.
5. Who knew that a miracle had occurred? Did people play any part in this miracle? What?
  - Mary, disciples, servants
  - Jesus used the servants simple act of obedience.
6. Why is this miracle called a sign? What is the purpose of a sign? :11
  - A sign points to something else, warns, gives instructions etc. The significance is not in the sign itself but in what it points to.
7. What does it mean that Jesus revealed His glory? 2:11
8. What was the disciples response to this sign? 2:11
  - Faith in Jesus
9. What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?
  - He is the creator. Jn 1:3 He can take something ordinary and make it into something special. 2 Cor 5:17
  - He cares about our concerns.
  - Jesus is the source of true joy.

## **Lesson 4**      Jn 2:13-25    Jesus Clears the Temple

### Background

- Passover – an annual Jewish feast in which all male Jews were supposed to celebrate in Jerusalem.
- Temple courts – the court of the Gentiles. Outermost court allowed both Jews and Gentiles. Large in size 500 X 300 yards. Business – travelers to Jerusalem could not bring the animals with them over hundreds of miles for the sacrifices, so they needed to be purchased in Jerusalem. Businesses sprang up to provide certified clean animals. Money changers will also needed to convert foreign currency to that used exclusively in the Temple. The court of the Gentiles was intended as a place where Gentiles could pray and worship the Lord God. It was now used as a marketplace.

1. What did Jesus do in the Temple? What can we learn about Jesus' character and priorities from what He says and does in 2:13-17?
  - He cleared out of the temple all were doing business there.
  - His Father's glory was His biggest concern rather than what people would think of Him.
  - His interest in preserving a place for the Gentiles to seek God.
  - He hates injustice
2. Why do you think He was angry? :16
  - People were not respecting God but had made religion into a business by which they could profit.
  - Mk 11:17 "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." This business in the Temple prevented the people from all nations from seeking the true God.
  - The sacrificial system meant nothing without the right heart from the people. Hosea 5:6, 8:13, Ps 51:16
3. Why didn't people fight back or resist Him? What can we learn about God?
  - The authority of His character, or maybe the guilt of the people.
4. What did the Jews demand of Him and why? :18
  - A sign to prove His authority to do this.
5. What did Jesus mean in :19?
  - If you kill this body, it will live again after 3 days.
6. How did this answer the Jews question?
  - Only God could rise from the dead, therefore He must be God.
  - He will fulfill the prophecies concerning the promised Messiah.

7. What caused the disciples to later believe? :22
  - The fact that His words had come true as well as the O.T. prophecies about Him.
  - Acts 2:25-32 Peter explains prophecy of David from Psalm 16:8-11
  - Is 53:10,11
  - Is 44:6-8 Only God can know the future.
  
8. What does Jesus say He knows about mankind? :24,25 Why didn't He entrust Himself to man?
  - He knows what we are like inside and out.
  
9. What would it take for you to believe the Scriptures and the words Jesus has spoken? What sign would you need?

## **Lesson 5**

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

Background: Pharisee means separated one. They were a relatively small group of men who dedicated themselves to keeping the Law of God and the laws men made that expanded the Laws of God. Ie. Do not work on the Sabbath – what constituted work was defined in great detail.

1. How would you describe Nicodemus? Was he a religious man?
  - Pharisee, member of ruling council; believed that salvation was achieved by careful obedience to the Law.
  - Jewish ruling council
2. Why do you think Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night?
  - So as not to be seen or maybe not interrupted by the crowds
3. What observations does Nicodemus make concerning Jesus?
  - Teacher from God as evidenced by miraculous signs.
4. What does Jesus say about the new birth?
  - It is necessary in order to see and enter God's kingdom.
5. Why is it necessary to be born again in order to see God's kingdom?
  - His kingdom is spiritual.
6. What do you think it means to be born again? Jn 1:12,13
  - A spiritual birth into God's family, old life vs new life, new heavenly Father, new family, growth - spiritual this time.
  - The ancient world knew about and longed for rebirth
7. What does it mean to be born of water and the Spirit?
  - Water of cleansing and forgiveness. Ezekiel 36:25-26
  - Spirit – a new spiritual eternal life with God as our Father.
8. How do you think a person can know whether or not he has been born again?
  - Wind illustration :8 One will see the results in their lives though one may not completely understand how it works.
9. What does Jesus reveal about the purpose of His life in :13-21? What does He claim about Himself in :13-15?
  - To save the world.
  - He came from heaven, He will be lifted up, gives life
10. What does it mean that Jesus must be lifted up? Numbers 21:4-9
  - He must die on a cross, He will be honored, exalted.
  - He will be lifted up from the grave and death.

11. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? :15
    - So that He could give eternal life to those who believe.
  12. What is the relationship between believing and being born again? What does it mean to believe in Jesus?
    - Believing results in being born again
    - Believe that Jesus reveals God to us and is Himself God made visible. Jn 1:14,18 That Jesus' words are true and can be trusted and obeyed.
  13. Why did God send His Son? :16 To save the world from what?
    - Because of His love for us. God took the initiative to save man.
    - From death caused by our sin - perish.
  14. What is eternal life? Is it different from everlasting life?
    - Yes, everlasting life may not always be a good thing. Eternal life is a quality of life that God has and that we also can enjoy when we become His children. Jn 17:3
  15. How have people responded to the light? Why?
    - Avoided it
  16. What does it mean to love the darkness?
    - a. To love our sinful lives.
  17. Why do men love darkness more than light?
    - a. Because they don't want their evil lives exposed.
  18. Why is God going to judge mankind? :19
    - a. Because they chose to live in their sin rather than coming to Jesus. Some people love their sin and their freedom to continue to live in that sin that they refuse to turn from their sin and turn to God. Judgment is based on how people respond to God's Son.
  19. How does one come into the light?
    - a. By believing in Jesus and turning from their sin.
  20. Summary. What happens when a person is born again?
    - a. He enters God's kingdom – the place where God is recognized as the King.
    - b. God becomes their father – born again.
    - c. They have eternal life with their new Father.
- Application: Have you been born again? How would you know if you have? Do you know what you need to do in order to be born again?

