



**THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

11 Small Group Sessions

How to Use This Study

The best way to facilitate a Bible study is to work hard at understanding the author's intended purpose of a book so you can ask good questions. I have been a part of many Bible studies that were guided by questions like "what do you think?" or "what does that mean to you?" While there is a time and place for such things, the Bible demands more than what we *think* we know. In fact it demands the reader must change. Therefore, you will be challenged to grasp beyond your current understanding and will do so through good questions. A good Bible reader asks questions that will help them understand God better. And so, we should be prompted to first ask "what are we reading and what is its purpose?"

Lucky for us, John is quite clear about what we are reading. He ends his Gospel by telling us explicitly "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Consequently, it only makes sense to study the Gospel according to John by using his purpose statement as a hermeneutical lens. Every story John told is designed to introduce you the reader personally to Jesus so that you may believe and have life in his name.

To help you get through the Gospel according to John in a group study, I have created this book as a guide. Consider the contents of this book as merely a structure for facilitating a group. I provide the guidance, you provide the study. As a result, consider your placement in the matter as a contract between you and your group. You are signing this contract as a commitment to Jesus and to your group. My desire for you in this study is exactly as John intended "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Structure of This Study

Since the approach of this study is to facilitate a small group, the content is designed as a structure for gathering. The aim is for you to get comfortable as a group and make the study guide your own. This may mean you choose to follow the guide rigidly or choose to skip

certain sections or questions. Whatever you may choose, allow it to facilitate meaningful conversation and draw you into the text itself and how it transfers into everyday life instead of vis versa. When your group gets off track the guide is what will bring you back into the text.

There are 11 parts to the small group structure: *Session Goals*, *Prayer*, *Connection*, *Introduction Reading*, *Watch*, *Video Questions*, *John Questions*, *Last Word*, *Preparation for Next Study*, and *Prayer*.

Session Goals provide vision to the small group gathering. The small group leader, and even the participants, make a goal for the study to help them engage in the content. It could be as general as "I want to know Jesus better" or specific as "what does John mean by his phrasing." Whatever the goal is, it should motivate you to invest heavily in the study.

Prayer is the most important part of the study. By praying we have the opportunity to talk with the author directly so it only makes sense to consult him directly for wisdom and guidance. The starting prayer can be whatever you want it to be. It could be as simple as asking for direction, or you can make it a time to pray for each other.

Connection provides two leading questions to get the group thinking about the topic. The first question will ask what stood out to you from the last study. Use it as an opportunity to refresh your memory and make the topic stick. The second question is designed to get you thinking about the main topic for the study. Use the question to share what you already know and anticipate that what you learn in the study may change what you think.

Introduction Reading can be used alongside your vision statement for the study. I have strategically chosen verses to be read at the start of the study to focus in on the heart of a topic. Read the starting verse as a segway to the video and ask a couple people in the group to ask questions or expand on that verse to prepare you for the video.

Watch is the section dedicated to watching the video and taking notes. I have made videos and uploaded them on YouTube as starting points for your conversation. The videos do not cover the entirety of

the two chapters assigned for that week, but rather are dedicated to a specific section of the text to encourage a deep dive for further learning. Members of the group should be encouraged to engage with the content and write notes that they want to be discussed. The videos are designed to be a handmaiden to the study so watch them wherever you find them to be most valuable. Allow them to be the gateway to engaging in deeper conversation.

Video questions are provided after the video to engage deeper with the content. The questions cover big questions discussed in the video and are designed for the group to engage more with what was discussed. Groups should find the freedom to talk about other questions that came up while they were watching the video. You may even find the questions start a rabbit trail to other questions. Feel free to explore these questions deeper. The guide is simply designed to facilitate small groups. If the content leads you to other important questions, make those priority.

