

John 1:1-13 – In the Beginning

John's stated purpose for writing the Gospel of John is "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God". But the Gospel of John has much to offer those who have already believed in Christ. John was in the group of three who were closest to Jesus during his ministry. When I read the Gospel of John, John invites me to have a front row seat to see and listen to Jesus. Note that when I say "John", it is short for "John moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit". On multiple occasions John pointed out that he and the other disciples did not understand what they witnessed until after Christ was resurrected and they were filled with the Spirit of God.



Read Genesis 1:1-5. Read John 1:1-5. What are the first 5 words of the Bible? What are the first 6 words of the Gospel of John? What similarities do you see between the two passages?

What do we learn about God from Genesis 1:1? What has God done that makes him distinct? What do we learn about the Word from John 1:1-3? What has the Word done that makes him distinct? Who is the Word?

What key words are found in John 1:1-5 that are also found in Genesis 1:1-5, 2:7? *The significance of these words will be explained later in the book as well as illustrated by miracles that Jesus performed. The fact that Jesus was the light of the world is proclaimed in John 8:12 and demonstrated in chapter 9 when Jesus gave sight to the man born blind. The fact that Jesus is the resurrection and the life is proclaimed in John 11:25 and demonstrated later in the chapter when he raised Lazarus from the dead.*

Read John 1:6-8. John takes us from before creation to John the Baptist in just 6 verses. What was the purpose of John the Baptist? What is "the Light" which is referred to in verses 7 and 8? Is this the light of Isaiah 9:1-2, the light / lamp of 1 Kings 11:36 or some other light?

Read John 1:9-13. Jesus came to the world he created and that same world did not recognize or receive him. What are some other passages in the Bible that talk about the creation not recognizing the Creator? How does someone become a child of God?

In Depth – The Word was God

Have you ever run across a Jehovah Witness who said that John 1:1c should be translated “the Word was a god” because there is no definite article in the original Greek? You may have heard the saying “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts”. Well, beware of strangers quoting Greek! Often they are just parroting something that they heard someone else say. You may be surprised to know that the definite article does NOT appear in John 1:1c before “God”. Is it time to panic? Should the translation really be “the Word was a god”? The simple answer is, NO WAY!!! If context was removed, “a god” or “God” would both be proper translations of the Greek. So ultimately the proper translation comes down to context. “God” often appears in the Greek New Testament without the article. It is often treated as a proper name. In Greek, proper names sometimes have the article and sometimes they don’t. The New World Translation (the one used by Jehovah Witnesses) translates “god” without the definite article as “God” in many places. Two close examples are their translation of John 1:6 (man sent from God) and 1:13 (born of God). In both cases the definite article is missing before “God” but they translate it as “God” and not “a god”. Given that the Word existed before creation and that the Word was in fact the creator of all things, the context demands the translation “God”.

For Further Thought

A Pew Research Center survey in 2009 found that only 33% of scientists believe in God¹. I feel safe in assuming that they also do not believe that God created the world. There are constitutional battles about teaching creation in science classes of public educational institutions². I recently watched a documentary, “Jesus Camp”³, where the people producing the documentary were horrified that parents were able to home school their children and teach them creation while refuting evolution. Why is the truth about creation so important? What would be the implications for Christians if God was not the creator?

Genesis 1:1 teaches us that God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. John 1:1 teaches us that Jesus is God. This is another foundational truth that has been attacked from the time of Christ. Why is it important that Jesus is God and not “a god” or just a good person?

John 1:13 says that a child of God is not a child by physical birth nor are they a child by a decision made by a man or a woman. A child of God is “birthed” by God. The birth is a work of God and not man. It is a spiritual birth. It is a birth from above. This is a truth that is difficult for many Christians to believe. Why do you think this truth is unpopular with many Christians?

1 <https://www.pewforum.org/2009/11/05/scientists-and-belief/>

2 <https://ncse.ngo/why-its-wrong-teach-creationism-public-schools> The NCSE was involved in the Kitzmiller v. Dover (PA) court case. As the article says, they don't believe that creation has any place in science classes of public schools.

3 I don't recommend watching this but it was interesting to see how the world views people who believe God's Word.

John 1:14-28 – The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-5 introduced us to the Word who was with God in the beginning and who was God. The doctrine of the Trinity states that God is One and yet three distinct persons. God the Father is God. God the Son is God. God the Holy Spirit is God. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In John 1:3 we learn that all things came into being through the Word, God the Son. This shows the unity of the Father and the Son. In John 1:14 we see the importance of the distinction between the persons of the trinity. The Word, God the Son, became flesh. God the Father did not become flesh. God the Holy Spirit did not become flesh. Now we are confronted with the question, “How is the Word, Jesus, both God and man? It takes the whole of scripture to answer that question but John gives us some key pieces to the puzzle.



Read John 1:14-18.

In verse 14, what does it mean by “the Word became flesh”?

In verse 14, some translations have “tabernacled among us” for “dwelt among us”. The corresponding noun to this verb sometimes has the meaning “tent” or “booth”. In John 2 Jesus spoke of his body as a temple. How is Jesus’ body like the tabernacle which God had Moses build?

The words “grace and truth” occur in verse 14 and again in verse 17. How was Jesus full of grace and truth? What is the significance of the contrast between the law given through Moses and the grace and truth which came through Jesus.

In case we didn’t know who John was talking about, we see in verse 17 that he is talking about Jesus Christ. Note that this is the first mention of the name “Jesus” in the book. He does not hesitate to include Jesus’ title, “Christ”. Christ means that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah.

What did John the Baptist testify about Jesus in verse 15? What else do we learn about Jesus in verses 14-18?

Read John 1:19-28.

Remember that John the Baptist's father was a priest and his mother was from the daughters of Aaron. Who was sent to question John? What group was behind the inquiries?

What did the priests and Levites want to know about John the Baptist?

In verses 20 and 21 John definitively said that he was not any of the people they thought he might be (or at least might claim to be). Who were these three people?

In verse 23, what did John say about himself?

In verse 27 what did John say about Jesus?

I'm not sure why the questioners of John thought that the Christ would baptize with water. John declared that he did baptize with water and then he directed their attention to Jesus. Later John proclaimed that he baptized with water but that Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit.

What can we learn from John the Baptist about being witnesses of Jesus?

John 1:29-51 – The First Disciples

John 1:1 states that Jesus Christ, the Word, is God. John 1:14 states that Jesus Christ, the Word, became flesh and tabernacled among us. In John 1:29, John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. These three foundational statements about Jesus will be detailed in the rest of the Gospel of John.

Read John 1:29-34.

From 1:29, what does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?

According to 1:31, why was John baptizing?

How did God make Jesus know to John the Baptist? (1:32-33)

In 1:34, what was John the Baptist’s witness and testimony about Jesus? What did John mean by this?

Read John 1:35-42.

In this passage we learn that Andrew was a disciple of John before he became a disciple of Jesus. Given Andrew’s relationships with Peter, James and John, it is possible that Andrew was not the only one of the 12 who had previously been a disciple of John the Baptist.

When John the Baptist again pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God, what did two of his disciples do?

What happened when Jesus saw the two disciples following him?

After Andrew met with Jesus, what did he say about Jesus? What is the first thing that Andrew did? What can we learn from Andrew's testimony and actions?

Read John 1:43-51.

In the Gospel of John, who is the first disciple recruited by Jesus? (1:43)

What did Philip do in response to Jesus' call? (1:45-46)

What was Nathaniel's attitude toward Jesus before he met Jesus? What was Nathaniel's attitude and testimony after he met Jesus? (1:46, 49) What does this remind us of concerning our "private thoughts and attitudes"?

According to Jesus, what greater things would Nathaniel see? What did Jesus mean by this? (1:51)

John 2:1-25 – The First and Last Signs

In John chapter 2, the first sign of Jesus is documented. In the second half of the chapter, Jesus predicted the last sign of his earthly ministry. John liked the number seven. There are seven signs in the Gospel of John. There are seven “I am” statements. There are seven witnesses to Jesus. Jesus performed many miracles on earth, but John selected seven signs to teach us about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. The signs were recorded that “you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you might have life in His name.”

Read John 2:1-12.

Who was invited to the wedding at Cana of Galilee? (2:1-2, 12)

If my father said, “the grass looks long”, I knew what that meant. I better go out and mow the grass. What was the implied request of Mary to Jesus? (2:3)

How did Jesus respond to Mary? What is the meaning of Jesus’ response? (2:4)

R.C. Sproul said something to the effect that you couldn’t give a much better sermon than Mary’s instructions to the servants. “Do whatever He tells you.” What was Mary’s understanding of Jesus’ words to her? (2:5)

What were Jesus’ instructions to the servants? (2:6-8)

Why do you think Jesus used the stone water jars instead of something else? (2:6)

Wine symbolized more than one thing in the Bible. Sometimes it symbolized God’s judgment. See Jeremiah 13:12-14. Wine also symbolized blessing, joy and gladness. See Jeremiah 31:12, 48:33, Psalm 104:15. What is the significance of Jesus turning water to wine? (2:6-11)

Who witnessed Jesus' sign? What was the result of Jesus' sign? (2:9-11)

Read John 2:13-25.

Why did Jesus go up to Jerusalem? (2:13)

When Jesus came to the temple, he cleaned house. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple? (2:14-17)

Is John's account of Jesus cleansing the temple the same as the account of the other Gospels? Did Jesus cleanse the temple only once or did he cleanse it twice?

This event reminded the disciples of a scripture passage. Which one was it? (2:17)

The Jews wanted Jesus to show them a sign. What was Jesus' response to this demand? (2:19)

How did the Jews misinterpret Jesus' response? When did the disciples finally understand what Jesus had said? (2:20-22)

Knowing that it took three years for the disciples to understand Jesus' prediction of his resurrection, how can this help us when we encounter passages in scripture which we find difficult to understand?

What was Jesus' response to those who believed in his name when they saw the signs he did? (2:23-25)

John 3:1-15 – Born of the Spirit

The beginning of the third chapter of John is a continuation of the end of chapter 2. There were a number of times when people “believed”, followed or praised Jesus but who quickly began to argue with Jesus and challenge whatever Jesus said to them. Jesus knew what was in man (2:25). Chapter three is a well known chapter. The phrase “born again” comes from this chapter. What was the meaning of Jesus’ statements to Nicodemus (and to us all)? The challenge is to look at the chapter with fresh eyes and a heart and mind seeking God’s truth.

Read John 3:1-15.

What do we know about Nicodemus? (3:1-2)

What is the significance of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night? (3:2) See John 19:39 where John again mentioned the fact that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night.

Note Nicodemus’ use of the word “we”. What did Nicodemus claim to know about Jesus? (3:2)

Do you think Nicodemus saw Jesus as an equal, a superior or someone subject to his authority? (3:1-2)

Jesus quickly dispensed with the niceties. What did Jesus say was needed for someone to see the kingdom of God? (3:3)

Most translations have “born again” or “born anew”. Both contain the meaning that a second birth is necessary. A few translations have “born from above”. These are valid translations for the Greek. A third basic meaning for the Greek word, “from the beginning”, doesn’t seem to fit the context. Which translation best fits the context? (3:3)

Notes: John also used this word in 3:31 – “He who comes **from above**” is parallel with “He who comes from heaven” and is in contrast to “he who is of the earth”. The word is also used in 19:11 – Jesus told Pilate that he had no authority except what was given to him “from above”. The last use of the word in John is found in 19:23. It is used of Jesus’ garment being woven “from top” to bottom. It is also important to note that John recorded people’s reactions to what Jesus said. Sometimes they DID understand Jesus. Mostly they didn’t have a clue. Nicodemus understood Jesus’

statement as “born again”. Just because Nicodemus understood it that way doesn’t mean it was the meaning which Jesus intended.

Nicodemus started out saying that Jesus was a teacher sent from God. After one statement from Jesus he basically called him crazy. He didn’t seek to understand what Jesus was saying. He immediately assumed that Jesus was making an idiotic statement. Why did Nicodemus do this? (3:4) Do we sometimes put words in people’s mouths instead of truly listening? Do we put words in God’s mouth without truly listening?

When you speak the truth, you never need to backtrack. Jesus basically repeated his first statement but with some clarifying variations. What did Jesus say was necessary for someone to enter the kingdom of God? (3:5-7) In verses 5-8, how many times did Jesus mention being born of the Spirit?

In verse 5 Jesus used the words “water and Spirit”. What is the meaning of this phrase? Is this referring to two different births or to one birth? See Ezekiel 36:25-27. It is interesting to note Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16. John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire”. Is this two different baptisms or just two words referring to the same baptism? The parallel passages of Mark and John record John the Baptist saying that Jesus would baptize “with the Holy Spirit”. They did not mention “and with fire”.

How is being born of the Spirit different from physical birth? How is being born of the Spirit like the wind? (3:5-8)

In verse 9, what was Nicodemus’ second reaction to Jesus?

According to Jesus, why should Nicodemus have believed him? (3:10-13)

Jesus talked about his resurrection after he cleansed the temple. In 3:14-15 he talked about his death. What Old Testament passage did Jesus reference? How did that event foreshadow Jesus’ death on the cross?

John 3:16-36 – God Loved so God Gave

This part of the Gospel of John contains one of the most well known verses in the Bible. This section also talks about why God sent Jesus into the world. The primary reason God sent Jesus into the world was not to be a teacher. It was not to model how to be a good person so that we would be better people. It was not to heal the sick. It was not to feed the hungry. Jesus did these things but it wasn't the primary reason why he came into our world.

Read John 3:16-21.

From verse 16, what do we learn about God? What do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn about people?

Why did God send Jesus into the world? What problem existed in the world so that it needed to be saved? What does it mean that Jesus was not sent to condemn [judge] the world? (3:17)

What is true of people who believe in Jesus? What is true of people who do not believe in Jesus? (3:18)

Verse 19 says that there is a judgment. Who hates the light? Why do these people hate the light? (3:19-20)

Who comes to the light? Why do these people come to the light? (3:21)

Read John 3:22-30

From verse 22, where did Jesus and his disciples go? What did they do there?

