

John Part 1

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John Part 1 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- John 1:1-18
- Description of Jesus

An easy way to begin your discussion is to ask why the Gospel of John was written and what was the author's purpose?

John 20:30-31

Jesus performed / did many signs that the disciples saw, but the specific ones in John are written so that people believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and by believing they have life in His name.

What did the author say about himself?

John 21:20-25

Peter saw the disciple whom Jesus loved, the author. He was the one who had leaned back on Jesus' bosom (ESV—against Jesus) at the supper and asked who would betray Him.

In verse 24, the author said he is the disciple Peter spoke about. His testimony, and what he wrote is true.

Which disciple do commentaries and most people think wrote this gospel?

John

Tell your group to look at both the text of John 1:1-18 and their list on Jesus from the Appendix as visual aids for this discussion.

JOHN 1:1-18

Verses 1-5

How did the author begin this gospel? What do the first two verses say?

The Word was
in the beginning
with God
God

According to verses 14 and 17, who is the Word?

Jesus

Ask what your group learned about Jesus the Word from the word study and cross-reference in Hebrews.

logos—"of speech. 1A a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea. 1B what someone has said. 1B1 a word. 1B2 the sayings of God"¹

Hebrews 1:1-3

God spoke to us in His Son. He's the Word.

Jesus is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation / imprint of His nature.

Lead the discussion back to John 1.

What does verse 3 say about the Word? And ask about relevant cross-references.

He made all things, brought them into being.

Genesis 1:1-2, 26

God, plural—Elohim—created the heavens and the earth.

Father, Son, and Spirit working at creation

Verse 26 also uses the plural for the pronouns, Us and Our.

Colossians 1:13-17

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

By Him all things were created in the heavens and on earth

visible and invisible

whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—

created through Him and for Him.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God appointed His Son heir of all things and made / created the world through Him.

Hebrews 1:8-10

God said Jesus the Son is God. In the beginning, He laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the works / work of His hands

1 Corinthians 8:6

The Lord, Jesus Christ by / through whom are all things, and people exist through Him.

¹James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G3056.

Now, lead the discussion back to their list on Jesus in John 1:4-5, and ask what your group had on their list about Jesus.

Life is in Him, and that life is the light of men.
The light shone and darkness didn't comprehend it (ESV—has not overcome it).

Verses 6-8

Who is named in these verses, and what did he do?

God sent John to testify / bear witness about the light so men might believe.
John the Baptist

NOTE; Some in your group might think or say that this is John the author, but it's actually John the Baptist which will be studied in the next lesson.

You might ask your group why they think Jesus is called the Word and the Light. What do these two titles show about Him? What do they have to do with their lives? Others' lives?

Verses 9-13

How does verse 9 explain verses 4 and 5?

Jesus is the true light who came into the world, the darkness.
He was in the world which He made, and the world did not know Him.

Who and what are verses 11-13 about?

Not only did Jesus come into the world, but He came to His own, who didn't receive Him.

Ask your group who they think His own refers to.

The Jews

NOTE: Not everyone will have come to a conclusion at this point in their study, so encourage them that they'll see the answer clearly as they continue their study of John.

How do verses 12-13 contrast with verse 11?

Those who receive Him.
Become God's children
Believe in His name
Born of God
Not blood
Not will of flesh
Not will of man

What do the cross-references say about being children of God?

Galatians 3:26; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 John 3:1

Those who have faith in Christ Jesus are sons of God.

Those loved by God

All believers

Be lights in the world.

Verses 14-18

Lead the group back to John 1 and their list on Jesus.

What do these verses teach about Jesus? Ask about word studies and cross-references when relevant.

He became flesh and lived among men. He was the light that came into the darkness. He was in the world, came to His own.

Matthew 1:1, 18-25

Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 1:1-3

John the apostle heard, saw, looked at, and touched Jesus, the Word of Life.

Then he proclaimed what he'd seen and heard.

Again, it says that John testified / bore witness about Him. Jesus came after but existed / was before and has a higher rank (ESV—ranks before).

Luke 1:5-36

This identifies John as John the Baptist.

Jesus was born after John, but He existed before him.

Moses gave the Law; grace and truth were realized / came through Jesus.

grace, *charis*—"good will, loving-kindness, favour"²; "unearned and unmerited favor"³

Matthew 5:17-19

Jesus came to fulfill the Law, not abolish it

No part of the Law will pass from it until all is accomplished

²James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G5485.

³Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G5485.