John questions look to expand on larger themes or other sections of the chapters. This content goes outside what the video covered and encourages the group to do some digging themselves and since the guide is heavily question based rather than content based, allow the group to facilitate the conversation and watch scripture come to life in community. Be careful to not let the conversation turn inward. It is tempting to be quick to say "what do you think?" or "what does that mean to you?" without first asking "what does John mean" and "what would help us understand this better?" Work hard at understanding John and then try to make life application points. Last word is your takeaway from the study. What stood out to you from the study? It could be from the video, from someone in your group, or even the Gospel according to John itself. Sharing with each other you take away encourages you to take it beyond the study. It may even be the thing

you get to share with your coworker in the week!

Preparation for Next Study is basically your homework to prepare for the next study. A section from the previous study will help you summarize what you read and give new insights, while the reading for the next study will prepare you. Groups that dive into the text outside of the group will benefit in their time together.

Prayer is the last feature of the study on purpose. Do not rush through prayer or skip over it. Sometimes you may even want to end early to have more time to pray. Use the ending prayer time to ask members in your group for requests. Be thorough on your requests. There may even be things that came up in the study that can be brought up again here. Take the time to pray over those items and to pray for the things God is teaching you.

Topics in this Study

Topics in this study are named after features of Christ that John reveals in the chapters I have paired together: *The Body of Christ (1-2)*, *Baptism With Christ (3-4)*, *Communion With Christ (5-6)*, *Freedom in Christ (7-8)*, *Relationship with Christ (9-10)*, *Resurrection Life in Christ (11-12)*, *Loving Like Christ (13-14)*, *Abiding in Christ (15-16)*, *Unity in Christ (17-18)*, *Christ our King (19-20)*, and *the call to Follow Christ (21)*.

Group Contract

To begin your study, sit down with your group and create a contract of expectations and commitment for the study using the following questions and contract.

What do you want to get out of small groups?

What are some things you want to avoid in small groups?

How do you want to structure the time of small groups?

What are some rules or standards you want to set for group time (ie show up on time, stay off phones, keep the study to 1 hour, always have a snack or meal, no gossiping, not focusing on the non-essentials of the gospel like end times theories or personal opinions of a passage etc.)?

How often do you want to meet? Weekly or bi-weekly?

By signing below I agree to the learning contract and commit to my small group in unity as Jesus has called me (John 17:21) realizing that it will require me to humbly submit to my group in love (John 13:14) even when I disagree.

John 1-2

The Body of Christ

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What do you already know about the Gospel of John?

What does it mean for the body to be a temple of the Holy Spirit?

Read

Read John 1:14 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 1-2" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

Read John 1:6-14. Jeridyn explained the significance of the word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. He explained that becoming a child of God also means that you become a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. He then shared a personal story where he experienced change from the inside out because of Gods ongoing work in his heart. He then asked: "if you believe that God dwells in you, how do you expect that should change you?"

1. As a group talk about how you have seen or experienced change from God.

2. Jeridyn pointed out that all who receive Jesus have the right to become children of God. Read John 1:12-14 and talk about what it means to be a child of God. Look specifically at verse 13.

John Questions

1. Read John 1:29-42. Twice John says, "behold the lamb of God." As a group talk about the significance of this title for Jesus. What does it mean that Jesus is the lamb of God?

Read John 2:1-12. After changing the water into wine in Jesus' first sign, the master of the feast takes a sip to sample the wine. To the master's surprise, this was the best wine he had all night. In the first century Jewish weddings were known for their elaborate wedding celebrations, but I don't think this is only about Jesus pulling off a party trick. A look at Isaiah 25:6-8 indicates that a feast of "well-aged wine" coincides with the inauguration of the kingdom. In other words, as Mark also suggested (Mark 1:14-15), the kingdom of God has arrived!

2. Read Mark 1:14-15. What does it mean that the kingdom of God is at hand?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 3 and 4 with John's interpretive question: how does this make me believe in Jesus and how does this give me life in his name?

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 3-4

Baptism With Christ

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What is the significance of baptism?

Read

Read John 3:5 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 3-4" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

Read John 3:1-8. Jesus emphasized in his conversation with Nicodemus that being born again is not a physical birth but rather a spiritual one. Read 3:5 again and discuss with your group what it means to be born again using the following questions from the video.