Lesson 6     John 4:1-42

1. Why do think it says Jesus had to go through Samaria? :4
  - a. He had an appointment with this woman
2. What evidence is there that Jesus was human like us? Why is this important?
  - a. Thirsty and tired. Jesus knows what it is like to be human.
  - b. Jesus can relate to us because He knows what it is like to be human.
3. What unusual thing does Jesus do in :7-9?
  - a. He broke cultural traditions; of speaking to women in public and Samaritans.
  - b. He starts the conversation by asking for help.
4. What do you think this living water refers to? In 6:33-35, 7:37-39, Jer 2:13, Ez 47:1-12, Is 55:1-3, Rev 22:1,17
  - a. The Holy Spirit given by Jesus to those who believe.
  - b. All humans have a longing within them that can only be filled by God Himself. “our hearts are restless until they find rest in God” Augustine
5. What claims did Jesus make about "living water"? :10,13,14
  - a. The one who drinks it will never be thirsty again.
  - b. It is a gift from God, results in eternal life, satisfies spiritual thirst.
6. What kind of thirst do you think Jesus was talking about?
  - a. A desire for satisfaction and fulfillment in life.
7. How had the woman previously tried to quench her thirst?
  - a. Relationships with men.
8. Why couldn't the woman understand what Jesus meant?
  - a. The woman was thinking only on a physical level and not on a spiritual one.
9. Why did Jesus now bring up her past life? How did the woman respond when confronted with her past?
  - a. She did not understand what He was trying to tell her about His true identity, so He reveals to her that fact that He know all about her secret life of sin.
  - b. Two revelations in Christianity. One is about the nature of God and the other is about who we really are. When we see ourselves as we really are, as God see us, we realize our need for God.
  - c. She calls Jesus a prophet and then changes the subject to a theological question of the day.

10. How did Jesus respond to her diversion and question?
  - a. He answers it but not in a way that she would like or understand.
11. How will "true believers" worship God?
  - a. In spirit and in truth. Not in a certain place or according to a strict law. Worship had now changed with His coming.
12. What do we learn about Jesus from His declaration in :26?
  - a. He claims to be the Messiah - the promised one sent from God.
13. What decision did the woman face?
  - a. To believe in Jesus as the Messiah from God or not.
14. Why was Jesus no longer hungry?
  - a. Because He was doing something that was more important than eating - the will of His Father.
15. What is the harvest? Who are the harvesters?
  - a. People. The followers of Jesus.
16. In :39-42, what conclusions did the townspeople come to about Jesus? What was the basis of their thinking?
  - a. Some believed because of the woman's testimony. Others believed because of His words.
17. Look at 4:9,11,19,29,42. Why do you think the woman's perception of Jesus' identity changed so radically?
  - a. She calls Jesus a Jew, Sir, prophet, the Christ?, Savior. Because of His words, the fact that He knew all about her past, yet still broke all cultural norms to talk to her.
  - b. She felt accepted by Him
18. Who do you think Jesus is at this point in your life and understanding? Why do you believe this? Has your understanding of who Jesus is changed any in the last 6 months or year?

## Lesson 7 John 4:43-5:15

### 4:43-54

1. What does Jesus rebuke the people for? Why does He react this way? What is wrong with wanting proof?
  - a. The people demanded more proof despite what they had already seen. :45,46.
2. Does faith or trust in someone always require proof? When is proof a valid request, when is it not?
  - a. No. Faith does require some evidence that is the basis of trust but that evidence or proof does not need to be constantly repeated.
3. Does Jesus fulfill the man's request?
  - a. Not completely since He didn't go with him.
  - b. Jesus did heal the man, but not publicly, not as a show for the crowd to watch.
4. Why do you think Jesus didn't go to the sick boy? What was He trying to teach the people?
  - a. That true faith can be found in believing God's Word. His word can be trusted.
5. When the man took Jesus at His word in :50, do you think he had faith that his son would be healed? Why did he inquire as to the time? :52 (20 miles apart)
  - a. Yes because he had walked over a day to get to Jesus and it would take him another day to return. He had to believe that Jesus had done something in order for him to return. Distance did not limit the power of God's Word to heal.
6. What do you think caused he and his family to believe?
  - a. When they realized the power and truth of just His Word to heal.
7. How is this a picture of what true faith is?
  - a. Trusting your life that what God/Jesus says is the truth.
  - b. Acting on that faith – he left and went home
8. What evidence would you need to believe that Jesus is God?

### John 5:1-15

1. Why do you think Jesus chose this man? See Lk 19:10
2. Why did Jesus ask him if he wanted to get well?
3. Did this man's healing depend on his faith? How is this significant or different to what you saw in John 4:48-53?
4. What did Jesus mean that something worse might happen to him? What could be worse than being crippled for 38 years? :14 See Mt 16:26
5. Do you think it is possible to stop sinning? Romans 7:14-20 Why did Jesus tell him to stop? Romans 3:19-31, 7:21-25
  - Jesus may have told him this to point out the fact that we are unable to not sin. It is our very nature. We are in need of a new heart. We need God to rescue us because we cannot do it (stop sinning) ourselves.
6. Jesus implies that our sinning has negative consequences or results. What do you think these are?
  - Romans 3:23 – we are not the kind of people God desires us to be.
  - Romans 6:23 – death
7. If we cannot stop sinning, what can we do in order to be 'healed?'
  - Call out to Jesus – look to Him alone for our healing from sin.
  - We all need spiritual healing by which we are healed through the forgiveness of our sins.

