

The Sign Language of John

Chapter 7

Audio Lesson: New Testament #25



Objective: To introduce the Gospel of John and understand its major themes and purposes.



Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

—John 20:30, 31

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:12-14

The Gospel of John is the favorite gospel of millions of people because of how God has used it to bring them to faith in Jesus and to show them who He really is. It is unique in many ways; its purposes, its literary style, and its content are different from those in the other gospels. The author—the beloved disciple named John—used the language of signs and images, giving us portraits of Jesus not found in the other gospels.

To understand John's gospel, we need to realize that although it was written to strengthen and educate believers, it was also specifically addressed to those who do not believe in order to bring them to faith. John presents a theological argument about Jesus and answers basic questions about who Jesus is and why He came. John records many signs or miracles that encourage and strengthen faith and prove that Jesus is God's Son. He also presents many beautiful portraits of Jesus. One can read the Gospel of John at a surface level and learn much about Jesus, but the gospel is also written at a deeper level that one can explore for a lifetime and still not fully comprehend.

Notice as we study the Gospel of John that he answers three questions: Who is Jesus; What is faith; and What is life? As you read, look for John's answers to these questions in each chapter.

1. True or false? The Gospel of John is very similar to the other three gospels and includes many of the same stories.
2. True or false? In addition to his gospel, John also wrote the book of the Revelation and three New Testament letters.
3. True or false? The Gospel of John was written later than the other three gospels were.



4. True or false? John wrote his gospel exclusively to believers, not to unbelievers.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did John include many “signs” or miracle stories in his gospel?
- To prove that Jesus is God’s Son and encourage people to believe in Him
 - To make his story more exciting
 - To show that true believers will always experience miracles if they have enough faith
 - To get people to read his gospel more than the other gospels
6. In what ways is the Gospel of John unique? (*choose all that apply*)
- It has a systematic argument.
 - It is written both to believers and unbelievers.
 - It gives many more details about Jesus’ birth and childhood years.
 - It is written at two levels—an easily understood surface level, and a deeper level with profound messages.
 - It focuses on Jesus’ appearances to the disciples and the early church after His resurrection.
 - Most of its content is not found in the other gospels.
7. What major questions does the Gospel of John seek to answer? (*choose all that apply*)
- How did Jesus fulfill prophecy?
 - Who is Jesus?
 - When will Jesus come again?
 - What was the early church like?
 - What is faith?
 - What is life?

8. Which of the following portraits of Jesus are found in the Gospel of John? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Living water
- b. A harsh judge
- c. The good shepherd
- d. A burning bush
- e. The light of the world
- f. The bread of life
- g. The resurrection and the life
- h. The vine
- i. The lamb of God
- j. A mighty fortress
- k. A servant
- l. A high priest
- m. A kernel of wheat

9. What does John call Jesus in the first chapter of his gospel?

- a. A brilliant thinker
- b. The Word of God in the flesh
- c. A great teacher
- d. A great spiritual leader

10. The first chapter also tells us what other things about when Jesus came? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. The Jewish people rejected Jesus
- b. Jesus gave authority for anyone to receive him
- c. All who receive Jesus will be healed
- d. All who believe and receive Jesus are born again



How did many of the Jewish people respond to Jesus? How does Jesus want you to respond to Him? What step of faith can you take right now to move toward Jesus and demonstrate trust in Him?



Thank God for giving us this book that tells us everything we need to believe in Jesus, very God made flesh, and that through trusting in Him we have eternal life. Ask Him to show you what abundant life truly means and to lead you into deeper faith as you study the Gospel of John.



Going Deeper

1. According to the last two verses of the 20th chapter, why did John share so many signs with us? _____

2. In what way is John's gospel directed to the unbeliever? _____

3. What is a "sign," and what does the last verse of John's Gospel tell us about the number of signs Jesus gave us? _____

4. According to his first 18 verses, what does John clearly let us know he is going to tell us in his Gospel? _____

5. What does John mean when he tells us that the Word was in the beginning, the Word was God, the Word created everything, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us so we could see His glory? _____

6. What does John mean when he tells us that those who received Him, even those who believed in Him, were born of God? _____

7. When John writes of those who "received Him" in the right way, does he mean that when Jesus was here in a body people bowed their heads and asked Him to come into their hearts? Explain. _____