Who was also near where Jesus was? What was he doing there? (3:23-24)

When a discussion [debate] occurred between John the Baptist's disciples and a Jew [some Jews] about purification, what did John's disciples ask him? What was really on their minds? (3:25-26)

Summarize John's response to his disciples in verses 27-30.

What can we learn from John the Baptist about looking at another ministry which has more people than we do? Is big always better?

What did John the Baptist know about the purpose of his own ministry? (3:28) What did John the Baptist know about Jesus? (3:28-30)

Read John 3:31-36

What is true of the one who comes from heaven? (3:31-32, 34-35) What is true of the person who is of the earth? (3:31)

It should be obvious that it is better to listen to the one who came from heaven instead of someone who is earthly. In general, did people receive the one from heaven? (3:32)

What was true of those who receive the testimony of Jesus and who believe in him? (3:33, 36)

What is true of those who do not obey [believe] the Son of God? (3:36)

John 4:1-30 – Living Water and True Worship

Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well is a treasure. The conversation is a great illustration of John 1:14. Jesus was full of grace and truth. He asked for a drink of ordinary water. He offered living water. The offer was not made to one of the wealthy Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. He made the offer to a Samaritan woman of questionable character. At the same time, when the woman brought up Jewish worship versus Samaritan worship, Jesus spoke the truth. He didn't say that both ways of worship were fine. He said that the Samaritans worshiped what they did not know. In the terms of Jeremiah 7:9, Jesus was calling the Samaritans idolaters.

Read John 4:1-30.

Where was Jesus' next planned destination? Why did he want to leave where he was? Why did Jesus need to go through Samaria? (4: 1, 3-4)

Why do you think John made a special point of saying that Jesus did not personally baptize anyone? (4:2)

Where did Jesus stop for a rest? What was the historic significance of the place? (4:5-6)

While Jesus was resting at the well and his disciples were going to buy food, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water at noon. Jesus' request seemed reasonable. Since the Samaritan woman had something to draw water from the well, he asked her for a drink. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' request? Why did she respond this way? (4:7-9)

Jesus told the woman that he could offer her living water. What did Jesus mean by "living water"? What conditions needed to be met before he would give the living water? (4:10)

The Samaritan woman's response might remind us of Nicodemus' response to Jesus. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' gracious offer? What was the source of the woman's pride? (4:11-12)

How was Jesus superior to Jacob and Jacob's well? (4:13-14)

When Jesus told the woman more about the water he could give, how did the woman respond? Like Nicodemus, the woman didn't understand what Jesus was saying. How did the woman reveal that she did not understand Jesus' offer of water? (4:15)

Why did Jesus ask the woman to bring her husband and return to the well? (4:16-19)

Based on verses 16-19, what is revealed about the woman at the well? What is revealed about Jesus? Does Jesus condemn the woman? What does the woman think about Jesus?

The woman reminds me of some people who are uncomfortable talking about spiritual things. The woman may not have been well versed in the scriptures but she had a religious question to ask Jesus. The dilemma someone might present today is "Why are there so many church denominations? Which one is right?" What did Jesus teach about worship? What did Jesus teach about God? What did Jesus say about Samaritan worship versus Jewish worship? (4:19-24)

I think that the woman knew that she could not keep up a spiritual discussion with Jesus. She didn't agree with Jesus and she didn't disagree with Jesus. I think she tried to get out of the discussion by saying that when the Messiah came, he would explain everything. The implication was that people have different opinions but the Messiah would set everyone straight. She didn't know who she was talking to. What did Jesus reveal to her about himself? (4:25-26)

What happened in verses 27-30? Did the woman think that Jesus was the Christ? Compare and contrast the Samaritan woman and Nicodemus. Think about their backgrounds, when they met Jesus, how they met and how they reacted.

What can we learn from Jesus about talking to non-believers about the Gospel?

John 4:31-54 – Jesus’ Food and His 2nd Sign

Jesus was at Jacob’s well which was near Shechem. Shechem was between Mt Gerizim and Mt Ebal. There is a lot of history to Shechem. Jacob bought a field there and Joseph’s bones were brought back from Egypt and buried there. When Joshua lead Israel into the promised land, blessing were pronounced at Mt Gerizim and curses were pronounced at Mt Ebal. Another historic event occurred there. It was at Shechem that Israel split as a nation. In 1 Kings 12, the northern tribes said “What portion do we have in David.” Verse 19 says “So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.” (ESV) Jesus came to this same historic area and revealed to the Samaritan woman that he was the Messiah. He was the Christ who was the offspring of David whose kingdom would not end. Would the Samaritan’s end their rebellion against the house of David? Would they accept Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One?

Read John 4:31-42.

The disciples just got back from buying food in the Samaritan town. They wanted Jesus to eat. What was Jesus’ food? (4:31-34; Deuteronomy 8:3)

Jesus then talked about harvests, sowing and reaping. He didn’t want the disciples to harvest barley or wheat. What did Jesus say about harvest, sowers and reapers? What did Jesus mean? How did this apply to the disciples? (4:35-38)

If we peek ahead to verse 45, many people of Galilee had seen Jesus perform signs at the Passover in Jerusalem. Since the Samaritans did not worship in Jerusalem, the Samaritans did not see Jesus perform any signs. How did the Samaritans respond to Jesus before they met him? Why did they respond this way? (4:39)

When the Samaritans met Jesus, what did they want Jesus to do? (4:40)

How did the Samaritans respond to Jesus while he stayed with them? (4:41-42)

Why did many Samaritans believe? What did they believe and know about Jesus? (4:42)

Read John 4:43-54.

Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus? How were the Galileans different from the Samaritans in their reception of Jesus? (4:43-45)

Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee where he turned the water to wine. An official came to Jesus. He may have been a royal official under Herod. We don't know how long his son had been ill or what help he previously had tried to get. He went out of his way to seek help from Jesus. What did the official want Jesus to do? Why did the official ask Jesus for help? (4:46-49)

In verse 48, Jesus said to the official, "Unless you all see signs and wonders, you all will not believe" Jesus was not just referring to the official. He was speaking generally. What is the purpose of signs and wonders?

When the official repeated his urgent request to Jesus, what did Jesus do? Did Jesus do what the official wanted? How can we apply this? Do we ever pray and suggest how God should do something instead of letting God know our need and leaving the means to God? (4:49-50)

How did the official respond to what Jesus said? How was the official's son healed? (4:50-53)

What was the result of the second sign which Jesus did in Cana? (4:25-26)

What does this sign reveal about Jesus?

John 5:1-18 – Looking for Healing in all the Wrong Places

When we study scripture we must always guard against reading our personal opinions and bias into the text. Instead we should let the text speak for itself and pull out of the text what it is saying. The first part of chapter 5 trips up a number of people. Many people assume that because the sick man was healed that he believed in Jesus. There is little to support that understanding from the text. There is much in the text to support the assertion that he did not believe. It may seem like I am being too judgmental regarding the man who was sick. It is only because I was like this man. This man represents a lot of people.

Read John 5:1-18.

Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish feasts. John paints a picture for us of a pool in Jerusalem that has 5 porches or roofed colonnades. They were filled with many people in need of healing. If you have ever been to a nursing home or hospital where there were many sick people and some were crying for help, this pool was probably worse. Jesus easily could have avoided this pool but he chose to go there. Is there any significance to John's details about the pool? Knowing that Jesus did not avoid this pool surrounded by sick people, what do we learn about Jesus? (5:1-3)

Jesus saw a man who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus asked this man a simple question. "Do you want to be healed / whole?" How did the sick man answer Jesus? What does the sick man's response tell us about this man? Have you ever known someone who was content in their discontent or happy in their misery? (5:5-7)

It is striking that the sick man never told Jesus that he wanted to be healed. He told Jesus about his own current plan to be healed. Given that the man had been sick for 38 years, how was this man's plan working out for him? He experienced the problem of a works based solution. Someone is always better or faster and you loose out to someone else. Of course his plan was also based on the assumption that there was healing power in the pool. That was a big assumption.

Jesus did not help the man into the pool. Jesus commanded the man to "rise, take up your pallet and walk." Why do you think Jesus chose to heal him this way? Did the man do what Jesus said because a) he believed Jesus, b) he was just doing what he was told, c) he could feel something different about his legs and so he got up, d) other? (5:8-9)

Do you think the sick man was happy that Jesus had healed him?

Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath Day. In chapter 1, when “the Jews” sent priests and Levites to John the Baptist, we later learned that these Jews were Pharisees. The same may be true here. Why did the man get in trouble? What was the focus of the Jews when they learned that this man had been healed? What did the man do to try to get out of trouble? (5:9-11)

Was this man’s actions a violation of God’s Law or was it a violation of human law?

When the Jews asked the man about who told him to take up his pallet / mat, the man did not know Jesus’ name. What does this say about the man? Compare this to the blind man in chapter 9 who could not see Jesus and was sent away from Jesus to wash in a pool and yet he knew Jesus’ name when he was asked about who healed him. (5:12-13)

Jesus found the man in the temple and warned him not to sin any longer so that nothing worse would happen to him. What would be worse than being sick for 38 years? This warning reminds me of God’s warning to Cain in Genesis 4:5-7. How did Cain respond to God’s warning? How did this man respond to Jesus’ warning? What was the result of the man’s actions? (5:14-16)

What did Jesus say to the Jews in defense of his “breaking the Sabbath”? What did Jesus mean by his response? Why did the Jews go from persecuting Jesus to wanting to kill Jesus? We saw that Jesus revealed himself to the Samaritan woman as the Messiah. Did the Jews correctly understand that Jesus was saying that he was equal with God the Father? In the next verses of chapter 5, we will see that Jesus does not back down from this statement. On the contrary, he gives evidence that he is equal with God the Father. (5:16-18)

Here is what we know from the text about the man who was sick. He didn’t ask Jesus for help. He didn’t thank Jesus for healing him. He didn’t even know Jesus’ name until Jesus sought him out later in the temple. When he got caught “breaking the Sabbath”, he tried to blame Jesus. After being warned by Jesus not to sin any longer, he squealed on Jesus which resulted in the Jews persecuting Jesus and then seeking to kill Jesus. Is this how a man of faith acts? I said that I was like this man for a time. This man was looking for healing in all the wrong places. He thought that he could be healed by going into a pool of water at the right time. He relied on himself for healing and did not realize that healing came from Jesus. I thought I could be spiritually whole by following God’s laws. I didn’t know that I could only be spiritually whole by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

John 5:19-47 – Five Witnesses to God’s Son

The man who was sick for 38 years wasn’t healed due to his own efforts. The man was healed because Jesus, by his grace, restored him to health. The Pharisees were spiritually sick. In fact, they were dead in their sins. They were more concerned with a man-made rule about the Sabbath than they were about giving glory to God for healing a man who was sick for 38 years. Worse than that, they wanted to kill the one who performed such a merciful healing. They could only have eternal life through Jesus. Their obsession with following their own man-made rules would never get them into the Kingdom of God.

Read John 5:19-30.

The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because they understood that Jesus claimed to be equal with God the Father. Instead of backtracking from this statement, which caused the Jews to seek to kill him, Jesus strengthened his claim. How does Jesus describe his relationship with the Father? (5:19-20)

The Pharisees believed in resurrection. Jesus stated that God the Father raises the dead and gives them life. Who can do that besides God the Father? What did Jesus say he could do? Who else can do that? (5:21)

God’s role as the Judge of the earth occurs many times in the Old Testament (Ps 7:11, Ps 9:8, Ps 50:6 to name a few). What is the Son’s role in judging the earth? Why is judgment given to the Son? Who should receive the same honor as God the Father? What is true of someone who does not honor the Son? What should we conclude from this? (5:22-23)

What is true of the person who hears the Son’s words and believes the Father who sent him? (5:24)

What was true of the dead who heard the voice of the Son of God? When did this occur? (5:25)

What unique power and authority does Jesus have? Where does Jesus get this power and authority? (5:26-30)

Read John 5:31-47.

In the last section of chapter five, Jesus presented five witnesses. The law required two or three witnesses for legal verification. Jesus just testified about himself in the previous verses. He needed one or two more witnesses to confirm what he said. His testimony alone did not meet the legal standard for truth. (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Jesus was the first witness. Who was the second witness? What did this witness testify about Jesus? (5:31-35)

What was Jesus' third witness. Jesus said that this witness was greater than the witness of John. What did the third witness testify about Jesus? (5:36)

Who was Jesus' fourth witness? What did this testimony involve and when did it happen? (5:37)

What was the fifth witness? How did this witness testify about Jesus? (5:39)

What did Jesus say about the Jews in verse 38? In verse 40 Jesus said that the Jews did not want to come to him to have life. Does that sound familiar? "Do you want to be healed?" "Do you want to have life?" In verse 42 Jesus said that the Jews did not have the love of God in them. What is the significance of this statement? (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

Have you ever listened to a group of leaders and wondered why they could never seem to do the right thing? They give each other awards and pat each other on the back. They throw parties for themselves. They think they are doing a great job when in fact they are failing miserably. What did Jesus say was the problem with the Jewish leaders? (5:43-44)

The Pharisees boasted that they were disciples of Moses (9:28). Jesus said that they put their hope in Moses (5:45). Jesus said that Moses would be their judge and accuser. Why was this true? How were they not following the writings of Moses? (5:45-47)

John 6:1-24 – The Prophet Like Moses

The Pharisees took pride in being followers of Moses. They put their hope in Moses. They searched the scriptures but they were too busy making up their own rules to actually read and understand what the scriptures said. Moses wrote about the Passover lamb, the tabernacle, the priests and the sacrifices. These were all shadows of the reality which is Jesus Christ. But in Deuteronomy 18, Moses wrote about a prophet whom God would raise up from the people of Israel after Moses. He would be a prophet like Moses and he would speak the words of God. The people were told to listen to this prophet. Jesus was and is this prophet written about by Moses. The Pharisees were commanded by God through Moses to listen to Jesus. Instead of listening to Jesus, they wanted to kill Jesus. John chapter six reveals Jesus as the Prophet like Moses. Jesus is like Moses but chapter six shows that he is far superior to Moses.

Read John 6:1-15.

