

# The Gospels

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## Study Guide

LESSON  
FIVE

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN



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## STUDY GUIDE

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### How to use this lesson and study guide

- **Before you watch the lesson**
  - **Preparation** — Complete any recommended readings.
  - **Schedule breaks** — Review the outline and the time codes to determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions in the outline.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
  - **Notes** — Use the Notes section to follow the lesson and to take additional notes. Many of the main ideas are already summarized in the notes, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
  - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
  - **Review Questions** — Questions on the basic content of the lesson. Answer review questions in the space provided. Review questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
  - **Application Questions** — Questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

## Outline

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    - 2. Human (1:53:17)
  - D. Life (1:54:57)
- V. Conclusion (2:00:31)

## Notes

### I. Introduction

### II. Background

#### A. Author

John: One of Jesus' most trusted companions and a pillar of faith in the early Christian community.

John's New Testament writings:

- The Gospel of John
- 1, 2 and 3 John
- Revelation

#### 1. Traditional View

The traditional view that the apostle John wrote this gospel is reliable.

- Manuscripts:
  - Papyrus number 75, referred to as "P-75"
  - Papyrus number 66, referred to as "P-66"
  - Codex Sinaiticus
  - Codex Vaticanus

- Internal Evidence:
  - Author had a strong understanding of Jewish law
  - Strong evidence that the author was a Palestinian Jew
  - Gives the impression that it was written by an eyewitness
  - “the disciple whom Jesus loved”: John 21:20-24, 13:23, 19:26-27, 20:2-8, 21:7

- Early Church

Affirmed that John was the author:

- Clement of Alexandria
- Tertullian
- Irenaeus

## 2. Personal History

- James and John: “the sons of Zebedee”
  
- Fisherman: Mark 1:14-21

- His mother's name was Salome
- Fiery temperament: Mark 3:17
- Member of the inner circle of disciples
- One of the pillars of the church in Jerusalem

## **B. Occasion**

### **1. Location**

Most likely that John wrote in Ephesus for an audience that lived in Asia Minor.

John's comments about Palestinian Jewish customs point to an audience that lived outside Palestine.

No ancient source ever suggests that any group other than residents of Asia Minor were its intended recipients.

Close connection between John's gospel and the book of Revelation, which was written for seven churches in Asia Minor.

Followers of John the Baptist continued in Ephesus at least until that time.

## 2. Audience

Intended for the whole church throughout the ages.

Special relevance for members of a Jewish community who:

- believed that Jesus was the Messiah
- continued to worship in the synagogue
- had other significant contacts with the Jewish community

## 3. Date

- A.D. 85-90
  - No predictions of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, which took place in A.D. 70
  - Split between the church and the synagogue was most bitter
  - Written after the other three gospels

- Papyrus number 52
  - Referred to as the Rylands Papyrus
  - Contains a part of John chapter 18
  - A.D. 100-150
  
- Latest possible date: A.D. 90-100

#### **4. Purpose**

Confirm belief that Jesus was both the Christ and the Son of God.

### **III. Structure and Context**

John 1:10-14

- Jesus came into the world
  
- He was rejected by his own people
  
- Some received and believed in him
  
- Those believers became his witnesses



**A. Introduction, John 1:1-18**

- Word of God: John 1:1-3
  
- Jesus came into a dark world: John 1:4-5
  
- Jesus' incarnation revealed his glory: John 1:14

**B. Jesus' Public Ministry, John 1:19-12:50****1. Preparation for Ministry: 1:19-2:12**

- John the Baptist: 1:19-36
  
- Calling of First Disciples: 1:37-52
  - Rabbi: 1:38
  - Messiah: 1:41
  - The one Moses wrote about: 1:45
  - The Son of God / King of Israel: 1:49
  - The Son of Man: 1:51
  
- First Miracles: 2:1-12
  - A sign that revealed Jesus' glory
  - Signs Identify Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God

**2. First Passover: 2:13-4:54**

- Cleansing of the Temple: 2:13-25
- Nicodemus: 3:1-21
- John the Baptist: 3:22-36
- Samaritan Woman: 4:1-42
- Healing of a Child: 4:43-54

One important theme that runs throughout the section dealing with the first Passover is faith.

