

The Journey to Grace - The Gospel of John
Bible Study
Introduction and Lesson One

Not too long ago we celebrated Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and traveled down *The Road to Grace*. God touched our hearts as we pondered His amazing gift of grace - knowing the babe in the manger would one day carry the sins of the world on His shoulders. Oh, how He wants us to keep going and understand more - to know “it is finished” at the cross!

Today, He is longing for you to know Him more deeply—to love His Word, to trust Him, to seek Him, and to know there is no other way to have eternal life with Him except through His Son, Jesus.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6 ESV).

My friend, there is no other way! God gave His one and only Son so that through His death, we would have eternal life with Him. Through His sacrifice, the veil was torn that separated us from God so that we could enter into His throne, the Holy of Holies. He is calling you to continue on the journey - *The Journey of Grace* to share His message of love, forgiveness, and grace to others that leads to Him, forever.

The Gospel of John

Introduction

Jesus had loved him. And He had changed John's life forever.

Now John was old, having lived a full lifetime in service and devotion to the One who had called him to it. As a man preparing to depart this life, he recorded truth he wanted future generations to know and remember. More than anything, he wanted people to realize and believe who Jesus was.

He didn't start with the stable story. Instead, he painted the picture of Christ's sovereignty and deity with broad strokes reaching before time ever began. Jesus, John explains, had always been. With the Father in heaven, He and the Spirit worked as the One God who spoke creation into being. Then, at the right time, Jesus entered into His own handiwork as a baby born to grow, live perfectly, die righteously and rise again eternally to redeem lost sinners and reconcile them to God forever.

Unlike the other gospels, John doesn't bother with listing events in chronological order. Instead, John's narrative concentrates on overarching themes to help others see the big picture behind all the miraculous details that unfolded through Christ's ministry. Using contrasts to illustrate spiritual differences, John spoke in terms of light and darkness, truth and error, love and hate, and belief and unbelief. Taking a deeper look into Jesus' relationships with people and prayers to His Father, John takes us further into the Father's heart as we see it beat so strongly in Christ's personal connections with others.

As he explained Christ's claims backed by His supernatural power and divine compassion, readers are compelled to choose. To know about Jesus is not enough. *Who do we really believe that He is?* More than that, *will we back our belief with obedient submission?* By drawing such sharp contrasts, John showed that true faith never settles on middle ground. Christ's divine call demands whole-hearted devotion, the kind John, himself, displayed throughout his life.

Lesson One

Weekly Reading: John 1 - John 2:12

Why did John write this Gospel? What was his purpose? Read John 20:30-31.

Who is John speaking to? Who is his audience?

Who is the Word and why do you think John refers to the Word?

What are some key words used in Chapter 1. Read Psalm 36:9.

Who are the children of God? Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

Why do you think the priests and the Levites asked John the Baptist if he was Elijah? The Prophet? Read 2 Kings 2:11, Deuteronomy 18:15, 18.

Who does John the Baptist say he is? Read Isaiah 40:3. What does a witness do?

Why does John the Baptist refer Jesus as the Lamb of God twice – vs 29, 36. What is he declaring in both verses?

Twice John the Baptist states he baptizes in water. What is the significance of his statement?

What is the first question Jesus ask his disciples? As you think about His question – what do you seek in your life?

List the names of the disciples that are listed in verses 35-51. How did they come to know Jesus? How did you come to know Jesus?

Chapter Two

John 2:1-12

Note time, location and event. Who was at the wedding?

Why was the mother of Jesus concerned about the wine running out?

What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "My hour has not come yet?"

Read John 5:30, John 5:19.

Why do you think Jesus instructed His disciples to fill the stone waterpots and not Himself?

What are your thoughts on the first miracle of Jesus?