Where did Jesus go? Notice that there was no mention of the disciples in chapter 5. The disciples are mentioned here. Why did the crowd follow Jesus? (6:1-3)

What time of year did this occur? Is there any significance to this time reference? What did the people celebrate and remember at this time of year? (6:4)

What do we know about Philip from the first chapter of John? What did Jesus do to test Philip? Why do you think he tested Philip? (6:5-7)

What was Andrew's contribution to the discussion? (6:8-9)

How did Jesus feed the crowd of people who were there? (6:10-11)

What did Jesus have the disciple do after everyone had eaten their fill? What was the significance of this? (6:12-13)

How did the people respond to the sign which Jesus did? How did Jesus respond to the people and why? (6:14-15)

Read John 6:16-21.

Describe what happened in these verses.

What is the significance of Jesus walking on water?

Compare and contrast Jesus and Moses.

Read John 6:22-24.

What did the people do on the following day?

Was it admirable that these people were seeking Jesus? Can people seek Jesus for the wrong reasons?

John 6:25-50 – The Bread of Life

Jesus used physical examples to speak about spiritual truths. He told Nicodemus that one must be born from above to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus misunderstood this to mean physical birth. Jesus was talking about being born of God which is a spiritual birth. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Jesus then said that he offered water that would be a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The partaker of this water would never thirst again (4:14). The woman misunderstood Jesus. She thought this was physical water that would allow her to never go to Jacob's well again. In chapter six, Jesus talked about bread. The people were satisfied after they ate their fill of the loaves but now they were hungry again. Jesus told them to labor for the food which endures to eternal life. Jesus spoke of spiritual truths but the people couldn't get their minds off of their growling stomachs.

Read John 6:25-34.

In verse 24 the people left for Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Jesus they asked him when he got there. Jesus didn't answer their surface question. Jesus got to the heart of why they were seeking him. Why were the people seeking Jesus? (6:25-26)

Instead of seeking Jesus for the wrong reasons what did Jesus tell the people they needed to do? The people asked a clarifying question. In the question they mentioned doing works of God. Notice the plural word "works". In Jesus' clarifying statement, what did Jesus tell the people? Notice that Jesus spoke of "the work of God" which is singular. Compare this "work of God" with the many laws given through Moses. (6:27-29)

The people revealed how shallow their belief was that Jesus was "the Prophet who is to come into the world". If they believed he was the Prophet spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:15 then they should have listened to Jesus. Instead of listening to Jesus, what did the people want Jesus to do? The people gave Jesus a suggestion of the kind of sign they wanted to see? What were the people really asking for? Notice that the people even quoted scripture to Jesus! (6:30-31)

Jesus spoke about the bread which comes down from heaven in a way that could be understood in two ways. The people finally told Jesus plainly what they wanted him to do for them. What was it? (6:32-34)

Read John 6:35-50.

Verse 35 contains the first of seven “I am” statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. What was this statement and what did Jesus mean by it? The people went to Capernaum seeking Jesus but did they believe in Jesus? (6:35-36)

What did Jesus say about those who believed in him and those who didn’t? (6:37)

People will often ponder what the will of God is about this or that. What is definitely God’s will? (6:38-40)

These “seekers” had a problem with what Jesus said. What did they grumble about? (6:41-42)

According to verse 44, why weren’t these people receiving Jesus’ words and believing in him?

What is true of those who come to Jesus and believe in him as the Son of God? (6:45-47)

How is the Bread of Life different than the manna that God gave the people of Israel in the desert? (6:48-50)

Like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman and even the disciples, these “seekers” had their minds set on the physical. Jesus was telling them about eternal life. The physical perishes. Jesus offered them something that would endure forever. This eternal life only comes through Jesus.

John 6:51-71 – You Have the Words of Eternal Life

Jesus said that he was the Bread of God who came down from heaven to give life to the world. The people grumbled about these words. Who did he think he was, this person from Nazareth? They wanted daily bread from Jesus just like God gave the people of Israel manna in the wilderness six days a week. The people of Israel ate that bread for 40 years while wandering in the wilderness. They died in the wilderness without entering the Promised Land. Jesus offered them something better. He offered them food and drink which would last forever. They didn't like it when he said that he came down from heaven. How would they react when Jesus offered them his flesh to eat and his blood to drink? How hungry were they?

Read John 6:51-59.

Jesus said that he was the living bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world? What kind of bread did Jesus offer to the people? (6:51)

The people went from grumbling to word fighting. What was the question that they were pondering? Shouldn't their question have been "do we want to eat his flesh?" (6:52)

What does Jesus promise to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood? What is true of those who do not eat his flesh and drink his blood? (6:53-58)

Is the flesh and blood Jesus is speaking about literal flesh and blood or figurative flesh and blood? Is the eating and drinking of Jesus' flesh and blood literal or figurative? (6:53-58)

Read John 6:60-65.

What did many of Jesus' followers say when they heard Jesus talk about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? What did Jesus say about their response? (6:60-62)

What did Jesus mean by "the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and life? (6:63)

Why wasn't Jesus surprised by their negative reaction? What did Jesus know about them that the twelve disciples did not know? Why wasn't Jesus worried about losing many of his followers? (6:64-65)

Read John 6:66-71.

What happened to many of Jesus' followers after Jesus' discussion with them about the Bread of Life which comes down from heaven? (6:66)

Was Jesus concerned about this drop in numbers? Did Jesus try to drive off some of these "free meal" seekers by offering them his flesh and blood to drink? Does this have application to churches who gear their services to be seeker friendly? Are these phrases always true for a church? "Bigger is better". "The more the merrier."

The twelve disciples personally called by Jesus did not leave. Jesus asked them "You don't want to leave, do you?" His question expected a response of "No, we don't want to leave." What was Peter's response? Did Peter understand what Jesus was saying when he talked about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? Do we need to have all the answers as believers? What did Peter believe and know? What did Peter mean by his declaration? (6:67-69)

Peter answered for the twelve. Jesus quickly pointed out that even among the twelve that he personally chose that one of them was a devil. Why did Jesus choose a devil to be one of his chosen disciples? Some may think that Jesus made a mistake by choosing someone to be close to him who would later betray him. John made it clear that it was no mistake. (6:70-71)

John 7:1-31 – Confusion About Jesus

John chapter six occurred in the spring around the time of Passover. John chapter seven occurs in the fall during the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. The first day of the month was the Feast of Trumpets now known as the Jewish New Year. Day seven was the Day of Atonement. Day fifteen began the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) which lasted for a week. Offerings were brought to Jerusalem from the peoples' fall harvest. It was also a time to remember that the people of Israel lived in tents after the exile and before they entered the Promised Land. This special time of year was the context of chapter seven. In this chapter we find many people who were very confused about who Jesus was, where he was going and where the Christ was from.

Read John 7:1-9.

In chapter five, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. The religious leaders condemned Jesus for telling the healed man to carry his mat on the Sabbath. When Jesus interacted with the religious leaders, they wanted to kill him because he made statements which indicated that he was equal with God. After that, Jesus focused on Galilee and stayed away from Judea and those who wanted to kill him. The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) was near. What do you know about this feast? (Lev. 23, Deut. 16:13-17)

In John chapter two, Jesus went from Cana to Capernaum with his mother, his brother and his disciples. What did Jesus' brothers think about him? Did they believe in Jesus? What did his brothers want him to do and why? (7:3-5)

Why did the world accept Jesus' brothers? Why did the world hate Jesus? (7:6-7)

Why didn't Jesus go to the feast with his brothers? (7:8-9) How does John chapter six explain why the brothers of Jesus did not believe in him?

Read John 7:10-25.

Jesus was required by Old Testament law to go to the feast and so he left for the feast after everyone had already gone. The people were looking for Jesus at the feast. What were they saying about him? (7:10-13)

In the middle of the feast, Jesus began to teach in the temple. What was the crowd's reaction to his teaching? How did Jesus explain his impressive Biblical knowledge given that he didn't have "formal" training? How could someone tell if Jesus was speaking the truth? How do we know when someone is not speaking God's truth? (7:11-18)

Jesus no longer kept a low profile. He referenced the fact that the religious leaders wanted to kill him (back in chapter five). How did the people respond to Jesus when he brought this to their attention? (7:19-20)

Jesus compared and contrasted his healing of the sick man on the Sabbath with the religious leaders who circumcised on the Sabbath. What point was Jesus making? (7:21-24)

When Jesus reminded the people about this incident, how did some of the people of Jerusalem respond? (7:25)
Contrast this comment to what the people said when Jesus first reminded them of this event in verses 19-20. What does this teach us about making quick judgments without having all the facts?

Read John 7:26-31.

Talk about fickle! The people started out saying that Jesus had a demon. Now they were wondering if he was the Christ. Why did some people think he might be the Christ? (7:25-26)

How many incorrect statements did the people make in verse 27? Why were they incorrect?

Jesus said that he was sent by one who is true. The people did not know Jesus' Father and where Jesus came from. Why did some people try to seize Jesus? Why did some people think that he was the Christ? (7:30-31)

John 7:32-8:11 – Division Over Jesus

In the first part of chapter seven, the people went from saying that Jesus had a demon to saying that he might be the Messiah (Christ). There was a division among the people about Jesus. Some said he was good, and maybe even the Messiah. Others said he had a demon and he was deceiving the people. Some wanted to arrest him. That brings us to the second part of chapter 7. In chapter five, the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. In chapter seven, at the Feast of Booths, the chief priests and Pharisees tried to arrest Jesus. In the second half of chapter seven, Jesus only speaks in four verses. The rest is about the people's reactions to Jesus.

Read John 7:32-36.

In verse 31 some people were wondering if Jesus was the Messiah (Christ). The Pharisees heard about what the people were saying and they wanted to put a stop to it so the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus. Why did they think Jesus needed to be stopped?

What did Jesus say about himself and those seeking him in verses 33 and 34? What did Jesus mean?

What did the people think that Jesus might mean by his statements? (7:35-36)

Read John 7:37-44.

During the time of Jesus, there was a daily ceremony during the Feast of Booths which involved drawing water from the Pool of Siloam and bringing it to the temple where the water was poured out at the altar. Much singing, dancing and celebrating accompanied the ceremony. What did Jesus proclaim on the last day of the feast? (7:37-38) How is this similar to or different from what he said to the Samaritan woman or what he said in chapter six about drinking his blood? John provided commentary on what Jesus was talking about. What insight does John give us into the statement made by Jesus? (7:39)

How did the people react to Jesus words? Who did they think Jesus was? What did they get right and what did they get wrong? (7:40-44)

Read John 7:45-52.

What excuse did the officers give for not bringing Jesus back to the chief priests and Pharisees? (7:46)

How did the religious leaders react to the officers' response? (7:47-48)

What was the religious leaders attitude toward the people? (7:49) Who was responsible for teaching the law to the people?

Nicodemus tried to push back against the religious leaders' zeal to reject Jesus. What excuse did they give for not believing in Jesus? (7:52)

The Pharisees judged themselves because they didn't know all of the Old Testament even though they thought that they did. The beginning of Isaiah chapter nine is a great passage about the coming Messiah. What does Isaiah 9:1-2 say about Galilee? Note that the area where Jesus spent most of his time was in the land given to the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Read John 7:53-8:11.

What does this passage teach us? How is this passage misused today?

John 8:12-38 – The Light of the World

One of the reasons that a number of people, including the religious leaders, didn't think that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ) was because he was associated with Galilee. The religious leaders claimed that no prophet was supposed to come from Galilee. They were wrong on two accounts. First, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Second, they should have read the book of Isaiah more carefully. Matthew 4:13-16 says that Jesus' ministry in Galilee was a fulfillment of Isaiah 9:1-2. The people of Zebulun and Naphtali (the area where Jesus spend the bulk of his ministry) had walked in darkness but they would see a great light. I believe that Jesus is referring to Isaiah 9:1-2 when he said "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness."

Read John 8:12-20.

John 1:6-7 says that God sent John the Baptist to bear witness to the Light (Jesus). What is the significance of Jesus' claim that he is the light of the world? (8:12)

Verses 13-19 deal with witnesses to Jesus. In chapter five, Jesus said that he had five witnesses. They were Jesus himself, John the Baptist, Jesus' miracles, God the Father, and Scripture. It seems that in chapter five that Jesus anticipated the Pharisees' response to his claims. They needed more than one witness to verify Jesus' claims. Why was Jesus' testimony true even without additional witnesses? (8:13-14)

How did Jesus fulfill the legal requirement to verify his claims? (8:15-18)

In chapter five, the Pharisees understood that Jesus was talking about God the Father when he said "My Father is working still, and I am working." Now they wanted to know where Jesus' father was? Why didn't they understand who Jesus was talking about? Where did this conversation take place? (8:19-20)

Read John 8:21-30.

What did Jesus say would happen to the people after he went away? Verse 8:21 may remind us of what Jesus said in 7:34 but with some variation. In 7:34, Jesus said "where I am you cannot come". In 8:21 Jesus said "where I am **going** you cannot come". Are these statements different or is the meaning the same with slightly different wording? (8:21)

In 7:35 the people wondered if Jesus would go to the Dispersion and teach the Greeks. Now they have a different idea about what Jesus might do. What did they think Jesus might do? (8:22)

Jesus repeated to the people that they would die in their sins, but there was an exception. What was true of those who would not die in their sins? (8:24)

The people wanted to know “Who are you?” What did Jesus say about himself in response to their question? What did he say about the people? (8:25-29)

How did many people respond to Jesus? (8:30)

Read John 8:31-38.

This passage has caused some good people to bend themselves into pretzels (or at least their interpretation of the passage). I think it is helpful to review “people who believed” in the Gospel of John. In chapter two, “many believed in his name” when they saw his signs. This statement was followed by the cautionary remark that Jesus did not entrust himself to them because he knew what people were like. In chapter three, Nicodemus said that “we know you are a teacher come from God” because of the signs which Jesus did. Jesus said that Nicodemus did not understand and that he did not believe. In chapter six, the people saw the sign of the feeding of over five thousand people from five loaves of bread and two fish. They wanted to make him king. When they finally tracked Jesus down and asked him for more free meals, Jesus did not give them what they were looking for. As a result, many people no longer followed him. In verses 8:31-32, what did Jesus say to those who believed in him?