He is the only one who has seen the Father—His only begotten Son / only Son in the Father’s bosom / at the Father’s side.

only begotten / only Son
monogenes—“**unique**, only, one and only, *i.e.*, one of a kind”⁴

John 10:30-33

Jesus said He and the Father are one.

The Jews understood that Jesus, being a man, made Himself out to be God (ESV—made Himself God).

Philippians 2:6-11

He existed / was in the form of God

Did not regard / count equality with God a thing to be grasped

Colossians 2:9

In Him all the / the whole fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

Looking more closely at verses 14-18, what do these verses say about God the Father?

The Father’s glory was seen in Jesus, full of grace and truth.

No one has seen God, but Jesus, who is in the Father’s bosom (ESV—at the Father’s side), explained Him.

Ask how your group answered the question in the lesson: How has studying what John 1:1-18 says about His only begotten Son / only Son helped them understand the Father? Give time for them to share.

How do verses 1-18 fit with the author’s purpose for writing?

Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts and ask what they noted as a possible chapter theme for John 1:1-18.

Jesus: Word made flesh; Creator; God; Light; Life

or

The Word became flesh

You might close your discussion by asking if those in your group have truly believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

⁴James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- John 1:19–2:25

REVIEW

You can begin your discussion by asking your group what they remember about the author of the Gospel of John. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

He was the disciple whom Jesus loved
The one who wrote these things, a true testimony

Why was the Gospel of John written? What was the author's purpose?

John 20:30-31

These signs were written so people believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing have life in His name.

How did the author begin this gospel? What are some of the main points from John 1:1-18?

Jesus was the Word in the beginning with God
He was God, the life, the Light.
John testified about Him so people would believe through that testimony / witness.
Jesus, the Word became flesh, but His own didn't receive Him.
Those who receive, believe in Jesus' name are given the right to be God's children.
Jesus, full of grace and truth, explained the Father.

JOHN 1:19-51

Have your group get out their map "Israel in the Time of Christ" from the Appendix. Each time a new place is mentioned, make sure they can find it on the map.

Verses 19-28

Who and what are these verses about?

This is John's testimony to priests and Levites sent from Jerusalem who asked John about who he was.

John said he was not the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet, but he referred to Isaiah to answer them. He was the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

John was baptizing in Bethany beyond / across the Jordan.

Ask your group what the cross-references say about this John.

Matthew 3:1-6

John the Baptist

Preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The one referred to / spoken of by Isaiah.

Garment of camel’s hair, leather belt

All Jerusalem, Judea, and district around / region about the Jordan going to Him
baptized as they confessed their sins

Mark 1:1-8

God’s messenger to prepare the way of the Lord

Appeared in the wilderness preaching / proclaiming a baptism of repentance for
forgiveness of sin

Said One is coming after him, mightier than him, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit

Why did the priests and Levites ask if John was Elijah or the Prophet? Ask what your group learned from the cross-references.

Malachi 4:5-6

God promised to send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible (ESV—before the great and awesome) day of the Lord to restore / turn the hearts of fathers and children to one another, so the Lord wouldn’t come and smite the land with a curse (ESV—strike the land with a decree of utter destruction).

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18

Moses said God would raise up a prophet like him from among Israel and they should listen to him. God would put His words in his mouth.

Lead your discussion back to John 1:24-28. What happened?

They wanted to know why John was baptizing since he was not the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet.

John said that he baptized with water, but One among them whom they don’t know:
comes after me
I’m not worthy to untie the thong / strap of His sandals.

Ask your group what application they can make for their lives from John the Baptist.

Verses 29-34

What happened in these verses and when?

The next day

John saw Jesus coming and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world!”

Compare verse 30 with verse 15.

This is the One John said:

Comes after him—Jesus born in the flesh after John

Has a higher rank / ranks before than John—Jesus is God

Existed / was before him—Jesus was in the beginning with God

What did John testify / bear witness about Jesus’ baptism?

John saw the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven; remained upon Jesus.

John didn’t recognize / know Jesus—maybe as the Christ, Messiah—but God who sent him to baptize said the One on whom he saw the Spirit descending and remaining is the One who baptizes in / with the Holy Spirit.

John testified / bore witness that this is the Son of God.

You might ask if there is anything to add from the cross-references in the other Gospels about Jesus’ baptism.

Verses 35-51

What is the timing and what happened?

The next day John pointed out Jesus, the Lamb of God to two of his disciples.
They heard and followed Jesus.

Ask about the definition of “disciple.”