1. What do you remember from your baptism? How do you perceive water and spirit? If you have not been baptised, what do you see is significant?

Read Romans 6:1-4. Pastor Jon used Romans 6:1-4 to explain the significance of baptism. He then went on to point out three significant features of this passage: (1) our death with Jesus (2) our burial with Jesus (3) and our resurrection with Jesus. All three quite clearly illustrate our participation with Jesus through the waters of baptism.

2. What about baptism stands out most to you? Death with Jesus, burial with Jesus, or resurrection with Jesus?

John Questions

1. Read 3:14-15 again then get someone in your group to follow up by reading Numbers 21:4-9. **How does reading Numbers 21:4-9 point to Jesus on the cross? If the bronze serpent on a pole signifies Jesus, how does looking at Jesus and being healed contribute to our understanding of having life in Jesus?**

Read John 3:15-21. John 3:16 is arguably the most famous Bible verse and for good reason, in one verse it explains the Gospel. It should be noted, however, that many people don't read it in its surrounding context and miss that it connects seamlessly with chapter 15 and flows into verse 17. Having just read these verses, talk with each other about the two main interpretive words we have based this study on:

2. What does it mean to (1) believe in Jesus and (2) to have life in his name?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 5 and 6 with John's interpretive question: how does this make me believe in Jesus and how does this give me life in his name?

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 5-6

Communion With Christ

“Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”

John 6:56 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What is the significance of communion?

Read

Read John 6:56 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 5-6" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. Read John 6:53-58. As a group, talk about communion. Have you had an experience like Jeridyn described? If not, how did Jeridyn's story about communion stand out to you? What does that make you think about communion?

Jeridyn explained how John depicts Jesus using provocative language to elicit a response. Then Jeridyn used a citation from the Evangelical Free Church of Canada's statement of faith book to explain the "graphic" and "organic" imagery.

2. Why do you think John would use such strong language to explain communion? Does it make you want to respond?

Read John 6:60-71. At the end of the long discourse of chapter 6, many from the great crowd that Jesus fed turn back from following Jesus because it was too hard for them. After talking about the conversation Jesus had with them you can probably understand why.

3. Why it is better to follow Jesus. Look at what Peter says in verse 68 to help.

John Questions

1. **Read John 5:31-40.** In our first John study, we talked about bearing witness to Jesus. John the Baptist is the first to bear witness about Jesus when he said, "behold the lamb of God" (1:29, 36). Now in chapter 5 the witness to Jesus is continued. Jesus says (1) the father bears witness to him (5:37) and (2) the scriptures bear witness to him (5:39).

1. How does the Old Testament bear witness to Jesus?

Read John 6:34-40. In the Gospel of John there are 7 absolute "I am" statements that bear witness to who Jesus is. Chapter 6:35 has the first I am statement, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life."

2. What does Jesus mean by "I am the bread of life?"

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Do a word study on the 7 absolute I am statements in John.
Read John 7-8.

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 7-8

Freedom in Christ

"31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What is the world's definition of freedom? What is the Christian definition of freedom? Is there a difference?

Read

Read John 8:31-32 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 7-8" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

In the interview, Josiah helpfully pointed to the greater context of John 8:36. He said that Jesus confronted the Pharisee's because they followed in the footsteps of the father of lies and fell victim to sin. Josiah related this to the lies he once believed before coming to an understanding of freedom in Jesus.

1. What is freedom according to Jesus?

2. What does he free us from?

3. What does he free us to do?

3. Read Galatians 5:13. How does Paul's definition contribute to your understanding of freedom?

John Questions

Read John 7:37-39. In these verses, John says whoever *believes* in me, "out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John follows it up to clarify he is talking about the spirit. Put simply, whoever believes in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit because of what he did on the cross. He does this simply to create an image: those who receive the Holy Spirit

have a river of water flowing through them.

1. How does this image of the Holy Spirit help you understand what the Spirit does in your life?

2. Read Proverbs 18:4 and Isaiah 55:11. Both of these passages are mentioned in a footnote to reference what John means by rivers of flowing water. How do both contribute to your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read all the "I am" statements again.

Read chapters 9-10.

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 9-10

Relationship With Christ

"11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

When you think of Jesus as a shepherd, what are the features that stand out to you?

Read

Read John 10:11 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 9-10" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. Read John 10:7-18. Talk about the relationship dynamics between the shepherd and the sheep. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your shepherd? What does that mean for how you follow him?

2. Read Psalm 23. What do you notice about the relationship dynamic between the shepherd and the sheep? What does that teach you about your relationship with God?

John Questions

Read John 9:1-12. At the beginning of this healing miracle the disciples ask a provoking question: who sinned to make this man the way he is? Jesus confronted the question: it was not because of sin but rather it was for the work of God to be displayed. I have heard of people attributing human ailment to Gods punishment before, but Jesus confirms that human ailment is not a restraint, it is an opportunity for God to show his power.

1. How does this perspective change the way you view human ailments?

Read John 9:35-41. Jesus asked the man he healed: “do you believe in the Son of Man,” the man replied “Lord, I believe.” While the point Jesus made is obvious, he went on to make an important illustration about sight and blindness. He explains how those who do not see him will see and those who do become blind. This saying may seem confusing, but if you think of the story at large you can see how his confrontation of the Pharisee’s finally comes to a point.

2. How does the concept of sight and blindness teach you about believing in Jesus?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Reflect on Psalm 23 in combination with John 10.

Read chapters 11-12.

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 11-12

Resurrection Life in

Christ

“25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 10:11 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What is the the definition of freedom?

Read

Read John 8:31-32 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 11-12" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. **Read John 11:17-27. At the end of the video Jeridyn raised two questions from the I am statement: "I am the resurrection and the life." Answer both of these questions as a group. What does Jesus mean that he is the resurrection and what does Jesus mean that he is the life?**

In the video, Jeridyn walked through the chapter to show how attention to the literary features and the greater vision help us understand the book as a whole. As a result, he concluded that the resurrection of Lazarus, while being completely historically reliable, is also symbolic for new life in Jesus. "I am the resurrection and the life" can be explained as having life in Jesus.

2. **What did you notice about reading chapter 11 this way?**

John Questions

Read John 12:20-26. In the first John Study Jeridyn pointed out the phrase "the hour." Now John returns to this phrase when Jesus says "the hour" has come to be glorified. There is no doubt this phrase is alluding to Jesus' crucifixion. But why would he do that? It seems the following illustration helps with an explanation: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

1. How does the illustration of a dying seed that bears fruit illustrate the death of Jesus?

Read John 12:27-36 and Revelation 12:7-12. Jesus references “the hour” again, and points to its fulfillment. He says, “Now is the judgment of this world” (12:31) and once more points to his death where he judges ‘the ruler of the world’ and draws ‘all people to myself.’ Not surprisingly, the crowd doesn’t understand what he is talking about, but as the readers we do.

2. How does the crucifixion of Jesus simultaneously, judge the ruler of the world and draw people to himself?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 11-12 and think about its contribution to the book as a whole

Read John 13-14

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 13-14

Serving Like Christ

"12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

John 13:12-13 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What do you think is the significance of foot washing?

Read

Read John 13:12-13 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 13-14" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. **Read John 13:1-20. When you look at the words and actions of Jesus here what stands out to you?**

2. **How does the foot washing illustrate the crucifixion?**

3. **Read John 13:34-35. Emily explained how the command to love like Jesus is vague, in the sense that it can mean both big and small things. As a group talk about what it means to love as Jesus has loved us. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to love like Jesus?**

John Questions

Read John 14:1-2. These verses are commonly read at funerals to affirm the place in heaven God is preparing (future) for us. While this is true, the verse also explains the place Jesus prepared (past) for us by heading to the cross. In either view, the place he prepared is a relationship with the father: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23).