Who are the people who responded to Jesus in verse 33? Were they the people who just believed and whom Jesus just addressed or was it a different group of people? What got their backs up when Jesus said “the truth will make you free”? Were these people ever under servitude? (8:33)

How did Jesus respond to their objection? (8:34-38)

John 8:39-59 – The Devil’s Children

The parable of the sower is found in Luke 8:4-15. Jesus talked about seed sown on rocky soil. Luke 8:13 says that “they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.” This is why, in John 8:31, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “if you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.” While the Gospel of John states that believing in Jesus results in eternal life, we must understand what this “believing” involves. Just believing that Jesus is a good man, a good teacher or a miracle worker falls short. A belief which does not endure also falls short. When John 8:30 says that “many believed in him”, let’s not jump to conclusions. What did they believe about Jesus? Did they continue in their belief? We should follow Jesus’ lead found in John 2:23-25. When many believed in his name when they saw the signs, Jesus did not entrust himself to them because he knew what people were like. Those whom the Father has given to the Son believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and they continue in that belief. Jesus will not loose any of those whom the Father has given to him. (John 6:39)

Another word to consider is “Jews”. Sometimes John used “Jews” in a general way. An example is when Nicodemus was referred to as a “Ruler of the Jews.” At other times, John used “Jews” to refer to the Jewish religious leaders. In 1:19, “the Jews sent priests and Levites.” In 1:24 we learn that the priests and Levites had been sent from the Pharisees. In chapter 5, the religious leaders were the ones who wanted to kill Jesus and not the general Jewish population. It is interesting to note that Jesus was speaking in the temple. Only Jews were allowed in the temple. So, when John says “the Jews who had believed in him” it is possible that Jesus was singling out the Pharisees and other religious leaders. In chapter seven, the general public’s reaction to Jesus was all over the place and they had a lot of questions. In 8:31-59, Jesus’ discussion with the Jews who believed in him was different. These people were very sure of themselves and easily offended when Jesus implied that they were deficient. When Jesus said something difficult to the general public, they got confused and left. When Jesus said something difficult to the Pharisees, they got angry and wanted to kill him.

Read John 8:39-47.

In 8:31-38, the people speaking with Jesus were offended when Jesus said that they would be free. They proudly proclaimed that they were descendants of Abraham and were never enslaved. Jesus said that they were slaves to sin and that they did what their father told them. They were again offended and stated that Abraham was their father. What evidence did Jesus give that Abraham was not their father? (8:39-41)

When Jesus questioned whether they were really children of Abraham, how did they respond? Who did they now say was their father? (8:41)

What evidence did Jesus give that God was not their father? (8:42-43)

Who did Jesus say was their father? What were the characteristics of their father? How were they like him? (8:44)

Why were they not able to believe? (8:45-47)

Read John 8:48-59.

After Jesus accused them of being the devil's children, what accusation did they make about Jesus? How did Jesus respond to their accusation? (8:48-50)

How did they respond when Jesus said that if anyone kept his word they would never see death? (8:51-53)

What did Jesus reveal about himself and his relationship with God the Father? What did Jesus say about "the Jews" and their relationship to God? (8:54-55)

What did Jesus say about himself and his relationship with Abraham that made the Jews want to stone him on the spot? What is the significance of Jesus saying "I am"? (8:56-59)

Note that the Jews wanted to kill the Son of God in the place where God chose his name to dwell on earth. (8:59)

Notice the contrast between how Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman and how he talked to the Jewish religious leaders. His words to the Samaritan woman were gracious but also contained words of correction when needed. How would you describe Jesus' discussion with the Jewish leaders in this passage? How do you account for the difference in how Jesus talked to people? What application does this have for us when we talk to different people about Jesus?

John 9:1-41 – He Once was Blind but then He Saw

Chapter 9 is a contrast to the healing in chapter five. One of the few things these two healings had in common was that they both occurred on the Sabbath. The Pharisees and other Jewish religious leaders had just picked up stones to stone Jesus. Jesus left the temple and came across a man born blind. This man born blind was part of one of the Father's works which he had given Jesus to accomplish. Jesus gave sight to the man born blind. Now the Pharisees had a big problem. This would make Jesus more popular than ever with the people while they were seeking to kill him. They tried to spin the miracle in their favor but it didn't work out for them.

Read John 9:1-12.

What did the disciples believe about why people were blind? What reason did Jesus give for why the man was born blind? (9:1-5)

Sickness came into the world when Adam sinned. In that respect, sickness is a result of sin. Sometimes God dealt with someone's sin through illness. David and Bathsheba's first son died. 2 Samuel 12:15-18 says that God afflicted the child, the child became ill and died after seven days. The book of Job teaches us that Job's illness and troubles were not because of anything he did against God. Some people believe it is all one way or all the other. That is not what scripture teaches and it was not what Jesus taught. Jesus, full of grace and truth, spoke these words of grace in the hearing of the blind man, "It was not that this man sinned or his parents." I doubt he had ever heard anyone say that to him, apart from possibly his parents. Did Jesus' death on the cross nullify the statement that he made to the man born blind?

What did Jesus mean when he said "we must work the works of him who sent me while it is day"? (9:4-5)

What did Jesus do to the blind man? What did Jesus say to the blind man? Why do you think Jesus chose to heal him in this way? How did the blind man respond to Jesus' directions? Why do you think he responded this way? (9:6-7)

When the people who knew him from before asked him how he could now see, notice that the former blind man first answered the question, "who healed you?" How did this former blind man know that Jesus is the one who gave him his sight? Why didn't the man know where Jesus was? (9:8-12)

Read John 9:13-34.

When the former blind man was brought to the Pharisees, the Pharisees didn't want Jesus to get recognition for this miracle. They had just tried to kill Jesus. What was their first attempt to nullify the miracle? When the attempt created a division among them, they hoped that maybe the former blind man would give them an out. What did the former blind man say about Jesus? (9:13-17)

What was the Pharisees' second attempt to nullify Jesus' miracle of giving sight to a man born blind? How did it work out for the Pharisees? What was the consequence for someone who said that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ)? (9:18-23)

What was the Pharisees' third attempt to nullify Jesus' miracle? What did they want the former blind man to say about how he received his sight? What did the former blind man know? What did he not know? What did the Pharisees claim to know? What did they not know? The Pharisees were proud that they were disciples of Moses. Did God want them to be disciples of Moses? They didn't realize what they were saying. If they had literally followed Moses, they would have died in the wilderness without entering the Promised Land. If they had literally followed Joshua (Jesus), they would have entered into the Promised Land? (9:24-33)

What did the Pharisees reveal about why they thought the man had been born blind? What did they do to this man? (9:34) What was the significance of this miraculous sign? (8:12)

Read John 9:35-41.

After the former blind man's grilling by the Pharisees, Jesus found him? What did Jesus say to the man who received his sight? How did the former blind man respond to Jesus? (9:35-38)

Jesus came to save the world but his being in the world also brought judgment. In verse 39, what does this mean, "that those who do not see may see and that those who see may become blind"? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' statement? How did Jesus respond to the Pharisee's implication that they were fine as they were? (9:39-41)

Compare and contrast John chapter nine with the healing in John chapter five.

John 10:1-21 – The Good Shepherd

The beginning of chapter 10 is a continuation of chapter 9. The Pharisees thought that they were fine the way they were. They thought that they were seeing and not blind. Jesus said that because they thought that they were fine (not blind) that their sin remained. There were three groups of people in the Old Testament who were set apart by God. The priests and Levites were set apart to serve God and attend to the temple and the sacrifices. After God rejected Saul as king, God promised that David's kingdom would not end (2 Samuel 7:8-17). God set apart descendants of David to be king over Israel. The third group of people were prophets. These people were individually called and set apart to speak God's words. They came from different tribes and backgrounds. Jesus was Prophet, Priest and King. The Pharisees didn't necessarily belong to any of these groups. Who died and made them king? They appointed themselves as religious leaders of the Jews. In chapter 8, Jesus said that their father was the devil and that, like the devil, they were murderers and liars. In chapter 10, Jesus called them out as illegitimate leaders who were stealing, killing and destroying the flock of God.

Read John 10:1-6.

The first thing we need to establish in this passage is whether or not this is a parable or an allegory? A parable or metaphor has one point. An allegory can have multiple points. If this is a parable / metaphor then there is only one question to ask. What is the one point of this passage? The word that John used was not the word "parable" that is used by the other three gospels. I take this passage as an allegory like "Pilgrim's Progress". (10:6)

The second question we should ask is why is Jesus talking about a shepherd and sheep? Before Jesus came, who was the most famous shepherd in all of Israel's history? What promise did God make to that shepherd?

This passage mentions a shepherd, sheep, a sheepfold, a door, a doorkeeper and thieves. What is true of a good shepherd and his relationship to his sheep? What role does the doorkeeper play? Who are the thieves and robbers? What is true of these thieves and robbers? What is the meaning of this allegory?

How did the people react to Jesus' discussion of the shepherd and his sheep? (10:6)

Read John 10:7-21.

What "I am" statement did Jesus make in verses 7 and 9? What is the significance and meaning of this statement? This statement should not be confused with the other "I am" statements that Jesus made in this passage.

What was the second “I am” statement which Jesus made in verses 11 and 14? What is the significance and meaning of this statement?

Jesus mentioned thieves and robbers in verses 8 and 10. Are the thieves and robbers in contrast to Jesus as the door or Jesus as the shepherd? Who are the thieves and robbers who came before Jesus? What three things do the thieves and robbers do?

Why did Jesus come according to verse 10?

In verse 12, the hired hand is introduced into the shepherd and sheep allegory. How is a hired hand different from a shepherd who owns the sheep? Who do the hired hands represent?

What is true of the Good Shepherd? (10:11, 15, 17, 18)

How is Jesus’ relationship with the Father like Jesus’ relationship with his sheep? (10:14-15)

What is the meaning of the “other sheep” which will be united into one flock with one shepherd? (10:16-17)

What is the significance of Jesus saying that no one will take his life from him? What does it mean that Jesus will lay down his life for the sheep and then take his life again? (10:17-18)

How did the people react to Jesus? What impact did the healing of the man born blind have on some of the people? (10:19-21)

John 10:22-42 – Jesus the Messiah

From the beginning of chapter 7 through the first half of chapter 10, Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) in the fall. In the second half of chapter 10, Jesus was in Jerusalem in the winter. It was the Feast of Dedication or what we know as Hanukkah. Jesus continued to talk about his sheep.

Read John 10:22-30.

Why were the Pharisees frustrated? What did they want Jesus to do? Maybe the Pharisees began to understand what Jesus meant when he talked about being the Good Shepherd. (10:24)

Jesus told someone plainly that he was the Messiah. Who was that person? (4:25-26) Why didn't Jesus plainly tell the Pharisees that he was the Messiah? How did Jesus respond to their request? What do you think would have happened if Jesus had plainly told the Pharisees that he was the Messiah? (10:25-26)

In chapter 8, Jesus talked about how he was a witness and that God the Father was also a witness. In verse 25, Jesus mentioned another one of his witnesses. Jesus did many works, signs and miracles. The Pharisee CSI team had investigated the man born blind and could not legitimately refute that Jesus had given sight to the man born blind. They still refused to believe Jesus. Why didn't the Pharisees believe Jesus? (10:26)

What is true of Jesus' sheep? What does Jesus give to his sheep? (10:27-28)

Remember that under the hired hand's watch, the wolf came and snatched some of the sheep. What does it mean that no one will snatch Jesus' sheep from his hand and that no one will snatch the sheep from the Father's hand? Who gave the sheep to Jesus? How do you reconcile "My Father is greater than all" with "I and the Father are one"? (10:29-30)

Read John 10:31-42.

How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' claim that he was one with the Father? (10:31)

Jesus reminded the Pharisees that his many good works bore witness to who he was. Why did the Pharisees want to kill Jesus? (10:33) Remember that in 5:18, the Jews wanted to kill him because he was “making himself equal to God”. If Jesus wasn’t God, wouldn’t he have told them that it was all just a big misunderstanding? Jesus didn’t do that.

Jesus quoted Psalm 82:6. What point did Jesus make from this passage? (10:34-36) Who did Jesus claim to be in verse 36? What is the significance of this title?

If someone came and claimed to be the Messiah but never did any signs or miracles, should they have been believed? (10:37) Jesus said that even if they didn’t believe him that they should believe his works. What did Jesus’ works reveal about Jesus and God the Father? (10:38)

In verse 39, why did the Pharisees try to arrest Jesus? Why was Jesus able to escape arrest?

In verse 40, Jesus finally left Jerusalem. Where did Jesus go?

How did the people there respond to Jesus? Notice that John the Baptist didn’t do any signs. What was the mission of John the Baptist? Did John the Baptist fulfill his mission? (10:41-42)

Compare and contrast these people’s reaction to Jesus with how the Jewish religious leaders responded to Jesus. How do you account for this difference?

I recently talked to someone who claims to be a Christian but who does not believe that Jesus is God. Based on the first 10 chapters of John, what passages teach that Jesus is God, the God the Son?

John 11:1-27 – The Resurrection and the Life

Chapter eleven contains Jesus' last "I am" statement of the Gospel of John before the Last Supper. In chapter six, Jesus fed thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two fish. He then said "I am the Bread of Life". In chapter eight, Jesus said "I am the Light of the World". Then in chapter nine, Jesus gave sight to a man born blind. Chapter ten contained two "I am" statements. "I am the door" and "I am the Good Shepherd". In this chapter, Jesus proclaimed "I am the Resurrection and the Life." To back up that statement, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Read John 11:1-16.

What do we know about Lazarus, Mary and Martha? (11:1-2) How is their relationship with Jesus described? (11:3, 5, 11)

The message from the sisters to Jesus is similar to prayers offered by millions of others, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." Similar to chapter four, this was an urgent plea for help. Lazarus was near death. One would think that this was a no-brainer. Jesus was the greatest healer in all the world and he was their friend. What did Jesus say in response to this message? What did Jesus mean by his response? What did Jesus do in response to the message? (11:3-4, 6)

When I got a call from my sister that our mother might not make it to the end of the day, I was out of the house in a hurry and off to see my mother. Two years later when I got a call from my brother that our father might die within hours, I was out of the house in a hurry and off to see my father. Jesus' act of remaining where he was did not seem to fit the actions of someone who loved Lazarus. Why did Jesus delay? Remember what Jesus said in verse 4. There is a profound lesson here. As Sinclair Ferguson put it, "God is not at our beck and call". God is not our servant. We are supposed to be God's servants. If God did everything we wanted then he wouldn't be God. We would be. It is God's will which must be and will be accomplished. It is great when God's will and our wills are in sync but that is not always the case. The plan here was for the glory of God and for Jesus to be glorified. This plan required Jesus to delay two days. It was not what Mary, Martha and Lazarus wanted but it was what God's plan required. God's primary goal is not our comfort and convenience. Sometimes we suffer so that God may be glorified. Many Christians do not accept this. Examine the passage for yourself. Also think about the man born blind and how his blindness and receiving sight was to manifest the works of God.

What did Jesus say to his disciples after remaining where he was for two days? What did the disciples think of Jesus' plan? How did Jesus respond to the disciples' fear? Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the Pharisees? (11:7-10)

Jesus then told his disciples why they were going to Judea. What did Jesus say he was going to do? (11:11-14)

Why did Jesus say that he was glad that he was not there when Lazarus died? (11:15)

Was Thomas' statement to his fellow disciples brave, misinformed or both? (11:16)

Read John 11:17-27.

Jesus had already told his disciples that Lazarus died. When they arrived near Bethany, what additional information about Lazarus' death was revealed in verse 17.

Bethany was only a couple of miles from Jerusalem so there were a number of people from Jerusalem who came to be with Mary and Martha at their time of loss. Why is this fact important? (11:18-19)

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him. What did Martha say to Jesus? What did Martha mean by "I know that whatever you ask God, God will give to you"? Jesus said that her brother would rise again. Martha had probably heard similar words of comfort from friends and family many, many times in the four days since her brother's death. Jesus wasn't talking about pie in the sky by and by. Jesus was talking about the here and now. What "I am" statement did Jesus make to Martha? What is the significance of this statement? (11:20-26)

Jesus asked Martha if she believed that he was the Resurrection and the Life. How did Martha answer Jesus? Did she really answer his question? (11:26-27)

I have spent a lot of time trying to figure out the exact timing of the events of chapter eleven. I finally came to the conclusion that John did not give us enough information to know the exact timing of events. If it wasn't important for John to tell us, it must not be important to the message of the chapter. One question seems to be on people's mind. Could Jesus have traveled to Bethany in time to heal Lazarus before his death? Jesus said that he was glad that he was not there. Martha and Mary both said "if you had been here". Some people thought that Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying. (11:15, 21, 32, 37)

John 11:28-54 – Jesus Raises Lazarus

Jesus told Martha, “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” He asked Martha if she believed it. She said that she believed he was the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world. She didn’t directly say that she believed that Jesus was the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus had said that the illness of Lazarus was not for death but for the glory of God. When Lazarus died, the sisters must have wondered what Jesus meant by his message. Martha and Mary were confused and hurt. The death of a loved one brings a lot of emotions, frayed nerves, tension, accusations and plenty of “what if” questions. The next part of chapter eleven heightens the emotions and tension.

Read John 11:28-37.

Why did Martha leave Jesus and go get Mary? How did Mary respond to Martha’s message? Where was Jesus when Mary left the house? How did the Jews who were with Mary respond to her departure? (11:28-31)

When Mary met Jesus, what did she do and say? How did Jesus respond to the weeping of Mary and the others? When Jesus asked where Lazarus was, what did they tell him? (11:32-34)

Why did Jesus weep? This is the only place in the New Testament that this Greek word is used. It is related to the noun meaning “tear”. (11:35)

How did the people respond to Jesus’ tears? (11:36-37)

The people’s response illustrates two common responses to a painful event. Some people believe that God is loving but that he is not able to intervene in all of life’s events. Their “god” is caring but is not sovereign, not all powerful and not able to carry out his will. Others believe that God is able to intervene but that he just doesn’t care about us. Their “god” is powerful but unloving and vengeful. People struggle with the idea that God can be both loving and all powerful. Why would God love someone and yet allow that person to suffer? It doesn’t seem logical. Jesus provided the answer in verse four of this chapter. It is for the glory of God. These concepts come into focus when we think of God the Father allowing Jesus to suffer and die on the cross. Could God the Father not save him? Did God the Father not love him? It only makes sense in light of the fact that this was God’s perfect plan to save his people from the curse of sin and death.

Read John 11:38-44.

What did Jesus tell them to do when he came to the tomb of Lazarus? Why did Martha object? What does this tell us about Martha's understanding of what Jesus was about to do? (11:38-39)

How did Jesus respond to Martha's objection? (11:40)

After Martha's objection was addressed, they rolled away the stone covering the entrance of the tomb where Lazarus was. What did Jesus say and do? What happened to Lazarus? (11:41-44)

Read John 11:45-54.

How did the people react to this sign? (11:45-46)

It is very disturbing to think that the religious leaders were unhappy that Jesus was healing many people, giving sight to a man born blind and even raising someone from the dead who had been in the tomb for four days. They may have appeared to be more "spiritual" than the depraved religious leaders during Jeremiah's time but inwardly, they were the same. They loved themselves. They did NOT love God. Why did they think Jesus needed to be stopped? (11:47-48)

Who was Caiaphas? What was his plan? How did God speak through him despite his act of rebellion against God? (11:49-53)

What does John tell us about Jesus' death? (11:51-52)

Where did Jesus go after he raised Lazarus from the dead? (11:54)

John 11:55-12:19 – The Triumphal Entry

What greater sign could Jesus do than raise a man who had been in the tomb for four days? Some people will not believe despite the quantity or quality of signs. However, many believed as a result of the sign which Jesus performed by raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus had power over life and death. He showed that life was in him and he was able to give it to whomever he desired. He is the resurrection and the life. He breaks the curse of sin and death.

Read John 11:55-12:11.

After the resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus stayed away from Jerusalem because the religious leaders were seeking to kill him. However, now the Feast of Passover was near and Jesus was required by God's law to go to Jerusalem for the feast. Also, Jesus' hour was finally close at hand. The people were looking for Jesus but they were wondering if he would come. What order did the chief priests and Pharisees give concerning Jesus? (11:55-57)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. A dinner was held for Jesus. What did each one do at the dinner? Lazarus? Martha? Mary? (12:1-3)

Matthew and Mark both recorded this event but they never mentioned Mary's name. Why did Mary anoint Jesus' feet? Why did Judas object to what Mary did? Only John singled out Judas as the one who objected to what Mary did. The words of Judas remind us that evil can come in the wrapping of "good deeds". Can you think of examples where someone exhorted people to give money "to God" but was exposed as a thief? (12:4-8)

How did Jesus respond to Judas? What did Jesus mean? Was Jesus saying that we shouldn't give to the poor? Some people go to extremes. They either give money to anyone who appears to have a good cause or they never give money to anyone. Does Jesus' response to Judas give us any guidance on how we should use the money God gives to us? If so, explain. (12:7-8)

What was the lasting impact of Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus? The chief priests and Pharisees had already planned to kill Jesus. Who else did the chief priests want to kill and why? What does this tell us about the chief priests? (12:9-11)

Read John 12:12-19.

On the following day, the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. What did they do? What did they say? What was the significance of their actions and words? (12:12-13)

What did Jesus do? What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem? (12:14-15)

The disciples did not initially understand what was happening. When did they understand the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? Why did they eventually understand the significance of Jesus' triumphal entry? (12:16)

What helped to build the large crowd which came to meet Jesus as he entered Jerusalem? (12:17-18)

How did the Pharisees react when they saw the large crowd go out to greet Jesus? (12:19)

The other gospels did not mention the resurrection of Lazarus. John saw it as an extremely important sign. What were some of the results of the resurrection of Lazarus?

Chapter 12 begins Passion Week. In the first 11 chapters, there have been six signs, five "I am" statements and five witnesses. Can you name them? In the rest of the book, there is one final sign, two more "I am" statements and two more witnesses.

John 12:20-50 – The Hour has Come

A crowd of people welcomed Jesus as he went to Jerusalem. They said, “save now” and proclaimed him to be “the King of Israel”. The Pharisees, who wanted to kill Jesus, said that the world had gone after Jesus. Matthew covers the time between the Triumphal Entry and the Last Supper in chapters 21-26. Mark covers this time period in chapters 11-14. Luke covers this time in chapters 19-22. John only has one chapter, chapter 12, which covers the time between the Triumphal Entry and just before the Last Supper. Unlike the other Gospels, John spent a lot more “ink” on the Last Supper than he did on the week leading up to it.

Read John 12:20-26.

Some Greeks (or Gentile proselytes) came to Phillip and asked to see Jesus. What is the significance of this? (12:20-22)

How did Jesus respond to the request? What was Jesus’ “hour”? Jesus used the illustration of a grain of wheat to talk about his coming death. What would happen if Jesus did not die? Why was the result of Jesus’ death? (12:23-24)

So far, the Gospel of John has focused on who Jesus is, and that people need to believe and receive him. The five witnesses of Jesus provided evidence that Jesus is who he says he is. Now Jesus changed focus and talked about people who believe in him and who serve him. What is true of people who truly believe in Jesus? (12:25-26)

Read John 12:27-36.

Jesus knew that he needed to lay down his life for his sheep. Jesus was troubled about what would soon happen. What does this say about Jesus? Even though Jesus knew he was about to face torture and death, what was his perspective about these coming events? (12:27-28a)

Just as God the Father had testified at Jesus’ baptism, God the Father testified to Jesus in the week before his death. What did the crowd think about this testimony? (12:28b-30)

From verses 31-32, what three things would happen in Jesus’ “hour”?

The crowd asked a good question. They knew from passages like Psalm 89:4, 36, Isaiah 9:7 and Daniel 7:14 that the Messiah's kingdom would not end. What titles did this group of people use to refer to Jesus? Why were the people confused? (12:34)

How did Jesus respond to their question concerning "Who is this Son of Man"? (12:35-36)

Read John 12:37-43.

Jesus performed many signs before the people but many of them still did not believe. Why didn't they believe? What scripture was fulfilled by their unbelief? (12:37-41)

Some people did believe including some rulers of the Jews. Why were these believing rulers afraid to confess Jesus openly? (12:42-43)

Read John 12:44-50.

What is true of those who believe in Jesus? (12:44, 46) What is true of those who do not believe? (12:47-48)

How did Jesus reveal God the Father to those who had ears to hear and eyes to see? (12:45, 49-50)

Why did Jesus come to earth? (12:47)

Why can people be confident in what Jesus said? (12:49-50)

John 1-12 – Review

The five witnesses, mentioned in chapter five, provide a good outline for our review.

1. John the Baptist
 1. John said that Jesus ranked before him because he was before him. 1:15,30
 2. John said that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 1:29
 3. John said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. 1:33
2. God the Father
 1. God the Father testified to Jesus at his baptism. 1:33-34
 2. God the Father testified to Jesus at the transfiguration. This is not contained in John but Peter, James and John witnessed the transfiguration where God the Father said “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Matthew 17:1-8
 3. God the Father testified to Jesus when Jesus asked God the Father to glorify His name. God the Father said, “I have glorified it and I will glorify it again.” 12:28
3. Scripture (Matthew has a lot of Old Testament quotations to show how Jesus fulfilled scripture)
 1. “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 2:17 (Psalm 69:9)
 2. “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water’”. 7:38 (Joel 2:28?)
 3. “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt” 12:14-15 (Zechariah 9:9)
4. The works / signs which Jesus accomplished (signs 4 through 6 support “I am” statements)
 1. Changing water to wine at the wedding in Cana. 2:1-11
 2. Healing the son of an official via long distance (Cana to Capernaum). 4:46-54
 3. Healing the man who was lame for 38 years. 5:1-16
 4. Feeding over five thousand people from five loaves of bread and two fish. 6:1-14 (I am the Bread of Life)
 5. Giving sight to a man who was born blind. 9:1-38 (I am the Light of the world)
 6. Raising Lazarus from the dead who had been in the tomb for four days. 11:1-44 (I am the Resurrection and the Life)

5. Jesus Himself

1. "I am" statements

1. I am the Bread of Life. 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the Light of the World. 8:12
3. I am the Door of the sheep. 10:7, 9
4. I am the Good Shepherd. 10:11, 14
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life. 11:25

2. Statements indicating that Jesus is God

1. He called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 5:17-18
 2. The Son gives life to whom he will. The Son has life in himself. 5:21, 26
 3. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. 5:22-23, 27
 4. Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. 8:58
 5. I and the Father are one. I am the Son of God. 10:30, 36
3. When the Samaritan woman spoke of the Messiah, Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." 4:25-26

Jesus spoke of eternal life. Those who truly believed Jesus and received him were promised eternal life.

1. Children of God are those who receive Jesus and believe in him. They are born of God. 1:12-13
2. Jesus told Nicodemus that, to enter the kingdom of God, a person must be born from above, born of the Spirit. 3:1-15
3. Jesus told the woman at the well that he had living water that would become, in a person, a spring of water welling up to eternal life. 4:5-15
4. The healing of the lame man came from Jesus and not from the Pool of Bethesda. Likewise, Jesus told the Pharisees that eternal life is found in Him and not in searching the scriptures (and failing to obey them). 5:2-9, 39-40
5. Jesus is the living Bread who gives eternal life to those who believe. 6:35, 47, 50-51
6. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep that they may have abundant life. 10:10-11, 27-28
7. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in him, though he die, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in him will never die. 11:25-26

John 1-12 – Review (Part 2)

What did people say about Jesus?

John the Baptist	The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world This is the Son of God	1:29 1:34
Andrew	We have found the Messiah (Christ)	1:41
Philip	We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote	1:45
Nathanael	Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!	1:49
Nicodemus	Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God	3:2
Samaritan Woman	Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet	4:19
Samaritans from Sychar	We know that this is indeed the Savior of the world	4:42
People fed from five loaves of bread	This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world	6:14
Peter	You are the Holy One of God	6:69
Some	He is a good man	7:12
Others	He is leading the people astray	7:12
The Crowd	You have a demon	7:20
Many people who believed in Jesus	When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?	7:31
Some	This is really the Prophet	7:40
Others	This is the Christ	7:41
Officers sent to arrest Jesus	No one ever spoke like this man	7:46
“The” Jews	You are a Samaritan and have a demon	8:48
Some Pharisees	This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath	9:16
Other Pharisees	How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?	9:16

Man born blind	He is a prophet	9:17
	If this man were not from God, he could do nothing	9:33
Pharisees	We know that this man is a sinner	9:24
Many Jews	He has a demon and is insane	10:20
Other Jews	These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?	10:21
Martha	You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world	11:27
Large Crowd	Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel	12:13

John 13:1-30 – The Last Supper

Last words are lasting words. Chapters 13 through 16 contain some of Jesus' last words to his disciples.

