

Worksheet 1: Overview of John's Gospel

Background: You may want to consult a study Bible or Bible dictionary for help with these questions.

1. Who is the human author of this book? What do we learn about him from the references to the “disciple whom Jesus loved” in the book (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24)?

2. Describe the kinds of people who comprise the intended audience for John's gospel. How does this gospel seem to differ from Matthew, Mark, and Luke in this regard?

Major Themes: Based on the references given below, try to draw some preliminary conclusions about the message and emphasis of this book.

3. Consider the purpose statement for John's gospel (John 20:30–31). How would you restate verse 31 as a theme statement for the book?

4. A major emphasis in John's gospel is on Jesus' miraculous works, which are called “signs.” Review the seven signs in John's gospel (see the outline on the back side for references), and describe their significance.

5. Throughout the book, Jesus makes statements beginning with the phrase “I am” (6:35, 48, 51; 8:12; 9:5; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). Taken together, how do these statements contribute to John's theme?

Personal Response: Reflect on the opportunity to study this book with your Sunday School class.

6. What topics from the text are you excited about discussing together?

7. What are some of your favorite verses or passages in this book?

8. What questions do you have about this book?

Outline of John's Gospel¹

Schedule for Bible Study

- I. INTRODUCTION: THE WORD MADE FLESH (1:1-18)
- II. THE BOOK OF SIGNS: THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH (1:19-12:50)
 - A. *The Forerunner and the Coming of the Messiah (1:19-51)*
 - 1. The Testimony of John the Baptist (1:19-34)
 - 2. The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (1:35-51)
 - B. *The Cana Cycle: Jesus' Inaugural Signs and Representative Conversations (2:1-4:54)*
 - 1. Sign 1: Changing Water into Wine at the Wedding in Cana (2:1-12)
 - 2. Sign 2: One of Jesus' Jerusalem Signs: The Clearing of the Temple (2:13-22)
 - 3. Representative Conversations: Nicodemus the Jewish Ruler, the Samaritan Woman (2:23-4:42)
 - 4. Sign 3: The Second Sign in Cana: The Healing of the Royal Official's Son (4:43-54)
 - C. *The Festival Cycle: Additional Signs amidst Mounting Unbelief (5-10)*
 - 1. Sign 4 at an Unnamed Feast in Jerusalem: The Healing of the Lame Man (5:1-47)
 - 2. Sign 5: Galilean Passover: Feeding the Multitude and Bread of Life Discourse (6:1-71)
 - 3. Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (7:1-8:59)
 - 4. Sign 6: The Healing of the Blind Man and the Good Shepherd Discourse (9-10)
 - D. *Final Passover: Climactic Sign, the Raising of Lazarus, and Other Events (11-12)*
 - 1. Sign 7: Tie Raising of Lazarus (11)
 - 2. Final Events of Jesus' Public Ministry (12)
- III. THE BOOK OF EXALTATION: PREPARING THE NEW MESSIANIC COMMUNITY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS (13-20)
 - A. *The Cleansing and Instruction of the New Covenant Community, including Jesus' Final Prayer (13-17)*
 - 1. Cleansing the Community (13:1-30)
 - 2. The Farewell Discourse (13:31-16:33)
 - 3. Jesus' Parting Prayer (17)
 - B. *The Passion Narrative (18-19)*
 - 1. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (18:1-11)
 - 2. Jesus Questioned by the High Priest and Denied by Peter (18:12-27)
 - 3. Jesus Before Pilate (18:28-19:16a)
 - 4. Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial (19:16b-42)
 - C. *Jesus' Resurrection and Appearances, Commissioning of Disciples (20:1-29)*
 - 1. The Empty Tomb (20:1-10)
 - 2. Jesus' Encounter with Mary Magdalene (20:11-18)
 - 3. Jesus' First Appearance, to His Disciples (20:19-23)
 - 4. Jesus' Second Appearance, to Thomas (20:24-29)
 - D. *Concluding Purpose Statement (20:30-31)*
- IV. EPILOGUE: THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PETER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE (21)
 - A. *Jesus' Third Appearance, to Seven Disciples in Galilee (21:1-14)*
 - B. *Jesus and Peter (21:15-19)*
 - C. *Jesus and the Disciple Jesus Loved (21:20-25)*

Nov 16	Overview of John
Nov 23	John 1
Nov 30	John 2
Dec 7	John 3
Dec 14	John 4
Dec 21	No Sunday School
Dec 28	No Sunday School
Jan 4	John 5
Jan 11	John 6:1-21
Jan 18	John 6:22-71
Jan 25	John 7
Feb 1	John 8
Feb 8	John 9
Feb 15	John 10
Feb 22	John 11
Mar 1	No Sunday School (Anniversary Sunday)
Mar 8	John 12
Mar 15	John 13
Mar 22	John 14
Mar 29	John 15
Apr 5	John 16
Apr 12	John 17
Apr 19	John 18
Apr 26	John 19
May 3	John 20
May 10	John 21
May 17	Teacher's Choice

¹ Adapted from Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 307-308.