**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)? **p. 296**
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? **pp. 301–304**

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

1. 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? **p. 304**
2. 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. **Table 7.3, p. 312**
3. 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? **Table 7.1, p. 306**

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

1. What topics from the text are you excited about discussing together?
2. What are some of your favorite verses or passages in this book?
3. What questions do you have about this book?

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| **Outline of John’s Gospel[[1]](#footnote-1)**   1. INTRODUCTION: THE WORD MADE FLESH (1:1-18) 2. THE BOOK OF SIGNS: THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH (1:19-12:50) 3. *The Forerunner and the Coming of the Messiah (1:19-51)* 4. The Testimony of John the Baptist (1:19-34) 5. The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry (1:35-51) 6. *The Cana Cycle: Jesus’ Inaugural Signs and Representative Conversations (2:1-4:54)* 7. Sign 1: Changing Water into Wine at the Wedding in Cana (2:1-12) 8. Sign 2: One of Jesus’ Jerusalem Signs: The Clearing of the Temple (2:13-22) 9. Representative Conversations: Nicodemus the Jewish Ruler, the Samaritan Woman (2:23-4:42) 10. Sign 3: The Second Sign in Cana: The Healing of the Royal Official’s Son (4:43-54) 11. *The Festival Cycle: Additional Signs amidst Mounting Unbelief (5-10)* 12. Sign 4 at an Unnamed Feast in Jerusalem: The Healing of the Lame Man (5:1-47) 13. Sign 5: Galilean Passover: Feeding the Multitude and Bread of Life Discourse (6:1-71) 14. Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (7:1-8:59) 15. Sign 6: The Healing of the Blind Man and the Good Shepherd Discourse (9-10) 16. *Final Passover: Climactic Sign, the Raising of Lazarus, and Other Events (11-12)* 17. Sign 7: The Raising of Lazarus (11) 18. Final Events of Jesus’ Public Ministry (12) 19. THE BOOK OF EXALTATION: PREPARING THE NEW MESSIANIC COMMUNITY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS (13-20) 20. *The Cleansing and Instruction of the New Covenant Community, including Jesus’ Final Prayer (13-17)* 21. Cleansing the Community (13:1-30) 22. The Farewell Discourse (13:31-16:33) 23. Jesus’ Parting Prayer (17) 24. *The Passion Narrative (18-19)* 25. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (18:1-11) 26. Jesus Questioned by the High Priest and Denied by Peter (18:12-27) 27. Jesus Before Pilate (18:28-19:16a) 28. Jesus’ Crucifixion and Burial (19:16b—42) 29. *Jesus’ Resurrection and Appearances, Commissioning of Disciples (20:1-29)* 30. The Empty Tomb (20:1-10) 31. Jesus’ Encounter with Mary Magdalene (20:11-18) 32. Jesus’ First Appearance, to His Disciples (20:19-23) 33. Jesus’ Second Appearance, to Thomas (20:24-29) 34. *Concluding Purpose Statement (20:30-31)* 35. EPILOGUE: THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PETER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE (21) 36. *Jesus’ Third Appearance, to Seven Disciples in Galilee (21:1-14)* 37. *Jesus and Peter (21:15-19)* 38. *Jesus and the Disciple Jesus Loved (21:20-25)* | **Schedule for Bible Study**  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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)