

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Sep 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #1: God is Here

If you were trapped alone in a cave with no light, just waiting for your rescuers, what difference would it make if you saw a glimpse of light? How would you react to a voice? Jn 12:46; 1:3

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: Although the other Gospels have different viewpoints, their common content makes them often referred to as the Synoptic Gospels.” John is called “the Supplemental Gospel” because of its style, structure, personal interviews and lack of parables. While Luke presents Jesus as the “Son of Man,” John presents Jesus in His deity as the “Son of God.” In these first eighteen verses, commonly called “the Prologue,” John presents all the essential ideas of his Gospel.

Read John 1:1-5, 10-14

1. Why might John begin his Gospel with “In the beginning” rather than with Jesus’ birth? 2 Pet 3:5
2. What do we learn about “the Word” in these verses? Heb 1:3; Rev 22:13
3. We see various responses to the Word here – what are they? What are the results?

Note: Jehovah’s Witnesses dispute the deity of Jesus Christ from this verse as the Greek word order is reversed. However, the Greek grammatical construction is correctly translated ‘The Word is God’ and, furthermore, it is abundantly clear in Greek that ‘God’ is stressed. So, quite to the contrary, Jesus’ deity is being stressed.¹

4. How would you put those two key verses, 12-13, in your own words?
5. What does the phrase “full of grace and truth” communicate to you?

Read John 1:6-9, 15-18

6. What was John the Baptizer’s role? How did his role compare to ours today?
7. What is emphasized when the phrase “grace and truth” is repeated (v. 17)? Why?
8. How does this Prologue compare to John’s stated purpose for writing? Jn 20:30-31

APPLICATION

- Pray for friends and family members who have not yet believed in/received Christ.

The Fourth Gospel is the most familiar and the best-loved book in the Bible. It is probably the most important document in all the literature of the world. It has induced more people to follow Christ, it has inspired more believers to loyal service, it has presented to scholars more difficult problems, than any other book that could be named.

The purpose of the author is indicated in the opening eighteen verses, commonly called the Prologue, and is definitely stated in the closing sentences of the twentieth chapter: “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” – Charles R. Erdman, *The Gospel of John*, pp. 9-10.

If you do not see a gift held out to you, or if you see it but do not accept it as real, you won’t stretch out your hand to take it. Believing in Jesus involves seeing Him presented as God’s Son, accepting that description as real, and simply stretching out your hand to accept God’s gift of eternal life. You then become what you were not: a child of God. - Richards, L. O. (1991). *The Bible reader’s companion* (electronic ed., p. 678). Wheaton: Victor Books.

¹ Mills, M. S. (1999). *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record* (Jn 1:1–5). Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries.