

Abide
in the
VINE

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



AS TAUGHT BY

CHERYL BRODERSEN

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Abide in the Vine

Studies in the Gospel of John

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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

WELCOME TO JOHN

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Joyful Life Bible study! This year God has exciting things in store for each one of us as we take an in-depth look at the life and ministry of Jesus through the eyes of the apostle John, an eyewitness to the ministry of Christ.

The author of Hebrews exhorts us to, “Consider Him (Jesus) . . . lest we become weary and discouraged in our souls” (Hebrews 12:3–4). In these distressing times of economic insecurity, social upheaval, moral decay, political uncertainty, and the proliferation of terror, it is essential that we consider Jesus.

John affords us the opportunity to consider Jesus with a firsthand account of the things Jesus said, claimed, and did. Additionally, John provides us with personal encounters the Lord had with individuals and the conversations that ensued. The claims of Jesus, the signs Jesus did, and public opinion concerning Jesus are also included in this gospel.

John met Jesus at the Jordan River shortly after Christ was baptized. He followed the Lord throughout His ministry all the way to His arrest in the garden, the cross at Calvary, the empty tomb, and the appearance of Jesus at the upper room.

John was the disciple who leaned upon Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper. John is the only writer to diligently record the events that transpired that night and the last teachings of Jesus to His disciples.

This gospel is sure to expand your knowledge of Jesus and to inspire you to greater faith and love for the Lord.

BACKGROUND

AUTHOR:

- John, the apostle and disciple of Jesus, fisherman, son of Zebedee, brother of James (first martyr), called Son of Thunder by Jesus, author of Revelation and the three epistles of John

DATE OF WRITING:

- The gospel of John was the fourth and last gospel to be written, approximately AD 85–90
- After the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 but before John's exile to the island of Patmos

WRITTEN TO:

- The world
- New Christians, all believers, and searchers

SEVEN SIGNS:

- John shows us who Jesus is by highlighting seven signs (miracles) of Jesus. Six of these miracles are not mentioned in the first three Gospels. Each is designed to show that Jesus is God:
 1. Turning the water to wine: John 2:9
 2. Healing the nobleman's son: John 4:46–54
 3. Healing the crippled man: John 5:2–9
 4. Feeding the five thousand: John 6:1–14
 5. Jesus walking on the water: John 6:16–21
 6. Healing the man born blind: John 9:1–7
 7. Raising Lazarus from the dead: John 11:1–44

SEVEN I AM'S:

- The claims of Jesus about Himself:
 1. The Bread of Life: John 6:35, 48
 2. The Light of the World: John 8:12; 9:5
 3. The Door: John 10:7, 9
 4. The Good Shepherd: John 10:11, 14
 5. The Resurrection and the Life: John 11:25
 6. The Way, the Truth, and the Life: John 14:6
 7. The True Vine: John 15:1–5

PURPOSE FOR WRITING:

- That we might believe: John 20:30–31
- To persuade men and women that Jesus is the Christ, *and that believing you may have life in His name* (John 20:31)
- To counteract the heresy and false concepts concerning Jesus Christ that had developed during the first century

WHY IS THIS GOSPEL SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS?

- It was the last gospel written with the view of what the others had already said
- The first three Gospels focus on what Jesus taught and did; John focuses on who Jesus is

GREATNESS, GRACE, AND GIFT OF JESUS

JOHN 1:1-18

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Why are you excited about studying the book of John?
 - a. What aspect of the gospel of John are you most interested in exploring?

2. John initiates his gospel with a disclosure of the deity of Jesus. Read the following verses and comment briefly on what they reveal about the nature of Christ:
 - a. John 1:1–5

 - b. John 1:6–10

 - c. John 1:11–14

 - d. John 1:15–18

3. As we approach the holy ground of studying the life of Christ, ask the Lord to prepare your heart to comprehend, receive, believe, and apply the glorious truths found in this gospel. Write your prayer here.

