

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

John

PART 1

THE WORD BECAME FLESH
(CHAPTERS 1–11)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

JOHN
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THE WORD BECAME FLESH
(CHAPTERS 1-11)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Greek Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

TASKER, R. V. G.

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: John

Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1960

TENNEY, MERRILL C.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995

BORCHERT, GERALD

The New American Commentary: Vol. 25A—John 1–11

Nashville, Tennessee: B&H Publishing Group, 1996

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheet of John 1
“John 1–11 at a Glance”
“Jesus”
Word studies
Cross-references

“And the Word became flesh . . . and we saw His glory . . .” (John 1:14). The prayer for this first lesson on the Gospel of John is that Christ will become more real to us as we behold His glory and in beholding His glory that we may believe and in believing that we may do the works that He did and even greater. For the next nine weeks we will saturate our minds and our hearts with the inerrant truths of John.

Let’s begin!

DAY
ONE

1. First, you need to develop the habit of praying for understanding before you begin to study. So ask the Lord for what you need to know, understand, and apply from your study.
2. Now let’s begin our study by looking at the author and purpose of the Gospel of John—why God had the author write it.
 - a. First, we’ll observe why the Gospel of John was written. Read John 20:30-31 and record below what you learn about the author’s purpose.

- b. Since the author of this Gospel doesn't give his name, let's see what he says about himself in the book. Read John 21:20-25 and list below how he identifies himself, along with any insights you want to remember about him.

 - c. In the Appendix of this workbook you'll find "John 1-11 at a Glance." Record the Author and Purpose in the appropriate spaces. Then keep this chart out to use again in this lesson.
3. We know why the Gospel of John was written, so let's begin with chapter 1 to study it.
- a. Begin by reading John 1:14, 17. Who is the Word?

 - b. Now read John 1:1-18, marking references to Jesus.*

An asterisk [*] indicates a suggested marking on the Key Word Bookmark, which you'll find on the back cover of this workbook.
 - c. List what the text says about Him on the "Jesus" pages in the Appendix.
4. Before going further, let's make a bookmark to use throughout our study.
- Cut out the Key Word Bookmark mentioned above, and on the blank side write the words listed below and mark them the way you'll mark them throughout the Gospel of John. Use symbols and/or colors.
- a. time references,* such as *in the beginning* and *after*
 - b. *believe**
 - c. *life* (see *eternal life**)
 - d. *witness, testify*

As we continue our study, there will be other key repeated words and phrases to mark in John. Add them to your list on the bookmark when instructed.

5. Observe John 1:1-18 by marking the words you listed on the Key Word Bookmark, along with other key repeated words you see in those verses.
6. How do verses 1-18 fit with John's purpose for writing?

O Beloved, do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Do you have life in His name? Are there people in your life who don't believe?

Before you continue, stop and pray. If you believe, pray that God will use this book to prepare you to share with those you know who don't believe. If you don't believe, ask God to show you truth. His Word is life!

7. You may have noticed that some verse numbers are bold. In the *New American Standard Bible*, this is the way the translators show paragraph divisions.

Read verses 1-18 again paragraph by paragraph. Below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet, summarize each paragraph using a few words from the text.

- a. 1-5
- b. 6-8
- c. 9-13
- d. 14-18

8. Finally, use a few words from the text to summarize what verses 1-18 are about. Record this theme under “Chapter Themes” on “John 1–11 at a Glance.” You can do this in pencil in case you want to adjust your theme later.

As you finish today’s assignments, bow before the Father and thank Him for Jesus—the Word, the Light, the glory of the Father. Worship Him!

DAY
TWO

1. Remember to begin today with prayer and then we’ll look more at John 1:1-18.
2. Read John 1:1, 14, and let’s get a better understanding of “Word.” Use word study tools to look up the Greek word translated “Word.” Record the English transliteration¹ and definition.

For assistance in doing word studies, read the chapter entitled “It’s All Greek to Me!” and “How to Use Word Study Tools” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

3. Now look at Hebrews 1:1-3. Why do you think Jesus is referred to as “the Word”?

¹ The transliteration of a Greek word is that word written out in English letters.

-
4. John 1:1 says, “the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:14 says “the Word became flesh,” and 1:18 speaks of “the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father.” Check out the following cross-references and then ask yourself if you believe Jesus is God.
- a. John 10:30-33

 - b. Philippians 2:6-11

 - c. Colossians 2:9
5. You observed that Jesus, the Word, created all things. Read the following passages and compare them with John 1:1-3, 10. Note your insights:
- a. Genesis 1:1-2, 26—The Hebrew word for “God” in these verses transliterated into English is *Elohim*. The *im* ending is plural in Hebrew. In agreement with this plural, verse 26 uses the plural pronouns “Us” and “Our.”

