

Sunday School Lesson

The Gospel of John

Author: the Apostle John

Date written: On certain probably late in the first century

Purpose: To inspire faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God

To Whom Written: Seekers want to examine the life of Christ and believers who would be strengthened in the faith main thing and encounter with Jesus Christ, demand a response, those who have believed have eternal life but those who reject them are under the condemnation of God. (John 3:36; 5:24; 10:27-29)

Keyword: Believe

Key Verse: John 20:31

Distinctive Features:

1. The Book of John is considered by many to be the deepest and most spiritual book in the Bible.

2. In it Christ gives a more complete revelation of Himself and of God than in the Synoptic Gospel's (The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar wording.)

- a. Of his person and attributes see the "I am's" of Christ
- b. Of His divinity (John 1:1; 10:30-38; 12:45; 14:7-9; 16:15)
- c. Of His own Divine commission for example in the fifth chapter he declares Himself to be sent from God six times (John 5:23-24;30,36-38)
- d. Of the fatherhood of God. Christ speaks of God as "The Father" over 100 times. God is the Spiritual Father (John 4:23)
 - He is the Life-giving Father (John 5:21)
 - The message is the Father's (John 7:16)
 - the father is greater than all (John 10:29)
 - The Work's are the Fathers (John 14:10)
 - God is the Indwelling Father (John 14:23)
 - The Eternal Father (John 17:5)
 - The Holy Father (John 17:11)
 - The Righteous Father (John 17:25)

3. Perhaps the most notable of all the particularities of this gospel is the fact that over 1/2 of the space in the book is given to the events of Christ life and His sayings during His last days.

4. Discourses in conversation found only in John:

- a. The talk with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)
- b. With the woman of Samaria (John 4:1-26)

- c. Discourse of the Jews in the feast of booths (John 7:14-39; 8:3-58)
- d. Parable of the good shepherd (John 10)
- e. Series of private instructions to the disciples his comforting words intercessory prayer (John 14-17)
- f. His meeting with the disciples at the sea of Galilee (John 21)

5. John records eight miracles of Christ (besides Christ's resurrection) to prove His divinity. Six of these are found on in this Gospel.

- a. The water made wine (John 2:1-11)
- b. Healing in a nobleman's son (John 4:46-54)
- c. Healing the man at the pool (John 5:1-9)
- d. Healing the man born blind (John 9:1-7)
- e. Raising of Lazarus (John 11)
- f. The second grade quantity of fish (John 21:1-6)

6. There to great currents of thought flowing through the book, which is profitable to follow.

- a. Faith (John 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:29, 40; 7:38; 8:24; 10:37-38; 11:25-27; 12:46; 14:12)
- b. Eternal life (John 3:15-16,36; 4:14; 5:24; 6:27, 51; 11:26; 12:50; 17:3 20:31)

Prominent People: Jesus, John the Baptist, the disciples, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus and Pilate.

Introduction: The final book of the Gospels is the book of John. As Matthew picture Jesus as king of the Jews, Mark picture Jesus as a Suffering Servant and Luke pictured Jesus as The Son of Man, so, too, did John draw picture of Jesus. The picture that John drew is much different than any of the previous writers. He presented a picture of Jesus that came from God, Himself. He pictured Jesus as the perfect Son of God. Who better to portray this view of Jesus then the man that Jesus had closest personal relationship with while conducting His earthly ministry. John is seen over and over again, throughout all accounts of Jesus, as the disciple that was the closest to Jesus. The Gospel of John was, most likely, the last of the Gospels written. Some have surmised that John, while in exile on the Isle of Patmos, was able to read and study the three other Gospels that were written. The majority of the three previous Gospels revealed the ministry of Jesus after the death of John, the Baptist. John's Gospel seems to deal with the things that occurred before the death of John, the Baptist. John's unique use of simple language makes this book seem easy to understand but the complicated doctrines found therein make it difficult to understand. It seems that John was showing us that there are aspects of Jesus' life that we should understand, but what we do not understand must be excepted by faith. John revealed stories and situations that the other Gospels did not show. The one area that John exposed the most was Jesus' prayer life. He even recorded Jesus' prayer in the garden, which revealed Jesus' real heart – others. If only we could see Jesus as God and see that God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9), we will clearly see that God truly is all about others

I. Jesus, God the Son, as light (John 1:12)

John did not record Jesus' birth, for that had already been done by Matthew and Luke. John did not reveal Jesus' genealogy, for Matthew and Luke had done that, also. John took us back to before time began. "In the beginning," he said John 1:1, "was the Word." John spent the first 12 chapters of his Gospel showing Jesus to truly be the Light of the World! As light fills a dark room, so, too, the Light of Jesus filled the Earth. From the announcement of John, the Baptist, to the first disciples, to the water into wine, to the cleansing of the Temple - all these events were evidence of Jesus' Light, spreading. Chapters 3 and 4 reveal Jesus shedding His Light to both the rich and educated and to the poor and uneducated. Jesus continued spreading His Light throughout various miracles. By feeding thousands and forgiving woman taken in the act of adultery and healing many infirmed, Jesus continued to spread his Light.

II. Jesus, God the Son, as Love (John 13-17)

Next, John revealed the love that Jesus had for people. He began by loving His disciples Through the Lord's Supper and His personal promise in John 14 of a place being prepared for them. He loved them as He took His selected men alone to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus then, in a tremendous show of love for both all of mankind and for those who chose to believe Him, prayed for them to accept Him and to have the strength to continue for Him after their acceptance. Through all of these things, Jesus' love can be clearly seen.

III. Jesus God the Son as The Life (John 18-21)

Perhaps it seems odd to begin this next segment with the description of Jesus' death; however, through His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus became, at once, Light, Love and The Light! He became the Light That is still shining brightly today. He became the Love that can and will reach down into the heart of all mankind to save them. Through His death on the cross, He gave us all the assurance that we can have eternal life, because He paid for our sins - He took our death upon Himself! Jesus was crucified and then buried in a borrowed tomb. Thank the Lord, the story does not end there! It goes on to tell us of His resurrection from the grave and, it is because of that resurrection, that you and I can, one day, look forward to our own resurrection. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to the 11 disciples, on two separate occasions. Then He appeared to Peter and six of the disciples, who went fishing with Him. They saw Jesus prepare their food for them. This concluded with a questioning of Peter by Jesus. Jesus simply wanted to know if Peter truly loved Him.

Conclusion: Light, Love and Life - these are three simple terms used to explain the complicated existence of God Almighty in the flesh, Jesus Christ. It seems that John wanted all men to understand just how complicated Jesus was and how complicated His a part in the salvation process was; yet, how simple for all mankind He made the acceptance of that plan of salvation. Praise the Lord!