Read John 13:1-20.

In verses 1 through 3, what are we told about the lead up to the Last Supper?

What do we know about the custom of foot washing in the days of Jesus? In Luke 7:36-50, Jesus pointed out that his host for a meal, Simon the Pharisee, did not offer him water to wash his feet. Who was normally given the task to wash feet?

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? Philippians 2:2-8 is a good cross-reference. 1 John 3:16 says, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." (ESV)

In John 6:70, Jesus said about Judas, "did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" What did Jesus say about Judas in verses 10-11?

What happens to most (if not all) rulers when they obtain power? How does pride and a hunger for power manifest itself in the church? Jesus did not want his disciples to be like typical worldly leaders. How did Jesus want his leaders to behave?

In verse 18, Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9. Who ate bread with King David and later rebelled against him? Why did Jesus tell his disciples about Judas' betrayal ahead of time?

Read John 13:21-30.

In verse 21, Jesus was troubled. This is the same word that was used in John 11:33 after he saw Mary and those with her weeping. It is also the same word that was used in John 12:27 when Jesus realized that his hour had come. Why is Jesus troubled here?

Can we learn anything from the fact that the disciples seemed to have no idea that one of the twelve disciples would be capable of betraying Jesus? Should the other disciples have known that Judas was going to betray Jesus? Were there any indications that Judas was different from the others?

The disciples wondered who the betrayer was but Peter was determined to find out who it was. How did Peter find out who was going to betray Jesus?

The announcement of the betrayal appears to take place during the typical Passover meal. Based on Exodus 12:8, bitter herbs were part of the traditional Passover meal. Some think that the morsel given to Judas was dipped in the bitter herbs.

From John 12, we already know that Judas kept the money that Jesus and his disciples used to buy food and other supplies. What else did Jesus use this money for, based on verse 29?

In today's culture, we love victims. I think some people view Jesus as a victim. John makes it clear that Jesus was in total control. Jesus was the one who told Judas to leave them and do what he needed to do. What he needed to do was betray Jesus. Jesus was not caught off guard by his arrest, trial and crucifixion. How is God's sovereignty displayed by Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

John 13:31-14:14 – Love One Another

After Jesus identified the betrayer to John, Jesus told Judas to do what he was going to do quickly. Judas left during the meal. Jesus was then able to talk more freely to his disciples.

Read John 13:31-38.

Once Judas left, Jesus declared that he was glorified. What is the significance of Jesus' statement that he and the Father were now glorified? What is the future glorification mentioned here? (13:31-32)

Now that Judas is gone, Jesus can refer to the remaining eleven disciples as "little children". What is the difference, if any, between "little children" and "disciples"? What is the significance of Jesus calling them "little children"? (13:33)

In John 7:33-34, Jesus said to a group of people who had come to the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) that he was only with them for a little longer. He would go away and they would not be able to find him. In John 8:21, Jesus said that he would go away and they were not able to go where he was going. Jesus now said this to his disciples. What did Jesus mean by this statement? (13:33)

Leviticus 19:18 says to "love your neighbor as yourself". In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus said that the Law and the Prophets could be summed up in two commands. The first was to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. The second was to love your neighbor as yourself. How does Jesus' new commandment differ from Leviticus 19:18? (13:34)

How would people know that the disciples were Jesus' disciples? (13:35) Have you ever experienced this truth? Before conversion, did you ever see a group of Christians and think, "they have something that I don't". "They talk to each other differently and treat each other differently than my friends and I do."

Peter was not prepared for Jesus to leave them. He couldn't understand why he couldn't continue to follow Jesus like he had been doing for the past three years. Peter said that he was willing to die for Jesus. Was Peter willing to die for Jesus? Why do you think Jesus told Peter that Peter would soon deny him three times? (13:36-38)

Read John 14:1-14.

After Jesus told his disciples that he was leaving them, he told them not to be troubled. Jesus would once again be united with his disciples after he had gone to be with God the Father. How did Jesus describe this reunion? (14:1-4)

Thomas didn't know where Jesus was going and therefore he didn't know how to get there. Why didn't Thomas understand Jesus? (14:5)

How does someone get to God the Father, according to Jesus in verse 6? This is the sixth "I am" statement. (14:6)

Philip did not know that Jesus was speaking of "God the Father". Did the disciples appear to be ready to turn the world upside down? How can we account for the change in the disciples just two months later? (14:8)

It was disappointing, to say the least, that Philip asked Jesus to "show us the Father". What had Jesus taught about his relationship with God the Father as summarized in verses 9-11?

Jesus would soon go back to God the Father. A big part of God's plan to spread the Gospel involved the disciples. As Jesus revealed God the Father, the disciples would need to proclaim Jesus to a world which was dead in sin. In this context, what is the meaning of verses 12-14?

Verses 13-14 are an example of understanding a passage in light of all of scripture. Does this mean that I can solve the world's poverty by asking "in Jesus name" that everyone in the world would no longer be poor? Is this a promise without limitations?

John 14:15-31 – Much Needed Help

Thomas didn't know where Jesus was going and therefore he didn't know the way. Philip didn't know who "The Father" was. The disciples needed help in a big way. Jesus told his disciples about the One whom the Father would send to help them.

Read John 14:15-31.

What is true of those who love Jesus? (14:15)

In verse 16 Jesus said that he would ask the Father and he would give someone to them to be with them forever. A few translators didn't want to translate the original word into normal daily English and so they "translated" the word as "Paraclete". I don't think I have ever heard the word used in English except to refer to the Holy Spirit. First notice that Jesus said "another Paraclete". The first "Paraclete" is found in 1 John 2:1. Jesus was the first Paraclete who is our legal counsel or advocate with the Father. "But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (ESV) The second Paraclete is the Holy Spirit. This word, Paraclete, is only used in the New Testament by John. What is the best English translation for Paraclete based on John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7? The most common translations are "Advocate", "Counselor", "Comforter", and "Helper".

What is true of the Holy Spirit from verse 17?

Jesus came from God the Father and was going back to God the Father. He will return one day. Once Judas left, Jesus referred to them as "little children". In keeping with the language of a family, Jesus said that he would not leave them as orphans. Jesus was with the disciples for a relatively short time. The Holy Spirit would be with them forever. What does Jesus mean in verse 19 by the world would not see him but that the disciples would? What was Jesus referring to when he said that the disciples would live because he lives?

Verse 20 speaks of the unity of God the Father and God the Son. It also speaks of the unity of Jesus with his disciples. From verse 21, what is true of those who keep Jesus' commandments? Compare verse 21 with verse 15.

In verse 22, Judas, not the betrayer, asked Jesus an interesting question. Why did Jesus only reveal himself to his followers after his resurrection and not the general public? How did Jesus answer Judas' question? (14:23-24) Compare verses 23-24 to verses 15 and 21.

Jesus had very little time left to spend with his disciples. From verse 26, how would the Holy Spirit help the disciples? What are some examples of this from the Gospel of John? See 2:22 and 12:16.

Jesus gave his disciples his peace. What is the effect of Jesus' peace? How does the world give? (14:27)

Why should the disciples rejoice at Jesus' leaving? What did Jesus mean by "The Father is greater than I"? What did Jesus not mean? (14:28)

Based on verse 29, why did Jesus tell his disciples these things before they happened?

What did Jesus say about the ruler of the world? (14:30)

What would the world know about Jesus? (14:31)

John 15:1-17 – The True Vine

Chapter 14 ended with the words “Arise, let us go from here”. Some believe that they remained in the upper room until after chapter 17. Others believe that they went out of the upper room at the end of chapter 14. Some speculate that they passed by the temple where there was a famous golden vine and that Jesus used this visual aide to proclaim that he was the true vine.

Read John 15:1-10.

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80 are some of the Old Testament passages which talk about Israel as God’s vine or vineyard. This passage contains the last “I am” statement in the Gospel of John. What is Jesus claiming when he says that he is the true vine? (15:1, 5)

Verse 2 is taken by some that a believer can loose his/her salvation. Later in verse 6, these branches which are cut off are gathered and cast into the fire and burned. Some commentators who believe that these two verses teach that you can loose your salvation also believe that these verses apply to Judas. I think Judas is the poster child of those whom the Father cuts off from the vine but I believe these commentators make a bad assumption about Judas. What makes people think that Judas was ever a true believer? Yes, he was chosen as one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. Yes, he followed Jesus around. But what have we already learned about Judas? John 6:64 says that Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe and who was going to betray him. In John 6:70-71 Jesus said that one of the twelve was a devil. John confirmed that Jesus was talking about Judas. Where is the evidence that Judas was ever a true believer in Jesus? The verses in John 6 indicate that Judas was never a believer. He didn’t “turn bad” or “backslide”. He was bad from the time Jesus chose him to be one of his disciples. The branches which are cutoff were never, in the term’s of Paul, “in Christ”. They profess but do not posses. They are part of the visible church but not the invisible church. They are tares/weeds among the wheat. (Matthew 13:24-30)

What does the Father do to the branches which bear fruit? Why does the Father do this? (15:2)

Compare John 13:10 (you are clean but not all of you) with verse 3 (you are already clean). What is the difference? What has changed since Jesus said that they were not all clean?

What was Jesus teaching his eleven disciples by using the figure of the vine and the branches? What is the fruit? (4-10)

From verse 7, what condition does Jesus give so that his disciples will receive what they ask for?

From verse 8, how can we bring glory to God the Father? What is the relationship between loving and keeping Jesus' commands? (15:9-10)

Read John 15:11-17.

What is Jesus' joy? (15:11)

In verse 12, Jesus repeated his new commandment. The disciples are to love one another and they are to love as Jesus loved them. Verse 13 talks about Jesus' greatest example of his love for his disciples? What was that example?

Why did Jesus now refer to his disciples as "friends"? (14-15)

Jesus chose his disciples. They did not choose him. What was their mission? (16-17)

John 15:18-16:11 – The World’s Hate

Jesus talked about his love for his disciples. He also talked about how the disciples needed to love one another as he loved them. However, the world would hate the disciples. The world would treat the disciples in the same way that they treated Jesus. Jesus wanted to prepare them for the hatred they would receive from those who hate Jesus and therefore who also hate God the Father.

Read John 15:18-27.

Some people want everyone to like them. For a follower of Jesus that is not possible. Jesus said that the world would hate the disciples? Why did the world hate them? Why does the world hate us if we stand for Christ? (15:18-19)

Jesus said that the world would not only hate them but that the world would also persecute them. Why would the world persecute them? (15:20-21)

Why were the people of Jesus’ day without an excuse for their sin of rejecting and hating Christ? (15:22, 24)

Is it possible for someone to love God the Father and hate Jesus, God the Son? When people hate Jesus, who are they also rejecting and hating? (15:23, 24)

Was the world’s hatred of Jesus reasonable? (15:25) Who originally wrote these words “hate me without cause”? (Psalm 35:19, 69:4)

Generally speaking, the world doesn’t hate the baby Jesus lying in a manger. That Jesus, which means it’s time for gifts, is not threatening. The “I will make Jesus whatever I want him to be” is also not threatening. The Jesus whom the world hates is the one who says, in John 8, that people are sinners and will die in their sins. He says that their father is the devil and they are liars who hate the truth (John 3). The true Jesus is the one who says that he is the only way to God the Father. The world hates that Jesus. The Gospel is life to those who are born of God but it brings judgment and condemnation for those who continue in their sin. How have you experienced the world’s hatred for the name of Jesus?

In John 5, Jesus mentioned five witnesses which were Jesus himself, John the Baptist, Jesus' signs / works, God the Father, and Scripture. Of the five witnesses, only one would remain. Jesus and God the Father would continue to be witnesses of course, but not in the same way as when Jesus "tabernacled among us". Once Jesus left there would be two additional witnesses. Who are the two new witnesses? (15:26-27)

Read John 16:1-11.

Why did Jesus tell the disciples about the world's coming hatred and persecution of them? (16:1, 4)

What else would the world do to the disciples? (16:2) Why does the world do this? (16:2-3)

Jesus again stated that he was going to the One who sent him. What was the emotional state of the disciples? (16:6)

The disciples did not want Jesus to leave but Jesus said that there was a benefit in his leaving. What was it? (16:7)

In chapter 14, Jesus said that he would ask the Father and he would send the Holy Spirit to help them and be in them. In verse 7 Jesus said that he would send the Holy Spirit. This is just more evidence of the unity of the Trinity.

In verses 8-11, what aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is described?

John 16:12-33 – Victory Over the World

In chapter 16, Jesus does not have much time left with the disciples. There was still more that the disciples needed to know so, after Jesus was gone, the Holy Spirit would teach them and lead them into truth.

Read John 16:12-15.

Chapters 14 through 16 deal, in part, with the work of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' return to the Father. What ministry of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in verses 13-15? Jesus had talked about how his words were not his own and that he said what the Father told him to say. What is the source of the Holy Spirit's teaching?

Read John 16:16-24.

Verse 16 is a twist on what Jesus had said before. Before Jesus had said that in a little while and they would not be able to find him or follow him. Now he tells the disciples that in a little while, they would see him again. How did the disciples react to this statement? (16:17-18)

Jesus knew that the disciples did not understand what he had said. Jesus expanded on his statement. What different emotions would the disciples go through in the next few days? How would the world react to Jesus' departure? (16:20-22)

What illustration did Jesus use to explain what the disciples would soon experience? (16:21)

What would be the cause of the disciples' grief and mourning? What would be the cause of the disciples' joy?

Once Jesus returned to the Father, how were the disciples to pray? What would be the result of their prayers? (16:23-24)

Read John 16:25-33.