“a learner, pupil”¹; “often . . . a believer and close follower”²

“means more in the NT than a mere pupil or learner. It is an adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct”³

¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G3101.

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G3101.

What does the text say about the two disciples, and who was one of them?

They went to where Jesus was staying and remained with Him that day.

One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

He told Simon, “We have found the Messiah,” and brought him to Jesus.
Jesus called Simon Cephas—Peter.

What happened the next day? Direct your group to their map.

Jesus purposed / decided to go into Galilee. He found Philip and called him to follow.

Philip then found Nathanael and said Jesus was the one Moses and the Prophets wrote about—the fulfillment of prophecies from the Old Testament.

When Jesus told Nathanael that He saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him, Nathanael’s response to Jesus was:

Rabbi
the Son of God
the King of Israel

Jesus told Nathanael he would see greater things—the heavens opened and angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

How do the cross-references in Matthew 4 and Mark 1 compare? Do they record the same or different events?

Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20

In John 1, John the Baptist pointed out Jesus and Andrew went to learn more. It seems that the verses in John 1 came first and the passages from Matthew and Mark were later.

Ask your group about application they can make for their lives from John 1:35-51.

Ask what they wrote on their At a Glance chart for a possible chapter theme for John 1:18-51.

John’s testimony / witness—Lamb of God; Jesus’ disciples

JOHN 2

Verses 1-11

What happened, when and where?

The third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee—Jesus’ first sign

Ask about the definition for “sign.”

“a miraculous event contrary to the usual course of nature and intended as a pointer or means of confirmation”⁴

What do verses 1-11 say about this sign?

Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding.
It manifested His glory.
His disciples believed in Him as a result.
Relate this to the author’s purpose for writing.

Verses 12-22

Where did Jesus go and why?

He, His mother and brothers, and His disciples went to Capernaum and stayed a few days.

Then Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Have your group look at “The Feasts of Israel” chart from the Appendix. Ask what they learned about Passover from the chart and the cross-references.

Deuteronomy 16:16

Three times a year Jewish males were to appear before the Lord.
One of those times was the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover.

Exodus 12:12-17

It was in remembrance of when they were slaves in Egypt. They were to kill a lamb and put blood on the doorpost so that the Lord would pass over their houses when He went through Egypt to strike down all the firstborn.

Christ our Passover (ESV—Passover Lamb) has been sacrificed (1 Corinthians 5:7).
Relate this to John 1:36—the Lamb of God.

Lead the discussion back to John 2:14-22. Have your group look at the “Map of Jerusalem.”
What happened?

Jesus found money changers in the temple and men selling oxen, sheep, and doves. He made a scourge of cords and ran them all out, men and animals. He turned over the money tables and cleaned house.

⁴ Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 348.

He said to stop making His Father’s house a house of merchandise. Jesus exercised His right as the Son of God to clear this business out of the Temple. It was to be a place of worship, not commerce. There is no mention of anyone trying to stop Him.

The disciples remembered from the Scripture, “Zeal for Your house will consume me,” another fulfillment of prophecy.

The Jews asked Jesus for a sign to show His authority. He responded with a sign of the prophecy of His resurrection. The Jews didn’t understand but thought He referred to the literal temple. They did not know the Scriptures or have a believing heart.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, the disciples remembered this prophecy and believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

How do these events compare with the cross-reference in Matthew? Are these the same event?

Matthew 21:1-13

The passage in Matthew happened near the end of Jesus’ life after He rode into Jerusalem on a colt. John 2 is at the beginning of His ministry.

Verses 23-25

What did you learn from these verses about Jesus?

While in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in His name, seeing the signs.

Jesus was able to see hearts and was not entrusting Himself to men because He knew what was in man.

Ask your group if they think this is the same kind of belief that John 20:30-31 refers to. Why or why not?

Also ask what they recorded on John at a Glance as a theme for John 2.

Water to wine; drove sellers and money changers out of temple

You might end your discussion by asking about any other application from John 1 and 2. If needed, refer your group to their notes at the end of the lesson.

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- John 3 and 4
- Jesus' witness to three people

REVIEW

To begin your discussion of this lesson, you can ask your group what they remember about the purpose for the Gospel of John and what they remember from John 1 and 2.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.
And also tell them to look at the map as a visual aid for discussing this lesson.

John's stated purpose for writing is in John 20:30-31.

He wrote about some specific signs Jesus did so that those who read might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believe result in eternal life.

He began the gospel by first describing that Jesus is God and He came to earth to explain the Father.