## Lesson 8 John 5:16-47

1. Why were the Jewish leaders determined to kill Jesus? 5:18
  - Broke the Sabbath rules, making himself equal with God by calling Him Father.
2. In what areas does Jesus claim to be equal with God the Father?  
Look at Jn 5:17, 19, 20, 21, 22-23, 24 and 26
  - They both are at work doing the same thing :17,19
  - Equal honor :23
  - Equal power to give life :21
3. In Jn 5:17 Jesus says that, “My Father is always at work.” In what specific ways do you see God at work in your life and in the lives of people around you?
4. How would you describe Jesus’ relationship with the Father? :19-23
  - Identity When you see Jesus you see God. If you want to know what God thinks, does, reacts to life situations, to men, look at Jesus. Like a shadow to the reality. Whatever one does the other also does.
  - Obedience. Jesus submits Himself to the Father so as to accurately reveal Him to us.
  - Obedience based on love :20. A love relationship, not servant/master forced relationship
5. What things do we see Jesus doing in 21-23?
  - a. Giver of life
  - b. Bringer of judgment. A man’s judgment depends on his reaction to Jesus. If one sees in Jesus one to be followed, loved and worshipped as God, he is on the way to life, if one rejects Jesus and does not follow or believe in Him, he condemns himself.
  - c. Why has the Father left judgment to the Son?
  - d. Receiver of honor.
6. What does Jesus promise in 5:24? To whom is this promise made?
  - Eternal life, no condemnation, has crossed over from death to life
  - To those who hear His word and believe the Father who sent Jesus
7. Who hears the voice of God, and what is the result? What do you think it means to hear?

	<u>Who</u>	<u>Result</u>
Jn 5:24	Whoever	life
Jn 5:25	spiritual dead	live
Jn 5:28	all in the graves	live or be condemned

8. Have you heard the voice of God? How would you know? How have you responded?
- The voice of God will speak to your heart, will sound true, convict you of sin, draw you closer to God.
  - What we hear, respond to and do in this life will determine our life after death.
9. Does 5:29 mean that we will be judged by our good deeds? What about what Jesus said in 5:24?
- No, our good deeds will follow the new life that God gives us when we believe. The good deeds are evidence that we have been born again.
10. How is Jesus' statement in 5:30 an example for you to follow?

Testimonies about Jesus 5:31-47

11. What witnesses to His identity does Jesus name in this passage? 5 of them.
- Jesus Himself
  - His own works
  - John the Baptist
  - The Father
  - The Scriptures
12. What different things do you think were the "work" of Jesus? 5:36  
See Jn 4:34, Jn 17:4,6,8, Jn 19:30 People
13. Jesus implies that there is a difference between studying the Scriptures and hearing His voice 5:37,39. What do you think is the difference?
14. What does Jesus say is the purpose of the Scriptures? Jn 5:39,40
15. What obstacle to faith do you observe in 5:44? How does this still hinder people today?
16. For what faults does Jesus rebuke the Pharisees in 5:37-44? See how many you can find? In what ways are you most like the Pharisees? What can you do to change this?
- Know the Bible but not the One to whom the Bible points. :39 they think that life is found in knowing this book.
  - Never heard God's voice nor does His word live in them. 37-38
  - They love the approval of men more than that which comes from God.
  - They did not believe the words of Jesus to be true :38
  - Refused to trust in Jesus :40

## Lesson 9 John 6 – The Bread of Life

1. How does Jesus' fourth miracle function as a sign?
  - What does this sign show us about God?
  - What does it reveal about Jesus' mission and character?
  - What response does it invite from us?
2. Why do you think Jesus had the disciples participate in this miracle? Does this show us anything about God's desire for our lives?
3. Why do you think Jesus did not want to be made king? 14,15
4. What different things motivated people to follow Jesus?
  - 6:2- saw miraculous signs of healing. Physical needs
  - 6:14,15- a new political king to lead them
  - 6:26,27 – more free bread. What they could get from Him. Material gain.
  - Do any of these same things motivate you or other people today to be religious?
5. How did Jesus react to people who were following Him for the wrong reasons?
  - 26-29 He told them what was truly worth seeking
6. What do you think disqualified these people from being real followers of Jesus?
  - They did not accept the significance of the signs and instead looked to what Jesus could do for them then and there.
7. What do you think Jesus was really trying to teach the crowd when He fed them? :27

8. What is the work that God requires of us? :29
  - In what sense is faith in Jesus a human “work”? In what sense is it different from a work done to earn God’s favor? What is the relationship between faith and work?
9. What was Jesus implying about Himself by saying He is the “bread of life?” Is 55:1-2
  - He is from above- 6:38, 41, 42
  - He gives life to the world 6:33
  - He satisfies our hunger and thirst 6:35
  - He is eternal 6:51,54
10. How does someone get some of this bread? Can anyone get it? :35,40,44,45,47,54,57
11. What do you think Jesus means by saying that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood?  
6:53,63
12. Why did many of the disciples no longer follow Jesus after hearing this teaching?  
:28,30,41-42,52,60
  - Why didn’t Jesus try to stop them? He wants our wholehearted devotion not just superficial belief.
  - Why didn’t the 12 leave Jesus? :67-69
13. In what ways is Jesus the bread of life for you?
14. What have you learned about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

## Lesson 10

### John 7 Who is Jesus?

The theme of the chapter is the controversy concerning the question “Who is Jesus?”

1. In Jn 7:24 Jesus accuses the people of judging by mere appearances rather than making a right judgment. What did He mean by this? What are some of the factors that contributed to the people’s confusion about who Jesus was?
  - Jn 7:14-15 Where did He get such great learning?
  - 7:19-20 Who was trying to kill Him?
  - :25-27 They knew where Jesus was from?
  - :31 Jesus had done miraculous signs
  - :40-44 Prophet from Galilee? Bethlehem.
  - :46-49 No one ever spoke the way Jesus did. None of the leaders believed.
  - :52 No prophet from Galilee.
  
