

STUDY

Gospel of John Bible Study Questions and Answers (Free PDF)

A 10-session walk through the Gospel of John, from the eternal Word to the empty tomb, with open questions for your own answers. Free to print, no sign-up.

A 10-session study of the Gospel of John for groups or solo reading.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

The study guide

SESSION 1 · JOHN 1:1-51

The Word Made Flesh

John opens before creation, with the eternal Word who was with God and was God, then watches that Word become flesh and walk among us as John the Baptist points and the first disciples follow.

1. What does John 1 say about who the Word is and what the Word does, from before creation to the moment the Word becomes flesh?

2. Why might John begin his Gospel here, in eternity, rather than with Jesus' birth the way Matthew and Luke do?

3. Where do you most need to believe that the God who made all things has come close enough to dwell among us?

SESSION 2 · JOHN 2:1-3:36

The First Signs

Jesus turns water into wine at Cana, clears the temple in Jerusalem, and meets Nicodemus in the dark to speak of being born again and of a love that gave the only Son.

1. What happens at the wedding in Cana, and how does John describe the effect of this first sign on the disciples?

2. How does Jesus answer Nicodemus when he comes by night, and what does being born again mean in that conversation?

3. Nicodemus came with his questions in the dark. Where are you still bringing yours, and what would it look like to bring them to Jesus honestly?

SESSION 3 · JOHN 4:1-54

Living Water

Jesus crosses every social line to meet a Samaritan woman at a well, offers her living water, and is received in a town that should have rejected him, then heals an official's son from a distance.

1. What does Jesus offer the woman at the well, and how does she respond once he names what she has been hiding?

2. Why does it matter that Jesus speaks so openly with a Samaritan woman, someone his own culture would have him avoid?

3. Where in your life do you most thirst for something that keeps running dry, and what would it mean to ask Jesus for living water?

SESSION 4 · JOHN 5:1-6:71

The Bread of Life

Jesus heals a man who has waited thirty-eight years, claims a oneness with the Father that scandalizes the leaders, feeds five thousand, and calls himself the bread of life as the crowds begin to fall away.

1. What does Jesus claim about his relationship to the Father in John 5, and why does it provoke such opposition?

2. When Jesus calls himself the bread of life, what is he offering the crowd that bread alone could never give?

3. Many followed Jesus for the loaves and left when the teaching got hard. What keeps you following him when he is not meeting the need you came with?

SESSION 5 · JOHN 7:1-8:59

Light at the Festival

At the Feast of Tabernacles the crowds argue over who Jesus is, the leaders try to seize him, and Jesus declares himself the light of the world and claims the divine name, before Abraham was born, I am.

1. What are the different things people say about Jesus during the festival, and how do they fail to agree on who he is?

2. What does Jesus mean when he says before Abraham was born, I am, and why do his hearers pick up stones?

3. Where do you find yourself uncertain about who Jesus really is, and what would help you sit honestly with that question rather than settle it too quickly?

SESSION 6 · JOHN 9:1-41

The Man Born Blind

Jesus heals a man born blind, and the long aftermath traces how the man comes to see Jesus clearly while the religious experts, who can see, grow blinder to the truth in front of them.

1. How does the healed man's understanding of Jesus grow over the course of the chapter, from a man called Jesus to Lord?

2. Why does John set the man's new sight against the leaders' growing blindness, and what is he showing about belief?

3. Where might you be sure you see clearly while actually missing what God is doing, and what would honest blindness look like instead?

SESSION 7 · JOHN 10:1-42**The Good Shepherd**

Jesus calls himself the gate for the sheep and the good shepherd who lays down his life for them, knowing his own by name, and claims again a unity with the Father that divides his hearers.

1. What does Jesus say the good shepherd does for the sheep, and how is that different from the hired hand?

2. Why does it matter that the shepherd knows his sheep by name and lays down his life willingly, not by force?

3. Where do you need to hear that the shepherd knows your name and will not abandon you when trouble comes?

SESSION 8 · JOHN 11:1-12:50**The Raising of Lazarus**

Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb after four days, declaring himself the resurrection and the life, and the sign that gives the most life also sets in motion the plot that will cost him his own.

1. What does Jesus say to Martha before he raises Lazarus, and how does she respond to the claim that he is the resurrection and the life?

2. Why do you think John places Jesus weeping at the tomb right alongside his power to raise the dead?

3. Where in your life feels four days dead, past hope, and what would it mean to believe Jesus can speak even there?

SESSION 9 · JOHN 13:1-17:26**The Upper Room and the Farewell**

On the last night Jesus washes his disciples' feet, gives a new command to love, promises the Spirit, calls himself the way and the true vine, and prays his long prayer for those he is about to leave.

1. What does Jesus do and say in the upper room to prepare his disciples for his leaving, from the foot washing to the promise of the Spirit?

2. When Jesus says he is the way and the truth and the life, what is he asking his troubled disciples to trust?

3. Jesus tells his friends to love one another as he has loved them. Who is the hardest person for you to love that way right now?

SESSION 10 · JOHN 18:1-21:25**The Cross and the Empty Tomb**

Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified, declaring it is finished, and then rises, meeting Mary in the garden, Thomas with his doubts, and Peter on the shore with the question, do you love me.

1. How does John tell the story of the trial and crucifixion, and what does Jesus mean when he says it is finished?

2. Why does John end with Jesus restoring Peter by a charcoal fire, asking three times, do you love me, after Peter's three denials?

3. Thomas needed to see the scars, and Jesus met him there. Where do you need Jesus to meet your doubt rather than scold it?