SECOND DAY: Read John 1:1–5

1. John 1:1–5 is often considered a prologue to the gospel of John. There are certain truths John wants the reader to know before he writes about the earthly ministry of Jesus. Write these essential truths below:
 - a. verse 1
 - b. verse 2
 - c. verse 3
 - d. verse 4
 - e. verse 5
2. The word “word” in verses 1 and 2 is the Greek word *logos* which means divine expression. What do you learn about the Logos from verses 1 and 2?
 - a. Hebrews 4:12 gives a further description of logos as pertaining to God’s Word. What does this verse state about the Word of God?

- b. How does this truth encourage you to read and apply God's Word?

3. Reread John 1:3–5. What thoughts are stirred within you as you consider these themes?
 - a. Jesus your Creator: verse 3

 - b. Jesus as the Life: verse 4

 - c. Jesus as the Light: verse 5

 - d. The darkness of this world: verse 5

4. Write a prayer recognizing the divine person of Jesus. Place your problems before Him.

THIRD DAY: Read John 1:6–10

1. In John 1:6–8 the writer introduces his readers to the prophet John—John the Baptist. What do you learn about him from these verses?
 - a. Using the following verses (Mark 1:4–8; Luke 1:5–25, 57–66, 76–80) write a short description of John the Baptist.

b. Compare the prophecy of Malachi 3:1 with John 1:6–8. Record your findings.

(1.) How does this speak to you about the reliability of God's Word?

(2.) Think about the objective of John's witness from John 1:7b (NLT): *so that everyone might believe because of his testimony*. How can we make this our objective?

2. John *was sent to bear witness of that Light*. What is his testimony about Jesus? Answer from John 1:9–10.

3. Consider the tragic statement in John 1:10b: *and though the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him*. Sadly, this is still true today. How can we make Christ known to the world?

a. In response to this, take a few moments to pray for someone you know who does not know Jesus.

FOURTH DAY: Read John 1:11–14

1. The truths in John 1:11–14 are as relevant today as when they were first written. This passage begins with the rejection of Jesus by His own people. Consider verse 11 as you print it here.
 - a. According to Matthew 1:21 what did Jesus come to do?
 - b. In contrast to those who reject Jesus, what is the glorious promise in John 1:12 to those who receive Him?
2. In verse 12 the word “power” means *right* or *authority*. Explain, as you would to a new believer, *what it means to receive Him and believe on His name*.
3. John 1:13a begins with the phrase: *which were born*. Consider the origin of this spiritual birth. By what means is someone NOT born again?
 - a. How IS someone born again?

4. Verse 14 captures the glory of the incarnation. Using this verse describe the glorious incarnation.
 - a. What is the author John's personal testimony concerning Jesus? verse 14

 - b. What is your personal testimony concerning Jesus?

FIFTH DAY: Read John 1:15–18

1. John 1:15–18 resumes the testimony concerning Jesus. Choose and record a few declarations about Jesus from the following verses:
 - a. verse 15

 - b. verse 16

 - c. verse 17

 - d. verse 18

2. *Grace* has been described as *the kindness and love of God toward man*. John 1:16 (NIV) reads: *From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another*. What blessings have you received through His grace?

3. In verse 17 *grace* is contrasted to *law*. The Mosaic Law demands righteousness from man but the *grace* of God freely gives righteousness to man by faith in Jesus Christ. Selah—pause and think about this. What do the following verses declare about the weakness of the law?
 - a. Romans 8:3

 - b. Hebrews 7:18–19

 - c. Why is Christ’s gift superior to the law?

4. Pastor Chuck says: *If you want to see God and know what He is like, look at Jesus*. Think about this as you print verse 18 phrase by phrase here.
 - a. How do the following Scriptures further affirm this truth?
 - (1.) John 10:30

 - (2.) John 14:9

 - (3.) II Corinthians 4:6