1. What are the present and future implications of the place he prepared for us?

Chapters 13 and 14 work together to show how Jesus is “the way and the truth and the life.” By making this connection we can do two things: (1) we can see that when Jesus headed to the cross he served us and (2) when Jesus headed to the cross he prepared a way for us to have a relationship with the father.

2. Now in your own words, explain what Jesus means that he is the way and the truth and the life.

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 13 again and think about how Jesus washed your feet.

Read John 15-16 and review the 7 I am statements.

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 15-16

Abiding in Christ

"4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:4-5 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What does it mean to abide (or remain) in Jesus?

Read

Read John 15:4-5 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 15-16" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. **Read John 15:1-11. There are two things Jeridyn emphasized in this passage from the video: abiding and pruning. What do you notice about them?**

Read Isaiah 5:1-7. In the video, Jeridyn suggested that the song of the vineyard is a helpful connection for John 15. His sermon example explained God's judgement for the vineyard. God judged the vineyard to purify it so that it could bear fruit. In the same way, John 15 illustrates how God prunes his people so that they can bear fruit.

2. **How does the connection to Isaiah 5 help us understand God's pruning?**

John Questions

Read John 6:56; John 8:31; John 14:2 and 14:23. Jeridyn referenced each of these verses as the "development of abiding in Jesus." He concluded that Jesus wants us to "abide in the abode" or put simply, to abide in a relationship with Jesus.

1. **How does John's use of the word abide help us understand what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus?**

2. Read John 16:1-11. Jesus outlined the work of the Holy Spirit. What did you notice?

3. Jesus said it was to our advantage that he went away so that the Holy Spirit could be sent as a helper. As a group, reflect on why it was better for Jesus to leave so that we could have the Holy Spirit. What advantage do you see for the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 6:56; John 8:31; John 14:2, 23 and 15:1-11.

Read John 17-18

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 17-18

Unity in Christ

"20 I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17:20-21 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

In your opinion, how well does the church embody unity? What are some ways it could improve?

Read

Read John 17:20-21 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 17-18" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

Read John 17:9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 20-26. Jesus prayed for unity, joy, sanctification, and protection because those are the things important to him. Chapter 17 gives us important insight into understanding the heart of Jesus. He headed to the cross for us so that all of these things could be a reality for us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Having this recorded prayer from Jesus inspires us to pray for the same things Jesus prayed for and to desire them in the same way.

1. **What do you notice about his prayer for joy (v. 13)?**

2. **What do you notice about his prayer for protection (v. 15)?**

3. **What do you notice about his prayer for sanctification (v.17)?**

4. **What do you notice about his prayer for unity (vv. 20-26)?**

2. **Read John 18:33-38. At the end of the chapter Pilate asked an important question: what is truth? Try and answer the same question. How does John set us up to understand the answer? How does Jesus redefine truth?**

John Questions

1. In John 17:20-22, Jesus talked increasingly more about the unity he wanted for his disciples. He even prayed “that they may be one even as we are one.” How does the unity Jesus prayed for here challenge you to be unified with people in our church body?

2. Read John 18:1-11. Jeridyn mentioned the irony of John which depicts Jesus willingly handing himself over to be arrested. How does that enrich your understanding of Jesus knowing that he willingly gave himself for you?

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read John 17 as Jesus' prayer to you

Read John 19-20

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 19-20

Christ Our King

14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

John 19:14-16 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

How do you picture Jesus as King?

Read

Read John 19:14-16 to start the study.