  - What preconceived ideas about the Messiah caused some people’s confusion? Where do you suppose these wrong ideas came from?
    - i. Ignorance of the Scriptures or failure to understand them. Religious traditions.
  
  - In what ways do people today still judge Jesus by mere appearances or from preconceived attitudes about Him? What are some of them.
2. Do you think people have similar misconceptions today about the identity of Jesus? Who do people you know think He is?
3. Despite the Jewish leaders hostility toward Jesus, they were impressed with His teaching 7:15. Where did Jesus say He got His teaching from? 7:16 Why is this important?

Note: Not my own The age in which Jesus lived did not value originality. The Rabbinic method of teaching was to quote authorities for all important statements. So Jesus does not claim to be the originator of His message.

- How could someone verify if Jesus’ teachings really did come from God? 7:17

- Why do you think this is the only way to know if Jesus' words are true?
  - What have you experienced in your own life? Is Jesus' teaching from God?
4. What ideas do you find in this chapter that suggest Jesus was God?
- 7:15-15, 46 wisdom
  - :28-29 What He himself claimed
  - :31 signs, miracles
  - :33-34 prediction of His resurrection
  - :37-39 claims to give life to others
  - :41-42 the prophets
5. What impresses you about Jesus' offer in 7:37-39.
- To whom did He make it?
  - What kind of thirst was He talking about? 4:13,14, 6:35
  - What was He offering to people? 14:26,26
  - What does it mean for you to come to Jesus and drink? How does one respond?
  - How can you tell when streams of living water are flowing from within you?
6. Why did the guards fail to arrest Jesus? 45-46
- How did the Pharisees respond to them? :47-49 What was their attitude.
  - What is wrong with their attitudes and reasoning? Ps 10:4
7. What point was raised by Nicodemus, and how did the authorities react to it? :50-52
8. Who do you believe Jesus to be? Why?

## Lesson 11 John 8

### :1-11

1. Why do you think the Pharisees took this woman to Jesus?
2. What was Jesus' attitude toward the woman caught in adultery?
  - Did He approve of what she had done? No
  - Why didn't she condemn her? Because He had come to pay the price for her sin. See Jn 3:16-18
3. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Pharisees?
  - He tried to help them to see that they were also sinners just as she was.

### :12-20

4. In John 8:12 Jesus again makes one of His famous "I am" statements. What does He imply by calling Himself the light of the world? What does light do?
  - Light gives life. Shows us reality. Sends away darkness. Show us how to walk or live.
5. If Jesus is the light of the world, how should this affect your life?

6. The Pharisees claimed that Jesus' claims were not valid because he only spoke for himself.  
:13 How did Jesus respond to this accusation?
  - He also has the testimony of the Father. His testimony is valid because He came from heaven.

7. What did Jesus claim in :19?

### :21-59

8. In John 8:24, 28, 58 Jesus makes more of His "I am" statements. What do you think He means when he says this? Who is He claiming to be?
9. In 8:24, what is the result of someone not believing that Jesus is who He claimed to be? Why is this so? Doesn't this sound harsh?
  - Only by faith in Jesus can our sins be forgiven. This is why He came.

10. In :28 what does Jesus say will be proof of what He is saying? Did everyone need this proof? :30
  - His death and resurrection will be proof that He is telling the truth.
11. How does Jesus say someone can know the truth about what He is saying? :31,32
  - By obeying it.
12. What is truth?
  - That which conforms to reality. Tested, proven.
13. What do you think it means to be a slave to sin? :34
  - We cannot really choose to do what we want. We are not free to do good. We often do what we do not want to do. We get angry, impatient, unkind when we do not want to.
14. Why can't the Pharisees understand Jesus' words? :43,44
  - They cannot hear
  - Wrong father – the devil
15. Do you think it is possible to believe in God and not believe in Jesus? Why?
16. What evidence does Jesus suggest for listening to His words? :46
17. What did the Jews accuse Jesus of being? :48
18. What unbelievable statement does Jesus make in :51? How do the Jews respond?
  - They say everyone, including Abraham died. How can you say this? Are you greater than Abraham, who do you think you are? :53
19. What did Jesus mean in :56 and :58? What is He saying? How did the Jews understand Him to say?
  - Jesus clearly claims here to be equal with God.
20. In summarizing the chapter, what are some important reasons why it is important to have a relationship of faith in Jesus.
  - Walk in light :12, not die in your sin :24, know the truth :31, be set free :32, and never see death :51

## Lesson 12     John 9

The miracles Jesus performed were “signs” that pointed the spiritual truths He sought to teach. The healing of the blind man is meant to show what true blindness is and who it is that is truly blind.

1. What was the disciples’ evaluation of the blind man? 9:2 Why do you think they thought that way? 9:34
  - He must have sinned for this to happen to him.
2. What was Jesus’ evaluation of the blind man? 9:3
  - God has a purpose for his life.
3. What do observe happening among the neighbors after the man was cured? :8-12
4. Why do you think the healed man’s explanation did not satisfy them?
5. According to Jesus, what are the works of God? 6:28-29, 40
6. How many times did the blind man have to tell his story? Why?
  - 3 because some people could not believe the reality of this miracle.
7. Why was it so hard for others to accept the healing?
  - Neighbors 9:13
  - Parents 9:22 put out of synagogue
  - Pharisees 9:16-19, 24, 29-34 Wrong view of Jesus and the Messiah, traditions
8. The neighbors took the case to the religious experts. What conclusion did they arrive at after examining the case theologically?
  - Since they did not know where Jesus came from :29 and were convinced that He is a sinner because He did not keep their sabbath traditions.
9. Why did their arguments fail to shake the ex-blind man?
  - His own testimony, experience of Jesus opening his eyes.
  - Reason :31 God does not listen to sinners, never before miracle occurred therefore He must be from God.
10. What does the former blind man call Jesus and how does he treat Him in the following verses? 9:11, 17, 33, 35-38
  - The man called Jesus, He is a prophet, a man from God, Son of Man – Messiah, worship
    - a. How do his comments illustrate that Jesus really is the light?

