

How to Use and Teach "People Who Knew Jesus"

The Bible study series, People Who Knew Jesus, has been used very successfully. Several reasons for this success: Each lesson is based on a true life story from the Bible; the student is lead to discover truths for himself; gospel invitations are given at the end of lessons five and six but are given in such a way the person is challenged to receive Christ but is not forced to say "yes" or "no" to Christ at that time.

HOW TO TEACH OTHERS: *The secret to teaching these lessons is to lead the students to discover the truth for themselves. A student is asked to read the first paragraph of the study, then another to read the second, a third to read John 1:6-7 which is printed in the study. The next person is asked to read question one with its three choices. Then, the teacher says, "Please mark your answer while I read for you again the verse." After the verse is read, the teacher asks the person who read aloud the question, "What is your answer?" Each student is asked to read their answer. The teacher will ask, "Are we all in agreement?" The teacher does not tell them that their answer is right or wrong but goes to the next verse.*

What if a person gives the wrong answer? The teacher doesn't act surprised or say in any way that the answer is wrong. Have each student to read their answer. The teacher says, "This is interesting. We have a difference of opinion. Let's read the verse again and you decide as a group which answer is the best and why you think so. The group will correct the person who made the mistake. This tells them that the group is the authority and not the teacher.

The order is always the following: (1) a student reads the verse aloud, (2) a second student reads the question and possible answers, (3) the teacher asks the students to mark their answer as he or she reads again the verse, (4) students read their answers, which are usually the same. Then the group goes to the next verse.

Sometimes, a student will not read their answer but will say, "The same." When that happens the teacher should say, "Thank you, but please read your answer."

The teacher does not do a lot of talking or explaining. They are to simply lead the group through the verses and questions. The wiser we are, the more we will encourage our students to make these discoveries. When they have really important questions, they will listen to us with great respect when we try to answer them in simple and unassuming ways.

If there are people who have difficulty reading, we do not ask them to read, but we may ask them to take part in answering the questions, especially those that are brief and usually after one or two others have read their answer.



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6. Mark the right answers.

- ☐ Mary could not believe that it was Jesus who was speaking to her.
- ☐ Jesus now refers to his followers as “my brothers.”
- ☐ Jesus asked Mary to take the good news to the disciples.

John 20:19-20. *It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord.*

7. Discussion: How did Jesus finally prove to his disciples that He had truly risen from the dead?

John 20:21. *Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.”*

8. Jesus now commissioned his followers, saying, “As the Father sent me, so _____.”

John 20:24-25. *One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

9. Thomas said that he:

- ☐ could not believe, unless he himself could see and touch the body of Jesus.
- ☐ believed everything the disciples told him about Jesus’ resurrection.

John 20:26-27. *A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!”*

10. Your opinions: Why did Jesus return: to condemn Thomas for his lack of faith or to help Thomas to believe? Why do you think so?

John 20:28. *Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”*

11. Then, Thomas:

- ☐ asked to examine Jesus’ wounds.
- ☐ confessed Jesus as his King and God.

John 20:29. *Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”*

12. Discussion: For whom did Jesus promise a special blessing?

John 20:30-31. *In his disciples’ presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.*

13. The book of John is written in order that:

- ☐ we might be better philosophers.
- ☐ we might have eternal life, trusting only in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

FINAL EVALUATION:

Mark the phrases that best express your personal feelings.

- ☐ The studies of the book of John have helped me with my faith in Jesus Christ.
- ☐ I ask God to give me more faith, until the moment when I can give my life to Jesus.
- ☐ Even before these studies, I trusted Jesus as my one and only Savior.
- ☐ As a result of the study, I give my life to Jesus Christ, trusting Him alone for my salvation.

John 1:24-28. *Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you don't know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany, on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

8. How does John compare himself to Jesus?

- ☐ He said he was superior to Jesus.
- ☐ He said he was very inferior to Jesus.

John 1:29. *The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

9. John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God" because Jesus is the only one who _____.

10. Discussion: What did Jesus do to take away sin? What motivated Him to do so? Why call Him "Lamb"?

John 1:30-31. *This is the one I was talking about when I said, "A man is coming after me, but He is greater than I am, because He existed before I was born."*

11. Discussion: John the Baptist was older than Jesus. Why did John say that Jesus existed before him?

John 1:32-33. *And John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on Him. I still did not know that He was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, "You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."*

12. John baptized with:

- ☐ water.
- ☐ the Holy Spirit.

13. Jesus baptizes all who believe in Him with:

- ☐ water.
- ☐ the Holy Spirit.

John 1:34. *"I have seen it," said John, "and I tell you He is the Son of God."*

14. John declared the following about Jesus:

- ☐ Jesus is a false prophet.
- ☐ Jesus is the Son of God.

Did you find this first Bible study to be difficult? We hope not. If you desire to complete the remaining five lessons, you will be awarded an attractive Certificate of Study. We hope that you find the studies to be both interesting and of value. Write your name and address on the back cover.

John 3:16. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

8. Mark the right answers:

- ☐ Christ came because God loves us.
- ☐ God “gave his only Son” as the sacrifice for our sins.
- ☐ We are saved by being religious or good.
- ☐ We are saved by trusting in Jesus, giving our lives to Him.
- ☐ Whoever believes in Jesus will not die eternally.

John 3:17. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior.

9. Why did God send His Son into the world?

- ☐ In order to condemn the sinful world
- ☐ In order to save the world from sin

John 3:18. Whoever believes in the Son is not judged; but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in God’s only Son.