**3. Unnamed Feast: 5:1-47**

- Healing on Sabbath: 5:1-15
- Jesus' Response: 5:16-47

**4. Second Passover: 6:1-71**

- Feeding Five Thousand: 6:1-15
- Walking on Water: 6:16-24
- Bread from Heaven: 6:25-71

**5. Feast of Tabernacles: 7:1-10:21**

- Observance and Fulfillment: 7:1-52
- True Sonship: 8:12-59
- Healing of a Blind Man: 9:1-42
- The Good Shepherd: 10:1-21

**6. Feast of Dedication: 10:22-11:57**

- Observance and Fulfillment: 10:22-40
- Resurrection of Lazarus: 11:1-57

**7. Third Passover: 12:1-50**

- Anointing for Burial: 12:1-11
- Triumphal Entry: 12:12-19
- Public Announcement: 12:20-50

**C. Jesus' Private Ministry, John 13:1-20:31****1. Last Supper: 13:1-17:26**

- Service: 13:1-30

Jesus symbolized his whole earthly ministry as he humbly washed his disciples' feet.

- Comfort: 13:31-14:31

Jesus prepared his faithful disciples for the fact that he would soon be leaving them.

- Preparation: 15:1-16:33

Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure and for their future ministries.

- Prayer: 17:1-26

Jesus interceded for his followers in priestly ways.

## **2. Death and Resurrection: 18:1-20:31**

In John's gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection, and their associated events, are often described as the hour of Jesus' glory.

- Arrest and Trials: 18:1-19:17
  - Arrest: 18:1-11
  - Trial before Caiaphas: 18:12-27
  - Trial before Pilate: 18:28-19:16

- Crucifixion: 19:16-37

Jesus wasn't taken by surprise; everything took place according to God's plan.

- Resurrection: 20:1-31
  - Empty Tomb: 20:1-9
  - Appearances: 20:10-31

#### **D. Conclusion, John 21:1-25**

- Appearance at the Sea: 21:1-14
  
- Restoration of Peter: 21:15-23

#### **IV. Major Themes**

##### **A. Believing**

Believe: Related to words like “receive,” “come to,” and “know.”

Conversion: Becoming children of God and obtaining eternal life.

In some passages, “believe” signifies superficial faith — “temporary” or “hypocritical” faith.

##### **B. Christ**

“Christ” or “Messiah” had become the functional equivalent of “King of Israel.”

As Israel’s king, Jesus represented Israel in every capacity, and served both as their substitute and as the conduit of God’s blessing to them.

Jesus fulfilled and succeeded in everything that Israel had been called by God to be and do.

## 1. Temple

Jesus fulfills the Old Testament theme of God's tabernacle and temple.

Place where God had promised to be present with his people in a special way.

Manifestations of God's presence: times when God concentrated his presence in particular locations.

God associated his special presence first with the tabernacle and later with the temple.

Jesus was now providing the same access to God's special presence.

After Jesus was no longer physically present on earth, his followers would enjoy the special presence of God.

## 2. Feasts

Jesus fulfilled the significance of Israel's feasts

God established these feasts to:

- Identify Israel as his royal priesthood
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Give them regular ways to enjoy the blessings of his special presence in the tabernacle and temple
  - Feast of Passover:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Feast of Tabernacles:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Feast of Dedication:

## 3. Law

The Law was given to true believers as a guide toward God's blessings.



The Law always pointed beyond itself to Jesus.

## **C. Son of God: The Divine Messianic King**

### **1. Divine**

- Relationship between the Son and the Father

- “I Am”

### **2. Human**

The term “Son of God” was used to refer to the human king who sat on David’s throne as king over Israel.

- Son of God

- King of the Jews

**D. Life**

Eternal life is a relationship with God — a personal experience of his presence and involvement in our lives.

Eternal life: A gift of deliverance from divine judgment into never-ending joy and peace.

Jesus: the creator and the source of life, possesses the words of life, and is the “One and Only.”

**V. Conclusion**

Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God’s promises of blessing.



3. In John 1, how did John summarize the whole gospel?

4. How did Jesus' own people treat him when he began his public ministry?

5. What events took place during Jesus' private ministry?

6. What did the conclusion of Jesus' ministry confirm?



9. How is Jesus' identity as the Son of God parallel to his identity as the Christ?

10. What is eternal life?

## Application Questions

1. How does knowing that John wrote the Gospel of John influence the way we read it?
2. How should the purpose behind John's gospel impact the way we live?
3. How does Jesus' farewell discourse apply to your life?
4. How does John's gospel influence the way we read the other gospels?
5. How should we live knowing that Jesus has miraculously changed our lives?
6. How should we live in light of Jesus' resurrection and coming return?
7. What encouragement do we gain from Jesus' high priestly prayer?
8. Why is it important to know that Jesus was willing to be crucified?
9. What can we learn from Thomas being skeptical about Jesus' resurrection?
10. How should we view God's Law, knowing that Jesus has fulfilled it?
11. How should Jesus being "I Am" impact the way we read the Old and New Testaments?
12. How should we respond to the gift of eternal life that we have through Jesus?
13. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?