- Jesus opened this man's eyes twice. Physical eyes and then over time his spiritual eyes to see Jesus not just as a man, but as the Messiah, the Son of Man. When his physical eyes were opened he could see Jesus as a man. When his spiritual eyes were opened he saw Jesus as God and worshipped Him.
11. Who was in a better position to discuss the subject: The ex-blind man or the theologians? Why?
  12. Who finally won the argument? On what basis?
    - The power of eyewitness testimony that a miracle had occurred. From the man and his parents. The fact of a miracle could not be denied, nor could anyone deny that Jesus had done it. The question is by what power did Jesus do it. Was it from God or elsewhere... Satan.
  13. Why did the man's parents take the attitude they did? 9:19-23
  14. What are some of the things that can blind us from seeing the truth?
    - 9:16 (our traditions?) He does not keep the Sabbath...traditions that we have added to the Law
    - 9:18 did not believe the man's testimony alone
    - 9:24, 41 wrong conclusions based on false understandings. We know this man is a sinner
    - 9:34 pride
  15. What do you learn about becoming a Christian from this story?
    - We are all spiritually blind and in need of God touching our eyes so that we can see Him spiritually for who He really is. This may be a process. We also have eyewitness testimony of Jesus' miracles, death and resurrection. Do we believe these testimonies?
  16. Why couldn't the Pharisees do the same as the blind man?
    - Pride, they thought they could see :40
  17. Why is there more hope for those who admit blindness than there is for those who don't? Lk 5:30-32
  18. Look at the purpose for which Christ came. (Jn 8:12, Lk 4:16-22) Do you see a parallel between the miracle here and his statement of purpose?
  19. Who or what is the light of the world now that Jesus is with the Father? 9:5 Consider these verses: Mt 5:14-16, Acts 13:47. Can you find others?
    - b. What does this fact imply for you and your life? Are you a light? To whom?

## Lesson 13     John 10

Voice - Palestinian shepherds often had names for their sheep and could call them by name and expect them to come. The sheep would recognize the voice of the shepherd and their name.

1. What do you think is the main point of the parable?
  - Jesus is the only one who takes a personal interest in man to the point of giving his life for him.
2. What are the characteristics of the true or good shepherd and explain what each one tells you about Jesus.
  - Jn 10:2,7 – enters through the gate
  - In what ways is Jesus like a gate? How is a person saved? :9 What other ways are people today trying to be saved (get into the sheep pen)? Compare Jn 14:6
  - Jn 10:3-4,14 – He knows his sheep by name, they listen to his voice, he leads them. He knows his sheep and they know him
  - Jn 10:10 – shepherd gives life to the sheep
  - Jn 10:11 – good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep
3. How is the good shepherd different from a hired shepherd? :11-13
4. Who are the other sheep in vs 16?
5. What does Jesus mean in :17,18 and why is this a crucial truth about Him?
  - Jesus gave up his life freely, nobody took it from him against his will.
6. What happens to sheep who know and follow the good shepherd? :3-4, 9-10, 27-29
  - They follow Him, He gives them abundant life and eternal life.
7. How would you describe the relationship Jesus desires to have with people who are His based on this analogy?
8. How has Jesus been a shepherd to you?
  - Are you following the good shepherd? How would you support your answer if someone were to ask how you know?
  - Do you recognize His voice? How? When? Where?

9. What are the implications for your fellowship or your church that Jesus says, “there is only one flock and one shepherd?” 10:16
10. What claim does Jesus make in 10:30?
- What did the Jews think He meant? :31
  - How do you understand His statement? What did He mean by ‘one’?
  - What evidence does He give to support His claim? :37-38
11. What is the point Jesus is making in :34-36?
- What can you observe about Jesus’ view of the Old Testament Scriptures?
12. What are the various responses people are making to Jesus in:
- :10:6 They did not understand him
  - :19-21 Demon possessed, crazy, not so look at his works
  - :24 tell us if you are the Christ
  - :31 wanted to stone him
  - :33 a mere man claimed to be God
  - :39
  - :41-42 many believed in Jesus
  - What do you think about Jesus? Take some time to tell Him now.
13. How do you think God may want you to respond to the truth found in this chapter? What do you think God is saying to you!

## Lesson 14      John 11

*Four days* 11:17 “There was a Jewish belief that the soul stays near the grave for three days, hoping to be able to return to the body. But on the fourth day it sees decomposition setting in and leaves it finally.” After that, there was no hope of resuscitation by natural means.

1. Why do you think John stresses Jesus’ love for Lazarus and his sisters in this account?  
11:3,5,36
  - a. When we face tragedy or difficulties in our life, what are some of the questions we usually ask of God?
2. Compare 11:4 and 9:3. Is this a frequent truth about affliction or this principle unique to Jesus’ ministry? Consider 2 Cor 12:9,10
3. Despite His love for Lazarus, why doesn’t Jesus go immediately when He learns of the sickness? 11:4-6, 14-15, 25-26, 41-42
4. Jesus’ disciples warn Him that going to Bethany, less than 2 miles from Jerusalem, is highly dangerous 11:8. What is the point Jesus makes in response? 9-10
  - a. What do you think He means by walking by day? To be oriented, guided, directed by God.