10. Discussion: How does one avoid the rightful judgment of God? Are all people saved? Who are those who are condemned by God?

11. Opinions: The kind of faith that brings eternal life is:

- ☐ to trust with all your heart, surrendering your life to Christ.
- ☐ simply to believe that Jesus is God’s Son.

John 3:36. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not have life, but will remain under God’s punishment.

12. Mark the correct answers:

- ☐ He who has given himself to Jesus in faith has already been saved.
- ☐ Whoever does not believe will receive eternal punishment.
- ☐ Jesus promised that if we do not believe now, we will have another opportunity after we die.
- ☐ People who haven’t given their lives to Jesus will experience God’s wrath.

Personal Evaluation:

Mark the phrases that best express your personal feelings.

- ☐ Like Nicodemus, I am surprised by Jesus’ teachings on how to receive eternal life.
- ☐ I still have many doubts about Jesus.
- ☐ I am beginning to understand that salvation comes from complete trust in Jesus.
- ☐ I understand that I have to trust my life to Jesus, but I lack will or faith to do so.
- ☐ I believe Christ died for me, and I receive Him once and forever as my Lord and Savior.
- ☐ I have already accepted Jesus and I give thanks for the eternal life He has given me.

7. Jesus said that true worship can only be done:

- ☐ in the Holy Spirit's power.
- ☐ only in special places, like the temple in Jerusalem.

John 4:25. *The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."*

8. What did the woman expect from the Messiah when He arrived?

John 4:26. *Jesus answered, "I am He, I who am talking with you."*

9. Did Jesus confess to her openly that He is the Messiah, the Savior?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

John 4:27-29. *At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked Him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then, the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could He be the Messiah?"*

10. What did the woman do after she met the Lord Jesus?

- ☐ She said that Jesus was a false prophet.
- ☐ She testified that Jesus was the Messiah.

John 4:39. *Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I have ever done."*

11. Did many of the Samaritans in that town believe because of the woman's testimony? Why?

John 4:40-41. *So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message.*

12. Finally, how many believed in Jesus?

- ☐ few
- ☐ many more
- ☐ some

John 4:42. *...and they told the woman, "We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know he really is the Savior of the world."*

13. The Samaritans finally declared that Jesus "really is _____."

14. What is your opinion about the following: Do you believe that the Samaritan woman repented of her sinful life? Do you believe she received "eternal life," the spiritual life from Jesus Christ? Do you think that the Samaritan town became happier or sadder because of Jesus coming?

7. The man who had been blind said that he knew only one thing:

- ☐ he knew all about Jesus Christ.
- ☐ he knew that his life had been changed by Christ.

Personal Testimonies: Among those who are students or teachers: Has Jesus made any real change in your life? If so, share what happened.

John 9:28. *They insulted him and said, "You are that fellow's disciple; but we are Moses' disciples."*

8. In order to insult the healed man, the religious leaders said that the man was:

- ☐ a liar and a thief.
- ☐ a follower, or disciple, of Jesus.

John 9:29-33. *"We know that God spoke to Moses; as for that fellow, however, we do not even know where he comes from!" The man answered, "What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness! We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing."*

9. The healed man said that:

- ☐ Jesus was a deceiver.
- ☐ God only listens to those who love Him and do His will.
- ☐ Jesus must have come from God.

John 9:34. *They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin ----- and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue.*

10. Discussion: At last, what did the religious leaders do with the man?

John 9:35. *When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

11. After this, Jesus:

- ☐ was no longer interested in the man.
- ☐ personally looked for the man.

John 9:36. *The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in Him!"*

12. The healed man:

- ☐ was already convinced that Jesus was the Messiah.
- ☐ was not sure if He was the Son of God, but he trusted Him.

John 9:37. *Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now."*

13. Opinions: What did Jesus say about Himself to the man? Why did Jesus reveal Himself so clearly to this man, but did not do so to the religious leaders?

John 9:38. *"I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus."*

14. Finally, the healed man:

- ☐ worshiped Jesus.
- ☐ doubted Jesus.
- ☐ confessed his complete faith in Jesus as the divine Savior and as his own personal Lord.

John 6:28-31. *So they asked him, "What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?" Jesus answered, "What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent." They replied, "What miracle will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, just as the Scripture says, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

7. Your Opinions: What did the crowd want most: another miracle so they would believe in Jesus or some more free bread? What does God most want us to do?

John 6:35. *"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

8. Opinions: What was Jesus trying to say when He told the people that He was "the Bread of Life?"

John 6:40. *"For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life. And I will raise them to life on the last day."*

9. According to Jesus, it is God's will that all who believe in Jesus, who trust only in Him and in nothing else, should have _____.

John 6:41. *The people started grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."*

10. How did the people respond?

- ☐ They criticized Jesus, because He offered Himself as bread from Heaven instead of giving them more bread to eat.
- ☐ They confessed their faith in Jesus as their one Lord and Savior.

John 6:67-68. *So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you ---- would you also like to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life."*

11. Simon Peter said that:

- ☐ they would no longer follow Jesus.
- ☐ Jesus is the only person who offers eternal life.

John 6:69. *And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God.*

12. Discussion: What did Peter finally say about Jesus Christ?

13. In your opinion, what differences were there between the crowd and those who were real followers of Jesus, regarding:

- ☐ what they wanted from Jesus.
- ☐ their love for Jesus.
- ☐ their faithfulness to follow Jesus.