 - b. Colossians 1:13-17

- c. Hebrews 1:1-3 (We know you just read this, but we're looking at another aspect.)
- d. Hebrews 1:8, 10
- e. 1 Corinthians 8:6

Why do you exist? Who are you living for?

DAY
THREE

1. Today we continue our study of John 1. So after prayer read John 1:1-18 again.
2. Mark *Light* in verses 4-9. List what these verses say about the *Light*.
3. Why do you think Jesus, the Word, is also referred to as “the Light”?

4. Now, we're going to move on to examine verses 11-13 more closely. (Next week we'll look more at the John named in verses 6-8 and 15.) What do you learn about the Word—Jesus, God's Son—in verses 11-13? What's the contrast?

5. At this point in your study, do you have an idea of who "His own" refers to in verse 11? If not, look for a possible answer as you continue to study John.

6. What happens to those who receive, believe in His name?

7. Compare the following references with John 1:11-13.
 - a. Galatians 3:26

 - b. Philippians 2:14-16

 - c. 1 John 3:1

8. According to John 21:24, the author testified to the truth of the things in this book.
 - a. Compare John 21:24 with John 1:14.

 - b. Did God become flesh, a man? How do you know?

 - c. John the apostle also wrote the letter 1 John. What does 1 John 1:1-3 say?

9. Finally, we want to look at how the Word became flesh. Read Matthew 1:1, 18-25 and note what you learn.

Press on, Beloved! God wrote this for you to know who His Son is and believe in Him. Finish the course!

DAY
FOUR
AND
DAY
FIVE

We observed in John 1:1-18 that John testified about Jesus.

1. After prayer, read John 1:1, 14-15.
2. Look up the Greek word translated “only begotten.” How does this help you understand what verse 14 means?

8. How has studying what John 1:1-18 says about His only begotten Son helped you understand the Father? Read these verses again carefully and note any insights.

9. Now for some application questions from verses 1-18. Spend time with the Father seeking answers to these questions.
 - a. Do you know the only begotten of the Father, the Word who became flesh? Have you received Him? Believed in His name? How do you know?

 - b. According to verses 6-7, the Father sent John to testify. Are you testifying the truth about Jesus so others can believe? How?

 - c. Ask the Father how you can explain Him by presenting Jesus to people.

d. How relevant is grace to your life? How do you show grace to others?

10. It's always a good idea to check out what other godly people have discovered in their study of God's Word. But do this after you have done your own study. You can now read what commentaries say about the author and the purpose in the introductory remarks and what they say about the first eighteen verses of the Gospel of John. You might want to record any insights that help you better understand John 1:1-18.

How we thank God for each and every one of you taking this course. You are enabling us to fulfill 2 Timothy 2:2 as we commit to you faithful men and women the things which God has taught us.

JOHN 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.
- 8 He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.
- 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
- 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.
- 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,
- 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ”
- 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.
- 19** This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”
- 20 And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”
- 21 They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”
- 22 Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?”
- 23 He said, “I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”
- 24** Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
- 25 They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”
- 26 John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know.
- 27 “*It is* He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”
- 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.
- 29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
- 30 “This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ”

- 31 “I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel,
I came baptizing in water.”
- 32 John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out
of heaven, and He remained upon Him.
- 33 “I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said
to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining
upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’
- 34 “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”
- 35** Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of
God!”
- 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
- 38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do
you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means
Teacher), where are You staying?”
- 39 He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw
where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was
about the tenth hour.
- 40 One of the two who heard John *speak* and followed Him, was Andrew,
Simon Peter’s brother.
- 41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found
the Messiah” (which translated means Christ).
- 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are
Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is
translated Peter).
- 43** The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip.
And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.”
- 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.
- 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of
whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of
Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

- 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”
Philip said to him, “Come and see.”
- 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an
Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”
- 48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and
said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig
tree, I saw you.”
- 49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are
the King of Israel.”
- 50 Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you
under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than
these.”
- 51 And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the
heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on
the Son of Man.”

JOHN 1-11 AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

| | | Segment Divisions | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|
| | | Signs | "I am" | Ministry to |
| Author | Chapter Themes | | | |
| | 1:1-18 | | | |
| When written | 1:19-51 | | | |
| | 2 | | | |
| Purpose | 3 | | | |
| | 4 | | | |
| Key Words | 5 | | | |
| | 6 | | | |
| | 7 | | | |
| | 8 | | | |
| | 9 | | | |
| | 10 | | | |
| | 11 | | | |

JESUS

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John Part 1
Jesus