Watch

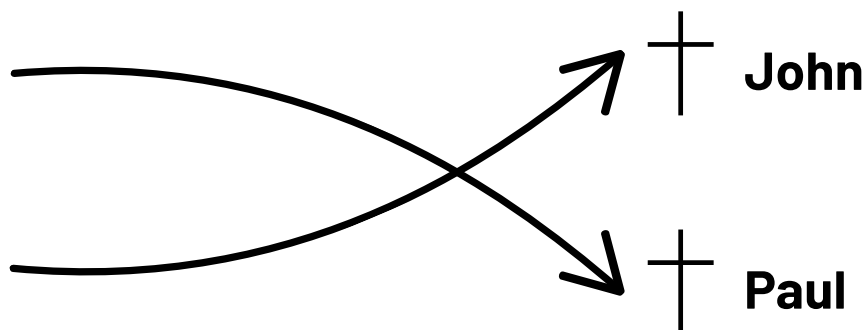
Watch the "John 19-20" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

Read Isaiah 6:1-7. It is believed that Isaiah's dramatic encounter in the throne room is re-depicted in the Gospel of John when Jesus is high and lifted up on the cross.

1. How does this depiction of God enrich our understanding of God's glory?

The comparison between Paul's view and John's view of the cross reveals its paradox: while the cross was the hour of his glorification (John) it was also the moment of his greatest humility (Paul). The combination of glory and humility paints a portrait of our humble king who we are called to mimic (Phil 2:5). To have the mind of Christ is to become a servant. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).



2. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does the paradox between John's view and Paul's view enhance our understanding of how Jesus became King? How can we have "this mind in Christ Jesus?"

John Questions

- 1. Read John 20:1-18. When the disciples arrive at the empty tomb, the believed and went home. What did they believe in?**

- 2. What made Mary recognize Jesus?**

- 3. Read John 20:30-31. Now that we have made it to John's purpose statement, how has the Gospel of John made you believe? How has it given you life in his name?**

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Preparation For Next Study

Read the passion narrative again (John 18-20)

Read John 21

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

John 21

The Call to Follow Christ

21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"
22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

John 21:21-22 ESV

Session Goals

Set some goals on what you would like to see for the study.

Pray

A good study always begins with prayer. Invite the Lord into your space and ask for his direction.

Connect

What is one key point that stuck out from last study?

What are some features of someone who clearly follows Jesus?

Read

Read John 21:21-22 to start the study.

Watch

Watch the "John 21" video and take notes below.

Video Questions

1. **Read John 21:15-19.** Peter was grieved that Jesus used *fileō* (a word that describes love for a friend) instead *agapaō* (a word that describes an active love from God) the third time. **What did you notice about the different use of the word?**

The charcoal fire in 18:8 and 21:9 signals a literary connection to Peter's betrayal and Peter's confession. By making this connection we can say Jesus reversed Peter's threefold betrayal with a threefold call to love and do.

2. **What do you notice about his call to do? That is, love him more than possessions, feed his lambs, and tend his sheep.**

Jesus informed Peter of the death he was going to die: "when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go. (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me" (John 21:18-19). In historical records, Peter died the death Jesus explained. He was clothed, his arms were stretched out and he was crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die the same death as Jesus. This aspect of the call reveals that the call to follow is a call to remain faithful to death. While it likely will not mean we die a death like Peter or even a martyr's death, it does mean that we continue to follow Jesus until the end.

John Questions

1. **Read John 21:20-25.** The disciple whom Jesus loved is an ambiguous character. He is the only one who was at all of the major events (the last supper, the betrayal, the foot of the cross, the empty tomb, and here). The reader benefits from his perspective because like him, we get a front seat to the entire gospel. In fact, some even argue the reader who believes in Jesus and has life in his name becomes like the disciple whom Jesus loves. **If this is true, how does this character involve us in the story?**

2. **Having read all of the Gospel of John and having worked through all of these questions, what does the call to follow Jesus mean to you?**

Last Word

What stood out from the study?

Final Challenge

Read the Gospel of John in one sitting

Pray

Write down the things you are praying about.

Final Note

Thank you for your commitment to this study. My goal for this study was to be your tour guide through the Gospel according to John. My prayer is that as you wrestled with the content in your small group time you learned more about Christ our king. Because the more we learn about Jesus, the more we experience him.

“30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 20:30-31 ESV