5. How is Jesus glorified by this event? 11:4 In this context, what does it mean to glorify?
6. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement in 25-26. Why is Jesus able to say this? What right or proof can He offer to make this claim? :41-44
  - a. Do you believe this statement? What difference should your belief make in your life?
  - b. How does this belief make you different from others who do not believe in Jesus?
7. Why do you think Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled (even angered)? :33
  - a. Why do you think Jesus wept? :35 What does this show you about God?
8. How is Lazarus' resurrection a picture of what Jesus does for all who believe?  
Consider Eph 2:4,5
9. The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs before His own resurrection.
  - a. What are two different reactions to the miracle? :45 :47,48
  - b. What motivated the Jewish leaders to reject Jesus despite the obvious evidence of a miracle? 11:47,48, 12:9-11 Political and personal, pride
  - c. For what reasons do people refuse to believe in Jesus today?
10. What did Caiaphas mean in 11:50? What was his reasoning for killing Jesus?
  - a. Did any of Jesus' opponents try to disprove that a miracle of resurrection had occurred? Why not?
  - b. What deeper meaning does John discern in his words? 51,52 See Acts 2:22-23  
Jesus' death was not an accident but the plan of God for the salvation of mankind.

*A pint of pure nard* 12:3 A large amount of very expensive scented oil. It was customary to pour such oil on a guest's head on a festive occasion to honor him. To pour it on Jesus' feet was an act of extreme humility, since the feet symbolized lowliness. Only a menial slave would clean someone's feet. In addition, Mary wiped his feet with her hair, which Jews considered to be a woman's glory (1 Cor 11:15). "A Jewish lady never unbound her hair in public. To do so was a mark of loose morals."

1. Why do you think Mary did this? Do you think she knew what was about to take place? Why or why not?
  - a. What do you think she was trying to show Jesus? Love, humility, service, cost
  - b. What did this act cost her? Money, pride, reputation among people
  - c. Why do you think Jesus attached such special significance to this act? See Mt 26:13  
It was such a great act of devotion. She recognized the significance of Jesus while He was still alive.

*palm branches* 12:13 These had "political overtones" - they were carried when the Temple was liberated from the Syrians in 164 BC and again in 142BC. They symbolized kingship, victory and nationalism. They shouted Hosanna, a term of praise to God and of greeting to kings. They quoted the acclamation for the Messiah in Ps 118:26, *blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord* and they added another title, the King of Israel.

*donkey* 12:14,15 What was the significance of Jesus riding on a donkey? Use your Bible dictionary and concordance to research this. You can start with Zech 9:9-13.

2. What was the crowd proclaiming about Jesus' identity as He entered Jerusalem?
  - a. Why did the crowd welcome Jesus like this? Miracles, they were looking for a Messiah to lead them.
  - b. Why did Jesus now accept this acclaim when He had previously rejected it? 6:15  
This was His last sign, riding on a donkey, He would soon offer His life.
3. What impresses you most about the scene in 12:12-19? (For instance, what details strike you as most significant or personally relevant? Why is the scene important? What do you think John wants to teach or reinforce to his readers? How does the scene make you feel?)
  - It is a short glimpse of Jesus receiving the honor and praise that is due to Him as the King of creation. He is the King of peace humbly riding to victory through His death and suffering on the coming cross. I can feel overwhelmed by Jesus' love and determination to go to Jerusalem as the King, knowing that only through His suffering and death can He accomplish His goal of our salvation.

4. What events do you think Jesus was referring to in vs 23 when He said the hour has come for Him to be glorified? His coming death and resurrection.
  - a. How did the above events glorify the Father and the Son? 23, 27-28 They reveal the love, power, wisdom and grace of God.
  - b. What would you say is Jesus' central purpose in life? To give His life as a ransom, payment for the sin of mankind through His death.
5. Jesus says that what is true for Him is true for His servant. In what specific ways are verses 24-26 relevant to you? What did Jesus mean in :24?
  - a. How did Jesus' death bear much fruit? His death gave eternal life to all who believe in Him
  - b. What does it mean for you to die? To die to yourself being in charge, in the driver's seat of your life. To submit to His rulership over your life.
  - c. What does it look like when someone loves their own life? They think only of themselves and what will make them happy here and now.
  - d. What does it mean to hate one's own life? To hate in comparison to. Living for oneself is not how to find life. In dying to our self service, and serving Jesus we really find life.
  - e. What reward is promised to those who follow Him? God will honor the One who serves Jesus.
6. In what different ways did people respond to Jesus? :37,42,43
  - Still would not believe, believe in secret for fear of men

:44 *Jesus cried out* - The words that follow are Jesus' last public statements before His crucifixion.

7. How would you summarize Jesus' final appeal? :44-50 What does He say about:
  - His identity: When you see me, you see the Father God
  - His mission: I have come as a light so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness. I came to save the world :47
  - those who reject Him and His Words: They will be judged by the words He spoke because they were given to Him by God the Father.
8. What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you have studied in the chapter?

## Lesson 16 John 13

On Sunday the crowds had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as their King. It is now Thursday evening, the day before His death, and Jesus still had much more to say to His disciples.

1. As this scene begins, John reminds us of some things that Jesus knows. What are they?
  - a. 13:1 The time had come for Him to die.
  - b. 13:2 Judas would betray Him.
  - c. 13:3 God is in control, He knew where He had come from and where He was going.

2. What did Jesus' knowledge compel Him to do? 13:1-5
  - How did Jesus show them His love? By washing their feet, serving them and ultimately dying for them.

*Washed his disciples' feet* 13:5 This was a menial task. A guest's feet were usually washed on arrival at the host's home - certainly before the meal - by a servant, but Jesus did it in the midst of the meal to make a point.