Jesus told the disciples that he had been speaking in figures. This is the same word that was used in chapter 10 when Jesus spoke about the good shepherd. When would Jesus no longer use figures when talking about his Father? (16:25)

Once Jesus returned to the Father, what did Jesus say about the disciples' relationship with the Father? (16:26-27)

Why did the Father love the disciples? (16:27)

How did the disciples respond to Jesus' statement that he had come from the Father and came into the world and that he was leaving the world and going to the Father? (16:28-30)

How did Jesus respond to the disciples' new found understanding? (16:31)

Zechariah 13:7 says "Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered." Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27 when he told his disciples that they would all fall away. Verse 32 seems to contain the same idea. What did Jesus say would happen to his disciples and to himself? (16:32)

In verse 33, what did the disciples have in Jesus? What would the disciples have in the world? What is the significance of Jesus' statement that he had overcome (conquered) the world? (16:33)

John 17:1-26 – The High Priestly Prayer

Jesus prayed for himself. Then Jesus prayed for his disciples. Finally, Jesus prayed for the church. John lets us be a fly on the wall as Jesus prayed to the Father.

Read John 17:1-5.

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven to pray. Jesus addressed God the Father as “Father”. What was Jesus’ hour which had now come? Given that his hour has come, what is Jesus’ request? (17:1)

In verse 2, what had the Father given to Jesus? Who are the recipients of eternal life? (17:2)

How did Jesus define eternal life? (17:3)

From verse 4, how had Jesus glorified the Father while he was on the earth?

What is Jesus’ final request for himself? (17:5)

Read John 17:6-19.

What did Jesus say about the disciples in verses 6 through 8?

In verse 9, who are the ones God gave to Jesus?

In verse 10, how was Jesus glorified?

Jesus was leaving the world and returning to the Father, but the disciples were left to spread the good news of Jesus. In verse 11, what did Jesus ask God to do for the disciples?

In verse 12, what did Jesus say about his care of his disciples? Who is the son of perdition (destruction)?

In verse 13, how was Jesus' joy fulfilled in the disciples?

In verses 14-16, describe the relationship of the disciples and the world. What did Jesus not pray for? What did Jesus pray for concerning the disciples who would remain in the world?

In verse 17, Jesus asked the Father to sanctify the disciples. How will they be sanctified? (17:17, 19)

The Father sent the Son into the world. What mission did Jesus give to his disciples? (17:18)

Read John 17:20-26.

Jesus prayed for those in the future who would believe in him through the disciples' spreading of the word. Jesus prayed for the church. What did Jesus ask the Father to do for the church? What kind of unity is meant here? What is the effect of the unity? (17:20-23)

In verse 24, what did Jesus ask the Father to do for those whom the Father gave to the Son?

Does the world know God? What did the disciples know? (17:25)

Jesus made know the Father's name to them and he would make it known in the future. What would be the result of Jesus making the Father known? (17:26)

Notes on John 17

Some notes on John 17 which require further thought and study.

Jesus asks the Father

- glorify Me that I may glorify you v1
- glorify me with the glory which Jesus had with the Father before the world was made v5
- keep the disciples “in your name” in order that they may be one as the Father and Son are one v11
- does NOT ask that the disciples be taken out of the world (even though the world hates them) v15
- asks that the Father would keep the disciples from the evil one (or from evil) v15
- sanctify the disciples in the truth (God’s word is truth) v17
- not just for the disciples but for those who would believe in Jesus because of their word v20
- that the elect may be one (as the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father) and that they might be in the Father and in the Son v21
- that the world would believe that Jesus was sent from God the Father v21
- that the disciples (or the elect – whom you gave to me) would be with Jesus (in heaven) that they may see the glory of Jesus given to him by the Father because he loved Jesus before the foundation of the world v24

The Father gave the Son

- authority over all flesh v2
- the elect v2
- the disciples v6
- his words v8
- glory v22
- love v24

The Son

- gives eternal life to the elect v2
- glorified the Father on earth by accomplishing the work given to him on earth v4
- made known the Father’s name to the disciples and he will make it known v6,26
- gave the Father’s words to the disciples v8,14
- has been glorified by “them” v10
- no longer in the world v11
- going to the Father v11,13
- kept the disciples in the Father’s name when he was with the disciples, guarded them, didn’t loose any of them except the son of destruction v12
- spoke to the disciples in order that his joy might be fulfilled in them v13
- is not of the world v14,16
- was sent by the Father into the world v18
- sent the disciples into the world (as he was sent by the Father) v18
- consecrated (sanctified) himself for the disciples so that they might be sanctified in truth v19

- gave the glory he received from the Father to the elect (or just the disciples?) in order that they may be one (as the Father and Son are one) v22
- is in the disciples (all the elect?) and the Father is in him so that the disciples (all the elect?) might become perfectly one and that the world would believe the Father sent Jesus and that the Father loved the disciples (all the elect?) as he loved Jesus v23 (see vs 21)
- makes the Father's name known to the disciples (all the elect?) so that the Father's love for the Son might be in the disciples (all the elect?) and that Jesus might be in them v26

The disciples

- kept the Father's word v6
- know that what the Son was given, was given to him from the Father v7
- received and know truly that Jesus came from God the Father v8
- believe and know that God the Father sent Jesus v8,25
- still in the world v11
- the world hated them because they were not of the world just as Jesus was not of the world v14
- not of the world v14,16
- Jesus is in them v23

The world

- the world hates the disciples v14
- does not know the Father v25

v3 eternal life is knowing the only True God and Jesus Christ whom he sent
v10 the things of the Son are the Father's and the things of the Father are Jesus'

“whom (those) you gave to me” seems to refer sometimes to the disciples and sometimes to the elect

2 πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ

6 τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς ἔδωκας μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου

6 σοὶ ἦσαν κάμοι αὐτοὺς ἔδωκας

9 περὶ ὧν δέδωκας μοι

24 ὃ δέδωκας μοι

John 18:1-18 – Jesus’ Arrest

All the Gospels cover Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection. John’s Gospel continued to fill in gaps that the other Gospel did not cover. Jesus was going back to the Father but not before completing the work given to him by the Father. Jesus knew that it was necessary for him to suffer and to die on the cross. He was to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He was going to lay down his life for the sheep. John emphasized the point Jesus made in John 10:15-18. No one took Jesus’ life from him. He laid down his life for the sheep of his own accord. He would lay down his life and then take it up again.

Read John 18:1-11.

After Jesus’ High Priestly prayer, he crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples. Some translations have “brook”, “torrent” or “ravine” for “Valley”. The Kidron Valley, which they crossed, lies between the Temple Mount on the west and the Mount of Olives on the east. The slopes are pretty steep and when the snow melts or when there is a heavy rain, the bottom of the valley becomes a brook or a torrent. Matthew and Mark mention the name of the place where they went, Gethsemane. Only John referred to it as a garden.

How did Judas know where Jesus would be? Who was sent with Judas to arrest Jesus? What did they bring with them? (18:2-3)

What did Jesus do when he knew that a group was coming to arrest him? (18:4)

When the crowd said that they they were seeking Jesus of Nazareth, how did Jesus respond? How did the crowd respond to Jesus? What did John want to emphasize in his telling of the arrest? (18:5-6)

In verse 7, Jesus had to ask the crowd a second time, “Whom do you seek?” What did Jesus want the crowd to do? In 17:12, Jesus said that he did not loose any of the disciples except for Judas, the son of destruction. (18:7-9)

In verse 10, what did Simon Peter do? What did Peter's action reveal about his understanding of what Jesus had told the disciples earlier that evening?

What did Jesus say to Peter in response to what Peter did? What details did John include which the other Gospels did not? (18:11)

Read John 18:12-14.

Who arrested and bound Jesus? (18:12) Notice that the "officers of the Jews" were earlier described as "officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, in verse 3.

Where did they first bring Jesus? Who was Annas? Who was Caiaphas? (18:13-14)

Read John 18:15-18.

Who were the two disciples who followed Jesus? Which disciple entered into the courtyard of the chief priest with Jesus? How did Peter gain entrance to the courtyard? (18:15-16)

What did the servant girl, who watched the door, ask Peter? Was she making an accusation or was she asking an open question? How did Peter answer her? Contrast Peter's response with Jesus' response to his captors. (18:17)

What did Peter do after his first denial? (18:18)

What can we learn from Peter's actions in chapter 18:1-18?

John 18:19-40 – Jesus Tried

Read John 18:19-24.

In verse 19, what two things did the high priest question Jesus about?

Did Jesus give an answer about his disciples? How did Jesus respond to the question about his teaching? (18:20-21)

Why do you think the official struck Jesus? How did Jesus respond? How would you respond? After Jesus' response, Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the current high priest. (18:22-24)

Read John 18:25-27.

These verses pick up the story of Peter in the courtyard of the high priest. He was standing and warming himself by the fire. Peter had already denied Jesus once when a servant girl asked him if he was one of Jesus' disciples. In verse 25, who asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' disciples? How did Peter respond to this second questioning? (18:25)

In verse 26, who spoke to Peter and what did he ask him? How did Peter respond? What happened after Peter denied Jesus three times? What do the other Gospels say Peter did after his third denial? (18:26-27)

Read John 18:28-40.

Jesus was led from Caiaphas' place to Pilate. Why didn't the Jewish leaders go into Pilate's place? It reminds me of what Jesus said to the Pharisees in Mt 23:24. They "strain out a gnat and swallow a camel". Are we guilty of doing similar things? (18:28)

In verse 29, Pilate went out to the Jewish leaders and asked them what the charge was against Jesus. How did they answer Pilate? What does their answer reveal about them? (18:29-30)

I think Pilate could see that they were up to no good and made the first attempt to have nothing to do with their plans. Pilate told the Jewish leaders to try Jesus themselves according to their law. Why couldn't the Jews do that? (18:31)

How would the Jews have put Jesus to death, if they could have? How did Jesus' execution by the Romans fulfill Jesus' predictions from 3:14 and 12:32-33? (18:32)

Who was controlling the conversation between Jesus and Pilate? What was Pilate trying to accomplish? What was Jesus accomplishing? (18:33-38)

What did Jesus say about his kingdom? (18:36)

In verse 37, why did Jesus say he came into the world and was born? What is true of those who are "of the truth"? How did Pilate respond to Jesus? What did Pilate's response reveal about him? (18:37-38)

After examining Jesus, what was Pilate's conclusion that he proclaimed to the Jewish leaders? Do you think Pilate knew the he was being used by the Jewish leaders? (18:38)

The custom at the Passover was for Pilate to release a prisoner to the Jews. That year, their choice was between Barabbas and Jesus. What does Barabbas' name mean? Who was Barabbas? (18:39-40)

John 19:1-16 – Jesus Before Pilate

Read John 19:1-16.

Why did Pilate have Jesus flogged after he proclaimed that he did not find any guilt in Jesus? (19:1)

What is the significance of the crown of thorns and the purple robe? (19:2)

Pilate had declared that Jesus was innocent. Why did the soldiers strike Jesus? (19:3)

For the second time, Pilate pronounced that he found no guilt in Jesus. What is the significance of Pilate's statement "Behold the man"? (19:4-5)

Who cried out "crucify him, crucify him"? How did Pilate respond to their cries? Why did Pilate at first resist their cries for crucifixion? (19:6)

The Jewish leaders finally revealed the reason why they wanted Jesus killed? What was the reason? (19:7)

How did Pilate respond when he heard that Jesus "had made himself the Son of God"? (19:8)

Why did Pilate ask Jesus where he was from? How did Jesus respond to Pilate's question? (19:9)

Pilate told Jesus that he had authority to release him or to crucify him. How did Jesus respond to Pilate? The words "from above" is the same word that is found in John 3 which is often translated "again". (19:10-11)

Who had the greater sin, Pilate or the Jewish leaders? (19:11)

Why did Pilate want to release Jesus? (19:12)

In verse 12, how did the Jewish leaders put pressure on Pilate to crucify Jesus?

In verse 13, Pilate was finally ready to pronounce his verdict. What day was it? What time was it? (19:13-14)

Pilate had previously announced Jesus with "Behold the man." For the final time, Pilate announced Jesus with "Behold your king". How did the people respond to Pilate's announcement? (19:14-15)

Pilate made one last effort to let Jesus go. He asked the people if they really wanted him to crucify their king. How did the chief priests respond? Were the chief priests usually strong supporters of Caesar? (19:15)

Why did Pilate finally hand Jesus over to be crucified? (19:16)

John 19:17-42 – The Crucifixion

Pilate proclaimed three times publicly that Jesus was innocent. Pilate had a choice. He could save himself or he could save an innocent man from being put to death. Pilate chose to save himself and send an innocent man to death.

Read John 19:17-27.

Where was Jesus crucified? (19:17)

Who was crucified with Jesus? (19:18)

Pilate put an inscription on the cross. What did the inscription say? What languages was it in? What was the significance of this inscription? What did the chief priests think about the inscription? How did Pilate respond to their request to change the inscription? (19:19-22)

What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? What scripture did their actions fulfill? See Psalm 22:18. (19:23-24)

John mentions some people who were by the cross of Jesus. Who were they? What does Jesus say to his mother and then to the beloved disciple? What is the significance of this? (19:25-27)

Read John 19:28-37.

In verse 28, John stated that Jesus knew that all things were already completed. What was completed? What is the significance of this statement? Why did Jesus say, "I thirst"? What is the significance of Jesus saying that he was thirsty? What scripture did this fulfill? See Psalm 22:15 and Psalm 69:21. (19:29-29)

After Jesus received the sour wine (or vinegar), he said “It is finished”? What is the significance of this statement? What was complete? (19:30)

How did Jesus die? See John 10:17-18. (19:30)

The Jewish leaders wanted Pilate to have the soldiers break the legs of those who were crucified. Why did they want Pilate to have this done? (19:31)

The soldiers broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. What happened when they went to break Jesus’ legs? How did this fulfill scripture? See Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20, Zechariah 12:10. What effect did this have on John? What effect did John want this to have on those who read his witness? (19:32-37)

Read John 19:38-42.

