

(Week 1) John 1:1-18

- 1. Who is “the Word” as mentioned in this passage? How do you know?**
 - Word - an expression of God revealed to man
 - Word = God
 - Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning, God...”
 - John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word...”
 - The Word and God are both outside of time

- 2. This passage describes two miraculous things that only the Word could do. What are they?**
 - Created the universe (vs 1-5)
 - Became a man to save people from sin (vs 12-14)

- 3. This passage explains the identity believers in Jesus have. What is it? Why does this matter?**
 - Vs 12-13
 - We are children of God with a permanent family
 - The God, who spoke creation into existence, claims me as his own
 - My identity as God’s child cannot be taken away

- 4. Verse 14 and verse 18 use the name “One and Only” to refer to God, the Word. What do you think this name “One and Only” means? Is it important? Why or why not?**
 - Only one who could create and the only one who could save. Begotten.
 - God is not one among many gods; he is the ONLY God

- 5. Verses 14 and 17 say Jesus “came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Define grace. Define truth. Why do these things matter? Why do you think John intentionally put these two words together?**
 - Spiritual grace: Unmerited favor of God
 - Spiritual truth: Reality of right and wrong as communicated in Scripture
 - Truth sets the standard; grace offers what we need to reach that standard
 - A balance of grace and truth makes a relationship with Jesus possible.

- 6. Give an example where you have seen or experienced grace and truth modeled simultaneously.**

(week 2) John 1:19-34

- 1. John the Baptist had a clear understanding of what his mission was and what it was not. How would you describe John the Baptist's mission in your own words?**
 - Prepare the people for the coming Messiah
 - Communicate God's judgment was coming and people needed to prepare by repenting of sins, being baptized, and live a life of obedience to God
- 2. John uses the words "witness" and "testimony" several times. What do these words mean? What is John emphasizing by repeating these words?**
 - Witness: Someone who sees something important; To profess Christ and to claim him
 - Testimony: To testify; To give the story of how I became a Christian
- 3. What two titles does John use to describe Jesus?**
 - Lamb of God (vs. 29) and Son of God (vs. 34)

Why is it important to you personally that Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Son of God?

- Fulfills Old Testament prophecy about a coming sacrificial savior
 - Lamb = sacrificial animal = took my place for death
 - God sent Jesus, the lamb, to die a death I could not die to provide a salvation I could not earn
- 4. When John responds to the religious leaders he refers to the Old Testament passage in Isaiah (vs. 23). Why do you think he did this?**
 - Religious leaders would have a deep understanding of Old Testament prophecy.
 - Religious leaders knew prophecy about the coming Messiah but did not recognize and acknowledge the reality the Messiah had come.
 - Religious leaders wondered who John really was and what his real motives were. John gives his clear mission by referring to the prophecy in Isaiah 40:3 of being a voice in the desert preparing the way of the Lord.
 - 5. John the Baptist had a testimony and a witness of great impact. Can you think of a testimony from someone you know or someone you have read about that has impacted you? Why did their witness leave an imprint on you?**

Week 3

John 1:35-51

Main Idea: As Jesus begins his ministry, we see an unlikely savior who calls unlikely people to follow Him. Those who Jesus calls are meant to go and bring others to Jesus. The names and titles used to describe Jesus prove that he is the Messiah, God's anointed one sent to redeem God's people.

Questions:

1. What are the titles used to describe Jesus in the passage? What do they tell us about him? (hint there are six)
2. Who told Andrew to go and tell his brother about Jesus?
3. Why does Philip tell Nathanael to "come and see" ? How does this change the way we think about telling others about Jesus?
4. From Nathanael's perspective, Jesus was an unlikely savior. From our perspective, we can see that these were unlikely disciples. How does this encourage us to share Jesus with others?
5. Who do you need to tell about Jesus? What would help you feel confident in sharing Jesus with them?

Week 4

John 2:1-2:12

- 1. This passage describes Jesus' first public miracle. What is a miracle? What was miraculous about turning water into wine?**
 - Miracle: Something that cannot be explained by natural or scientific law because it is the work of God
 - Water to wine demonstrated Jesus' deity; the creator God made something out of nothing
- 2. What are some practical lessons and reminders we can apply to our own lives because of Jesus turning water to wine?**
 - Jesus can provide for my needs
 - When I turn to Jesus with my needs, he meets them and our relationship deepens
 - I get to ask Jesus for what I need and then submit to his Lordship
 - I need to trust Jesus and obey his commands

- I am meant to live a full life, not an empty one
3. **Discuss vs. 11: “This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.” How did turning water to wine reveal his glory? Why did revealing his glory matter? After witnessing this, the disciples put their faith in Jesus. What could this suggest?**
 - Turning water to wine is something only God could do. Jesus wasn’t just a good man and teacher, he was divine.
 - By revealing God’s glory, Jesus put himself in a new public position of authority
 - It is possible to follow Jesus and to know a lot about him without having a personal relationship with him. Knowing something/someone doesn’t equal believing something/someone.
 - This miracle was an intentional act to help us believe that Jesus is who he says he is
 4. **What truth about Jesus is hard for you to believe? What miracle would help you better understand or more easily believe that truth about Jesus?**

Week 5

John 2:13-2:25

Main Idea: Jesus is the true temple that will be raised up.

Questions:

1. Why was Jesus upset at those who were selling goods in the temple?
2. Was Jesus wrong for being upset and overturning tables?
3. Can Christians get angry and still honor Jesus at the same time? Can you explain your answer to this question?
4. What does Jesus mean that he’s going to destroy the temple and raise it up in three days?
5. Verse 24 says Jesus “did not entrust himself to the people”, what do you think this means?
6. How can being “religious” at times keep us from having an actual relationship with Jesus? How would you explain the difference between the two?

Week 6

John 3:1-3:21

Main Idea: Jesus came to give us new life and the only way have that new life is to believe in Him

1. Read verses 1-14. In your own words, how would you explain what it means to be “born again”?
2. What do we know about Nicodemus based on this passage? How can knowing about Nicodemus help us better understand what Jesus means by “being born again”?
3. Why do you think that Nicodemus is so confused by Jesus’ answer to his question about eternal life? How does Jesus respond to Nicodemus’ confusion? Is there anything about this passage that confuses you?
4. Read John 3:16-21. How do these verses explain The Gospel message? What do these verses tell us about why some people reject The Gospel message?
5. John 3:1-21 shows us that eternal life comes through belief in Jesus as the Son of God. Based on these verses, what is the difference between belief that leads to eternal life and just knowing things about God?

Week 7

John 3:22-3:26

John 3:22-36

1. **What are some of the main lessons or takeaways from this passage?**
 - Whatever we do (school, sports, friendships, etc.) needs to be focused on the glory of God.
 - I have nothing to lose (possessions, popularity, position, etc.) because everything is God;s to begin with. I need to steward my life in obedience to God.
 - Jesus must be the single priority for me - for his glory and for my good.
2. **Verse 27 says, “... A man can only receive what is given him from heaven.” What do you think John means by this? How is this an appropriate response to the question of John being asked about who he was and what authority he had?**
 - I have nothing unless God gives it to me

- John recognized that even the work of Jesus could not be successful unless God allowed it to be.
 - John demonstrated humility because he knew his place in God's kingdom and that he was a support role for the ministry of Jesus. John was not competing with Jesus for recognition or success.
- 3. Verse 30 says, “He must become greater; I just become less.” This is often a *coffee mug* verse or a *t-shirt* verse. Think deeper about this verse. What do you think of John’s statement? What does it mean? Practically speaking, how can this be reflected in your life?**
- John the Baptist knows his purpose is to exalt Christ and not himself.
 - I cannot follow a person and also follow Jesus. I need to choose who I will follow and obey.
 - My ministry for Jesus can best be measured by how I am helping to move people toward knowing, loving, and serving Jesus - NOT in how many people are listening to me, following me, or asking me for advice
- 4. This passage discusses Christian baptism and never states that baptism is necessary for salvation. Why then is baptism even talked about? Is baptism important?**
- Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus.
 - Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to eternal life through the work Jesus did on the cross and grave.
 - Baptism communicates to my church family that I am saying no to sin and yes to Jesus,
- 5. Although baptism isn’t necessary for salvation, John does give clear words on how a person can receive eternal life. What verse talks about this and what does it say is necessary for eternal life?**
- Vs. 36: “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”
 - By faith alone because of Jesus alone

Week 8

John 4:1-4:26

Main Idea:

Jesus came to offer us eternal satisfaction and the ability to share that satisfaction with others.

- Verses 1-6 set the stage for the rest of the passage. Read over verses 1-6, what details strike you as being important or significant to understanding the rest of the passage and why?
- In verses 10 and 13-14 Jesus promises to give the woman “living water”. What does Jesus mean by “living water” and why do you think Jesus chooses to use water to describe what he is really offering the woman?
- In addition to “living water”, Jesus also promises that anyone who drinks the “living water” will be satisfied. How can a relationship with Jesus bring us satisfaction that we can’t get from anywhere or anyone else? Do you have this kind of satisfaction?
- Read verses 16-20. How does the woman respond to Jesus when she realizes that He knows about her sin and her past mistakes without her telling Him? How does Jesus treat the woman in regard to her past?
- Reread verses 23-24. In your own words, what does it mean to worship God in “spirit and in truth”? What does worshiping Him in “spirit and in truth” look like in your own life?
- How does this passage give you a better understanding of the message of The Gospel and what it means to have a relationship with Jesus?