2. Why do you think Peter objects to what Jesus is doing?
  - Why does Jesus insist that Peter needs Jesus to wash his feet? What point is Jesus making? We all need Jesus to wash us, to forgive us of our sins.
  - How were the disciples already made clean? :10 By their faith in Jesus' words.
3. The foot washing has several lessons for the disciples. What lessons or meanings does Jesus state in ...
  - 13:8-10 Forgiveness or washing away of sin
  - 13:12-17 To serve one another in humility
4. Jesus knew who He was, where He was from, where He was going, and what power and authority He had. 13:3 Do you fully know these about yourself? Explain.
5. Where does Jesus say true happiness (blessed) comes from? 13:17
  - From doing what He tells us to do.
6. Jesus makes two claims in Jn 13:13. What are the implications of these claims for you?
  - Teacher – we learn from Him how to live
  - Lord – we obey and serve Him above ourselves
7. Why did Jesus predict the betrayal to His disciples, but in a veiled manner? 13:3,19
  - To show that He knows all things, part of the plan, yet not enough to alter it.

8. What do you think was Jesus' attitude toward Judas at this time? Was He bitter, angry, resentful, hurt or what? 13:12, 21,26 What does this teach you about God?
  - He gave Judas a seat of honor probably next to Him, gave a piece of food as symbol of friendship, washed his feet. God loves the sinner.
9. Knowing what Judas and Peter are about to do, Jesus gives His "new commandment." What is new about it? Look at Lev 19:18. How did Jesus show His love to Peter and Judas? What application does this have for us?
  - The standard, as I have love you, rather than as you love yourself.
  - He loved both Peter and Judas. When repented and came back and the other did not.
10. How does foot washing help to explain this commandment?
  - The foot washing was a way to show love. Service is love made visible.
11. Why is this commandment so crucial for Christians to keep? 13:35 Why do you think love is such a powerful witness?
  - Love is unnatural for humans to do in this way.
  - Love is from God 1 Jn 4:7
12. What are some practical ways that you can "wash one another's feet" in our culture and ministry today?

## Lesson 17 John 14

Jesus' time left on earth with His disciples is now very short - just hours remain before His arrest. Jesus now teaches them about some critical issues before His departure.

1. What can you learn about eternal life from 14:1-4? About our relationship with God?
  - Eternal life is living with Jesus and God
  - Jesus wants us to be with Him, in His Father's house forever.
  - Jesus is preparing that life for us. He will come back to get us.
2. What can you learn about Jesus from Jn 14:6?
  - The way Acts 4:12
  - The truth Jn 1:14, 8:32
  - The life Jn 1:4 1 Jn 5:11,12
3. How did Jesus answer Philip's request to show them God? 14:8 What does this mean for us?
  - If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. 14:10 Jesus speaks the Father's words 12:49,50 and does the works the Father tells him to do 5:19.
  - If we want to know what God is like, Jesus is our answer. God is knowable!
4. What do you think are the greater things Jesus says that His followers will do? 14:12 What resources has He given to us to enable us to do these things? 14:16, 26
5. What do you think it means to ask in Jesus' name? 14:14
  - To ask for the same things Jesus Himself would ask for.
6. State in your own words the relationship between love and obedience? 14:21, 23
  - How is Jesus an example of this for us? 14:15,16,21,23,31
  - What are the results of obedience?
    - Jesus will reveal Himself to us
    - Father and Son will make their home in us
7. What can you learn about the Holy Spirit from this chapter? 14:16,17,26 How is He described, what will He do? Why does Jesus send Him?
8. How can we understand the apparent paradox in Jesus' words...He says He is leaving, that He would send someone to them :16,17, that He Himself would come to them :18-20 and that both He and His Father would come and live within them. 14:23
  - Both the Father and Jesus are in the Holy Spirit
9. What kind of peace does Jesus offer His followers? 14:1, 27 How is it different from the world? How does one get this peace?

## Lesson 18 John 15

1. Jesus compares His relationship with the Christian to that of a vine with its branches. In what ways are we like branches of Him?
  - If we are separated from him we die.
  - We need to be connected to bear fruit.
  - He desires a close, life giving relationship with us.
2. What does Jesus mean that He is the true vine? Are there others?
  - He is the source of life
  - Others look for life from other sources
3. What fruit does the Christian produce?
  - Character like that of Christ. Gal 5:22-23, Gal 2:20
  - Obedience 15:10
  - Love for others 15:12,13
4. What is the purpose of pruning or cutting away dead branches? 15:2
  - To bear even more fruit.
5. How does God prune the believer? Note: clean = prune
  - God prunes us through His word.
6. What is the key to producing fruit? 15:5
  - Remain, abide, stay connected, living in dependence on Christ is the key. Jesus modeled this kind of dependence. Jn 8:28,29
7. What would it look like for a person to remain in Christ today? What would one need to do?
  - Have a relationship with Jesus. Communication two ways.
  - Obey
  - Love
8. What is the promise and condition regarding prayer in 15:7
  - You in Me, my words in you.
  - Ask whatever you wish – granted

9. According to 15:8, what is the result of a person bearing fruit in their life?
- Evidence that you are a follower of Jesus
  - God is glorified or honored by others when our lives are changed.
10. What evidences do we see that God loves us in 15:9-17?
- He desires us to experience joy. :11 obedience results in joy.
  - He layed down His life for us. :13
  - He calls us friends because He tells us about Himself, what He is doing, He communicates with us all that we can understand.
  - He chose us. 15:16
11. What kind of joy does Jesus desire us to experience? :11 How do you think we can experience that?
- His joy, complete joy.
  - By staying connected to Him we can share His joy.
12. Why does the world now hate Jesus and His followers? Who is the world?
- The world is the system, beliefs, worldview that is opposed to belief in God and especially in Jesus as God.
  - They are different than the world. :19
  - They don't know God. :21
  - God reveals to them their sin. :22-25
13. Have you experienced any of this hatred of the world in any way in your life or experience?
- People convicted of their sin more when they are around you, language, jokes etc
  - Mocked, considered as foolish
  - Don't fit in with the group
14. What are two voices that oppose this attitude of the world? :26-27
- The work of the Holy Spirit
  - The testimony of the disciples changed lives.