Who was Joseph of Arimathea? What did he ask Pilate to do? Why do you think he was willing to be associated with Jesus in his death? See Isaiah 53:9. John mentioned Nicodemus for the third time. What significance is there to Nicodemus helping bury Jesus? (19:38-39)

How did they prepare the body of Jesus? (19:39-40)

Where did they lay the body of Jesus? (19:41-42)

John did not mention the gruesome details of crucifixion. He did not focus on Jesus’ pain and suffering. Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 are far more descriptive of Jesus’ suffering than John’s description. Why do you think that is? Do you think there are times when the suffering of Jesus is focused on more than the work which Jesus accomplished on the cross and what that work means?

John 20:1-23 – The Resurrection

Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished”. This was a great proclamation of victory. He had accomplished all that the Father had given him to accomplish while he lived on the earth. As Hebrews 10:12 says, “when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God”. (ESV) He sat down at the Father’s right hand because his perfect sacrifice for sins was complete and pleasing to God the Father.

Read John 20:1-10.

Why did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb so early? When she got there she found the stone removed from the opening of the tomb and that Jesus’ body was not there. What did she do when she couldn’t find Jesus’ body? (20:1-2)

What did Peter and the other disciple do when they heard that Jesus’ body was gone from the tomb? (20:2-10)

Who was the other disciple who went with Peter to the tomb? This other disciple “believed” when he entered the empty tomb and saw the linen clothes and the face cloth. Based on verse 9, what did he believe and what did he and the other disciples still not understand at this time? (20:8-9)

I find myself in the awkward position of challenging most English translations of verse 10. The issue is with “to their homes”. Peter and John were from Galilee. That is where their homes were. They didn’t go back to Galilee on the day when Jesus rose from the dead. The original language, if translated literally, just says that they went back “to them” or “to themselves”. I take this to mean that they went back to where the other disciples were staying while they were in Jerusalem for the Passover. NASB has “homes” in italics which means that the word “homes” was not in the original text. NIV has “where they were staying”. (20:10)

Read John 20:11-18.

Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb after she told Peter and John that Jesus’ body was missing. What was she doing at the tomb? What did the angels say to Mary? How did Mary respond to the angels? (20:11-13)

When Mary first saw Jesus, who did she think he was? What did Jesus ask her? How did Mary answer Jesus? How did Mary finally recognize Jesus? (20:14-16)

How did Mary respond when she realized that she was talking to Jesus? What did Jesus say to Mary? (20:17-18)

Read John 20:19-23.

On the same day when Jesus rose from the dead, he went to where the disciples were and he stood among them. There has been much debate about how Jesus got into the place where the disciples were. Why was the door shut? What did Jesus first say to the disciples? Why did Jesus show them his hands and side? How did the disciples react when they recognized Jesus? (20:19-20)

What charge did Jesus give to his disciples in verse 21? What help did Jesus give to his disciples so that they could fulfill their mission? (20:21-22)

In verse 23, what did Jesus mean about forgiving and holding forgiveness of sins?

While we don't know exactly what our resurrected bodies will be like, we do know some facts. Jesus has a resurrected body and he is the first fruits of his sheep who will follow with resurrected bodies at his second coming. 1 Corinthians 15 speaks to the nature of our resurrected bodies.

If our resurrected bodies are confined to the same restrictions which our present bodies are under then we are all in big trouble. We are currently confined to the three dimensions of space and to the dimension of time. If Jesus, as the first fruits, has a resurrected body which is confined to the restrictions of time and space, then he could not return to the Father. The Father created the universe. His dwelling place is not "inside" his creation. To be with God, we need to have resurrected bodies which are not confined to time and space. Jesus' appearance to the disciples was reminiscent of some of the accounts when an angel suddenly appeared. Paul said that we will all be changed. Our resurrected bodies will be spiritual, imperishable and immortal.

John 20:24-21:19 – The Resurrected Christ

The angels said to the women who came to the tomb, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen as he said”. Luke 24:5b, Matthew 28:6a We serve a risen Savior! Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection. They were glad to see Jesus but I wonder how much they understood at that time. So much had happened in a short amount of time and they were on a roller coaster of emotions. In the verse before the Great Commission, Matthew 28:17 says “And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.” In John 20:24, we learn that there was one disciple who was not with the others when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection.

Read John 20:24-29.

Thomas, Didymus / the Twin, was the one who was not with the other disciples when the resurrected Christ first revealed himself to the others. How did Thomas respond when the other disciples told him that they had seen Jesus? Why do you think Thomas responded in this way? Have you ever talked to people who, like Thomas, need proof before they believe? Is it reasonable for someone to demand proof before they believe? (20:24-25)

What happened eight days after Thomas missed out on seeing Jesus? It was like deja vu all over again except this time Thomas was there. What did Jesus say to “Doubting” Thomas? Did Thomas put his finger in Jesus’ hands or place his hand in Jesus’ side? What did Thomas say to Jesus? What is the significance of his statement? How did Jesus respond to Thomas’ profession of faith? (20:26-29)

What did Jesus say about those who do not see and yet believe? Who is included in this blessing? (20:29)

Read John 20:30-31.

What signs did John include in the Gospel of John? How many signs did Jesus perform during his time on earth? (20:30)

Why did John write the Gospel of John? (20:31)

Read John 21:1-14.

In chapter 21, where were the disciples? Why were they there? Which disciples were mentioned? What were the disciples doing? Why were they doing this? Were they successful? (21:1-3)

What did Jesus say to the disciples while they were in the boat? What happened when they listened to Jesus? Who first realized that it was Jesus? How did Peter react when he heard that it was Jesus on the shore? Why did Peter react this way? What did the other disciples do? (21:4-8) Does this fishing incident remind you of an earlier encounter which some of these disciples had with Jesus? (Luke 5:1-11)

When all the disciple went to where Jesus was they saw a charcoal fire. When was the last time John mentioned a charcoal fire? Describe the breakfast that the disciples shared with Jesus. John likes the numbers 3 and 7. John noted that this appearance by the Sea of Galilee was Jesus' third appearance to the disciples.

Read John 21:15-19.

Why did Jesus single out Peter to ask him some pointed questions? Why did John include this interaction between Jesus and Peter?

What did Jesus ask Peter about their relationship? How many times did Jesus ask Peter the same question about their relationship? What is the significance of the number of times Jesus asked Peter this question? What responsibility did Jesus give to Peter? Is there any significance to the variations in what Jesus asked Peter? (21:15-17)

Peter did not lay down his life for Jesus before Jesus was crucified but what did Jesus say would happen to Peter when he was older? (21:18-19a)

What final command did Jesus give to Peter? What can we learn from Peter? What does the example of Peter have to teach those who have fallen down on the path of following Christ? (21:19b)

John 21:20-25 – Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

I believe that John wanted to set the record straight about Peter. The last mention of Peter in the Gospel of Matthew is Peter's denial of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark mentions Peter just once after Peter's denial of Christ. The angel said to the women, "tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee" (Mark 16:7 ESV) The Gospel of Luke mentions Peter twice after his denial of Jesus. Luke 24:12 says that Peter ran to the tomb after the women reported what they saw and heard at the tomb. Luke 24:34 says that Jesus appeared to Simon. Some early Christians may have wondered how Peter, who denied Jesus three times, was now qualified to be the leader of the early church. John answered that question in chapter 21. Jesus singled out Peter, in chapter 21, to feed and tend his lambs and sheep. Peter's denials did not disqualify him from being a leader of the early church. As Jesus had predicted Peter's denials, he also predicted that Peter would eventually lay down his life for Christ. Peter, at the Last Supper, just had not understood the proper timing. Only Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice for sin and be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Peter's death would have added nothing to Christ's sacrifice. It wasn't the time for Peter to die. Jesus had many things that he needed Peter to do after Jesus' resurrection. After Peter's work was complete then he would be martyred.

Read John 21:20-25.

After Jesus told Peter that he would die for Christ when he was older, what did Peter do and say? (21:20-21) Do you ever ask God, "why me?", "what about him/her?"

How did Jesus respond to Peter? (21:22)

How were Jesus' words misunderstood by some people? John clarified what Jesus said. What didn't Jesus say? (21:23)

Who is the beloved disciple? How do we know that he is a truthful witness? (21:24)

How does verse 25 partially answer the question of why John didn't include many of the events and words recorded by the other three Gospels?

John 1-21 – Review (Part 1)

In our half-way review, which included the first 12 chapters, our lists were not complete. John likes the numbers 3, 7 and 12. The Gospel of John talks about the seven witnesses to Jesus. Five are mentioned in chapter five and the other two are mentioned in chapter fifteen.

The Seven Witnesses.

1. Jesus Himself. 5:31, 8:14
2. John the Baptist. 5:33-35
3. The signs which Jesus accomplished. 5:36
4. God the Father. 5:37-38
5. Scripture. 5:39-40
6. The Holy Spirit. 15:26
7. The 11 disciples. 15:27

John only selected seven signs out of the many signs which Jesus performed. Some of the signs backed up his “I am” statements. Jesus’ signs manifested his glory (2:11). The purpose of the signs is that people might believe in Jesus. (2:11, 20:30-31)

The Seven Signs.

1. Changing water to wine at the wedding in Cana. 2:1-11
2. Healing the son of an official via long distance (Cana to Capernaum). 4:46-54
3. Healing the man who was lame for 38 years. 5:1-16
4. Feeding over five thousand people from five loaves of bread and two fish. 6:1-14 (I am the Bread of Life)
5. Giving sight to a man who was born blind. 9:1-38 (I am the Light of the world)
6. Raising Lazarus from the dead who had been in the tomb for four days. 11:1-44 (I am the Resurrection and the Life)
7. Jesus’ own resurrection. 20:1-21:23

There are seven “I am” statements in the Gospel of John. Normally the focus of the “I am” statements is on the statements where “I am” is followed by a description like “the bread of life” or “the light of the world”. There are also times when Jesus just said “I am”. One example is when Jesus said “Before Abraham was, I am.” The people picked up stones to stone him because they understood this statement, “I am” to be a claim by Jesus that he was God. The “I am” statements are a reference to the special name by which God revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush. The name we know as Yahweh was considered by some Jews as so holy that it should not be written or spoken.

The Seven “I am” Statements.

1. I am the Bread of Life. 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the Light of the World. 8:12
3. I am the Door of the sheep. 10:7, 9
4. I am the Good Shepherd. 10:11, 14
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life. 11:25
6. I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. 14:6
7. I am the True Vine. 15:1

Additional “I Am” Statements

1. John 4:26 – When the Messiah appears, he will teach us all things. Jesus said to her, “**I am**, the one speaking to you.”
2. John 6:20 – When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, Jesus said to them, “**I am**, do not be afraid.”
3. John 8:24 – Unless you believe that **I am**, you will die in your sins.
4. John 8:28 – When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am**.
5. John 8:58 – Before Abraham was, **I am**.
6. John 13:19 – I am telling you these things before they happen, so that when they happen you may believe that **I am**.
7. John 18:5, 6, 8 – When the crowd sent to arrest Jesus told Jesus that they were seeking “Jesus of Nazareth”, Jesus replied “**I am**”.

The Gospel of John makes it clear that Jesus is God. He is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. In the first verse of the Gospel of John, we learned that the Word, Jesus, was God. All things were made through him. John chapter five gives Jesus’ defense to his claim that he is equal with God. He gives life to whomever he wishes. He has been given authority to judge in the final judgment. Only God can give life to whomever he wishes. God alone is the judge of all the earth. He will separate out the sheep from the goats. Near the end of the book, Thomas gave the strongest confession of who Jesus is when he said “my Lord and my God.”

What have you learned from the Gospel of John? What great truths have you been reminded of? What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about God’s work in his sheep?

The Gospel of John is like a court case where John has laid out convincing evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. His challenge to everyone who reads this book is, “Do you believe?”

John 1-21 – Review (Part 2)

In 6:67-68, when Jesus asked the disciples if they also wanted to go away, Peter said “Lord, to whom shall we go?” “You have the words of eternal life.” The Gospel of John talks about eternal life, inheriting the Kingdom of God and being children of God. In 1:12-13 we learned that the children of God are those who believe and receive Jesus. They are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

In chapter 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born from above in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus used terms of physical life in order to communicate truths about eternal life. Just as someone is born physically, so someone needs to be born spiritually in order to have eternal life. This birth has a divine origin. It is spiritual and from above.

In chapter 4, just as water sustains our physical life, Jesus spoke about the living water which he could give. This living water lasted forever. Jesus is the source and sustainer of our eternal life.

In chapter 5, just as the sick man looked for healing in the wrong place, the Pharisees were looking for eternal life in the wrong place. Jesus healed the man who was sick for 38 years. The pool played no part in the man’s healing. The Pharisees were looking for eternal life by trying to obey all the laws of the Old Testament. Jesus said “you search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life and it is they that bear witness to me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (5:39-40) The Pharisees, and all people, can only receive eternal life through Jesus. There is no other way. Trying to be “good” doesn’t work!

In chapter 6, just as bread sustains our physical life, Jesus said that he is the bread of life. He is the source and sustainer of spiritual life. There is no eternal life apart from Jesus. In verse 37 we learned that God gives certain people to his Son. These people, given to Jesus by the Father, all come to Jesus. Jesus receives all the people whom the Father has given to him and he loses none of them. He raises them all at the last day.

In chapter 7, Jesus invited the thirsty to come to him and drink. Verse 38 says, “whoever believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John explained that Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. All who believe in Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit as John the Baptist had said earlier and as Jesus later told his disciples at the Last Supper.

In chapter 8, Jesus said that he is the Light of the World. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. Just as we need light to live our lives, so Jesus is our spiritual Light to keep us from walking in the darkness of this world. Jesus backed up this claim when he gave sight to the man born blind in chapter 9.

In chapter 10, Jesus explained the close relationship that he has with those who believe in him. By using the figure of a shepherd and his sheep, he said that he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. His sheep know his voice and they follow him. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Because Jesus died, we have eternal life.

In chapter 11, Jesus said that he is the resurrection and the life. To verify his words, he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days. This also verified his statement that he can give life to whomever he wishes.

In John 14:6, Jesus said that he is the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through him. There are NOT many ways to God. Apart from Jesus Christ, there is no eternal life. There is no relationship with the Father. There is no entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Praise be to God for his marvelous gift of grace. Jesus truly was full of grace and truth.