Week 9

John 4:31-4:45

Main Idea

The mission of Jesus is bigger than our excuses

Discussion Questions:

- What are some excuses that you use for not sharing your faith with others? How can the gospel (and this passage) help you fight against these excuses?
- Do you feel a sense of urgency for sharing your faith with others? What could help you develop this kind of sense?
- As you think about sharing your faith, why are verses 35-38 such an encouragement to you
- Is having a “personal faith” in Jesus the same thing as having a “private faith” in Jesus?
- Is there someone in your life that you need to share your faith with? Who? What is stopping you?

Week 10

John 4:46-4:54

Main Idea: The Promises of Jesus have power. The official who comes to Jesus trusted Jesus to heal his sick son. Without being present, Jesus was able to heal the official's son from about 20 miles away!

Questions:

1. What is significant about Jesus having power over sickness? Why is it special that Jesus is not present when the official's son is healed?
2. Why do the promises of Jesus have power?
3. What promises of Jesus do you struggle to believe?
4. How have you seen the promises of Jesus come through for you? How have they influenced your faith?
5. Why is it important to trust in the promises of Jesus even if we cannot directly see the result?

Week 11

John 5:1-18

Main Idea

God's people, desperate for healing, often search in all of the wrong places when true healing only comes through Jesus.

Discussion Questions

In John 5:3-7 the man didn't do anything to deserve to be healed: he didn't know who Jesus was, didn't have faith and didn't even ask to be healed. Yet despite the many other disabled people at the pool that day, why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man?

In the account of the healing at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5, the religious leaders come in conflict with Jesus. How does this illustrate one of the main differences between religion and biblical Christianity? Why is this distinction important?

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you" in verse 14?

What is the significance of Jesus' statement in verse 17? "My father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working".

Week 12: John 5:19-29

Main Idea: Jesus and God the Father are one, so by looking at Jesus we can know God

1. Read through this passage. In your own words, how would you explain the main what idea of these verses are to someone else?(i.e. A friend at school, a teammate, or a younger sibling)
2. Read verses 19-20. What do you think it means that Jesus can't do anything on His own but only do what He sees "The Father Doing"? How does this statement actually help us see more clearly that Jesus and God are one?
3. Since these verses teach us that Jesus and God the Father are "One", what can we learn about God the Father through Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of John?
4. In verse 24, Jesus tells us that if we hear "His words and believe in God who sent Him" then we have "passed from death to life". In your own words what does it mean to pass from death to life? Does "passing from death to life" change anything about our lives on earth or just in eternity?
5. How does John 5:19-29 help us to understand the three questions laid out in John's Gospel:
 - Who is Jesus?
 - Why was He sent?
 - How should I respond to Him?

Week 13: John 5:30-5:47

Main Idea: Jesus is God, that is being witnessed about

Questions:

1. In this passage, there are four ways that Jesus is being witnessed about. What are those four ways?
2. What are we to believe about Jesus from this passage?
3. Jesus refers to the Old Testament. How does the Old Testament point to Jesus?
4. Why does Jesus choose to work through sinful people like Moses and David?

John 6:1-6:21

Main Idea: Because Jesus has power over creation, we can trust that He has power over our lives.

Questions:

1. Read John 6:1-21 as a group. What sticks out to you? Does anything confuse or frustrate you?
2. Has God ever done something miraculous in your life that left you speechless?
 - What was it? How did you respond?
3. Has there ever been a time you wanted God to do something, and you were left feeling disappointed?
 - What did you want Him to do and how did you respond to Him not working in the way that you wanted Him to work?
4. Read verses 19-20. If you were in the boat with the disciples, how would you have responded? Do you ever find yourself wishing that God would perform signs and miracles today in the same way as He did in the New Testament? Why do you think that those types of signs and miracles happen less often today than they did in the past?
5. Read Matthew 14:28-23. If you were Peter, would you have gotten out of the boat? Why or why not?

John 6:22-6:40

Main Idea: Jesus came to give us the food that our soul needs and to lead us to eternal life.

Questions:

1. Read this passage from start to finish. What stands out to you the most and why?
2. Jesus refers to Himself as the “bread of life”. Why do you think He compares himself to bread? What is Jesus trying to communicate to His listeners and to us by making this comparison?
3. Read verses 35-40 again. What promise(s) does Jesus make in these verses? How would you explain these promises to a friend in your own words?
4. Read verses 22-27. Why do the people follow Jesus across the Sea of Galilee? How does Jesus respond to them?
5. Based on verses 22-27, is it possible for people to seek after Jesus for the wrong reasons? What could some of those reasons be in your own life? Based on these verses how does Jesus respond to people when they seek him out for the wrong reasons?
6. How does Jesus satisfy our souls in a way that nothing else can?