## Lesson 19 John 16

1. The theme in this chapter continues to be the provisions Jesus has made for continuing to assist His followers after He departs. In 16:7 He even claims that they will be better off after He is gone. How can this be true? See Jn 14:16-20
  - The Holy Spirit will live in them and be with them forever. This is a greater level of intimacy than they now have.
2. What does the Holy Spirit do for the person who does not believe? :8-11
  - Convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.
  - What does sin mean in verse 9? A deliberate refusal to believe in Christ. Jn 3:36, Jn 5:40
  - According to :10 how is righteousness or justice obtained? By Christ's return to the Father. Jn 11:51
  - According to :11 who is under judgment? Satan
  - Who rules the world? Jn 12:31 Satan until the time of Jesus' death
3. What does Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit will do for the Christian? 16:13-15
  - He will guide the Christian into all truth and will glorify or honor or make much of or reveal Jesus.

### John 16:16-33

4. Jesus foresaw a crisis in the lives of His disciples. What is this crisis? :16-22
5. What would bring on this crisis? His departure
6. Why would His departure from them bring about the crisis? The disciples would be cowards, faith would disintegrate and they would be left confused and disappointed.
7. What good would come out of this crisis? :22-23 Joy, faith, assurance
8. What does Jesus offer His disciples as a spiritual resource for joy? 16:24
9. Why do you think God answers prayers made in Jesus' name? 16:26-27 What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?

Outline of the prayer. Jesus prays for Himself, the disciples, all believers.

- 17:6-19 – for the disciples that they may be united in a relationship with the Father, protected from the evil one, sanctified by the Word
- 17:20-26 – for all believers to be united that the world might know that God sent Jesus because of His love.

17:1-5

1. What time has come?
2. For what does Jesus ask?
  - 17:1-5 For Himself that He be glorified so that God the Father might be glorified.
3. What does it mean to glorify?
  - Honor, lift up, reveal the true nature.
4. How does Jesus define what eternal life means? :3 How does this differ from the more literal understanding of this phrase?
  - To know by experience, not to know about. Eternal life is a kind or quality of life as much as length of life. Eternal life is a relationship with God the Father and Jesus.
5. What do you think was the work that Jesus had completed? :4 Why do you say this?
  - The disciples. This is the topic of His prayer. Jn 15:16 17:18

17:6-19

6. What does Jesus pray for the disciples in this section?
  - Unity in relationship with the Father. :11
  - Protect them from the evil one. :15
  - Sanctify them by the truth. :17
7. What did Jesus do to prepare His disciples for their mission and His departure?
  - Gave them the Father's Word. :6-8
  - Certainty of where Jesus came from. Faith :8
  - He prayed for them. :9-11
  - Protected them.
  - Gave them a mission. :18-19
8. What does Jesus mean that they are not of the world? That they are to be sanctified by the truth?

- God's Word would make them different, set them apart from the people of the world who do not know God or His Word.

9. Why was Jesus sent into the world? :18

- To seek and save the lost, serve and give His life as a ransom Mk 10:45, to train disciples 17:4, glorified or revealed the true nature of God to the world. 17:26
- What does this tell us about God's purpose for our lives? We are to reveal God and the way to God to the world.
- Why doesn't Jesus pray for the world? :9,18,21,23 God uses His people to reach the world, so He prays for them to be effective in reaching the world. This was His work.

17:20-26

10. Who does Jesus begin praying for now? What does He pray for them?

- Us! Those who will believe through the message given by the disciples.
- Unity
- To be with Him in heaven and to see His true glory or nature one day.

11. Why is unity among believers, the Father, and the Son so crucial? 17:21,23

- This unity will be the evidence that God sent Jesus and loves them.

12. What would you say is most on Jesus' heart as He prepares to leave this earth?

- That the disciples would carry on His mission of making known the Father and His love to the people of the world.

13. What would you say is Jesus' strategy for getting His message to the whole world?

Mt 9:36-39, 2 Cor 5:18-21

- To multiply workers.

14. How can you participate?

Lesson 21 John 18,19 Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion and burial

1. As you read this account of Jesus' last day on earth, what strikes you as significant, strange, or surprising? What questions do you have?

## Lesson 22 John 20,21 The Resurrection of Jesus

John 20:24-30

1. What proof did Thomas want? Why do you think the testimony of his friends was not good enough evidence?
2. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubts?
3. Who does Jesus say is blessed?
4. What do you learn about the purpose of the book of John? 20:31
  - How does one gain this life?

John 21:1-25

1. Why do you think some of the disciples decided to go fishing? (7 out of the 11 disciples)
  - Bored
  - Relax
  - Went back to doing what they knew to do
2. How does Jesus reveal His true identity to them?
3. What do you think is the purpose for Jesus' three repeated questions to Peter?
  - Restore Peter's position of leadership after his triple denial.
  - A chance to affirm his love after the 3 denials.
  - A commission to care for Jesus' people.
4. What do you think "these" refer to?
  - The fish, boat, previous occupation
  - The other disciples. Mt 26:33
5. What did Jesus tell Peter to do?
  - Take care of people spiritually
  - Follow Jesus
6. Jesus told Peter to follow Him as they first met and some of the last words. In what ways would following Jesus now be different for Peter?
  - Jesus had died. Peter would have to follow Jesus even in death.
  - Jesus would no longer be physically present to follow. Now it means to follow in His ways.
7. What do you think Jesus meant in verse 22. How can we apply that?
  - Don't worry about what I call other people to do, you just focus on what I have called you to do.