John the Baptist's testimony / witness about Jesus is included in the first chapters, and then the account of the first disciples to follow Jesus is also included.

JOHN 3

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin? Who and what happened?

Nicodemus, a Pharisee went to see Jesus at night. He knew Jesus was from God because of the signs.

What signs had Jesus performed so far in John?

John 2:11, 18, 23

He turned the water to wine and did other signs during Passover in Jerusalem.
Some were believing in Him because of the signs.

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

Verses 3-21

What was the conversation about between Nicodemus and Jesus?

Jesus told Nicodemus—a ruler of the Jews and teacher in Israel—that he must be born again to see the kingdom of God.

He spoke of spiritual birth—born again of the Spirit. Relate this to John 1:12-13. Jesus explained with examples of birth and the wind as earthly and heavenly things.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references in the lesson about born again.

1 Peter 1:23

Born again through God’s living and enduring / abiding Word.

1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:4, 18

Righteousness, loving and knowing God is evidence of being born of God.

Those born of God don’t practice sin because of being born of the Spirit. They don’t keep on sinning as a way of life.

True believers, those born of the Spirit of God, overcome the world because of the victory of their faith.

Now ask about personal application regarding being born of God, born of His Spirit.

Lead your discussion back to John 3:14-21.

What other example did Jesus use with Nicodemus?

Then He used an Old Testament example of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.

Jesus must be lifted up like the serpent so people can believe and have life.

What happened in Numbers 21:1-9?

The people of Israel became impatient and sinned against God when He was leading them through the wilderness. So, He sent serpents to bite them and many were dying.

Moses made a bronze serpent for the people to look at in faith to be healed. This pictured people looking to Jesus on the cross and believing in Him for life.

Go back to John 3:16-21. What else did Jesus tell Nicodemus?

This is the context of John 3:16—the Son came into the world to save it. Those who believe in Him won’t perish but have eternal life.

Verses 18-21 say that those who don't believe are already judged / condemned.
Light came into the world—John 1:4-9—so men could see the truth.
Those who don't believe choose their evil deeds / works instead of God's light.

Verses 22-36

Who and what are these verses about?

John the Baptist again
He was baptizing in Aenon near Salim because he wasn't yet in prison.
Some disciples had a discussion about John and Jesus.
And again, John clearly stated that he wasn't the Christ.
He rejoiced that his ministry would decrease as Jesus' increased.

Ask your group what personal application they learn from John the Baptist.

What did John say in verses 31-36?

God sent Jesus who gives the Spirit without measure—verses 5-8.
The Father gave all things to the Son—life and judgment.
The one who doesn't obey Him will not see life, but God's wrath is on him.

Disobedience is synonymous with unbelief.

What does this chapter teach about true belief? Give your group time to share their thoughts.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a possible theme for John 3.

Nicodemus—born again; God loved world and sent Son to save; believe—life

JOHN 4

Verses 1-6

What is the setting for this chapter?

Jesus left Judea and went through a city of Samaria, Sychar, on His way back to Galilee.

Verses 7-14

Who and what are these verses about? What happened?

A Samaritan woman came to the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink.
She seemed a bit perplexed because Jews didn't deal with Samaritans.
He told her of the living water He could give her.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-reference in 2 Kings about the Samaritans.

2 Kings 17:13-41

Because of Israel's idolatry, God sent the Assyrians to take Israel captive. A few Israelites were left, and the Assyrians sent people they had captured from other places to live in Israel. Some priests of Israel were sent to teach the people who worshiped other gods about the God of Israel. So, there was a mixture of worship in Israel—Samaria being a major city there.

Verses 15-26

Ask your group what they learned from this spiritual conversation and how it compares or contrasts with the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Tell them to look at their chart "Our Lord's Witness" as a visual aid.

Jesus spoke to people based on their situation and understanding.
He reasoned with Nicodemus from nature and Scripture.
He reasoned with the woman from the setting and what she knew of religious things.

Ask what they can learn from these two encounters to help them share the truth with people.

Verses 27-42

What happened in these verses?

The woman went into the city to tell about Jesus.

The disciples returned and Jesus talked to them about the harvest being ready.
One sows and another reaps.

Many Samaritans believed Jesus is the Savior of the world—not just Jews.

What other application is there in these verses for sharing the gospel with people?

Verses 43-45

What is the principle in these verses?

Jesus stayed two days with the Samaritans and then went to Galilee.

They received Him having seen what He did at the feast, but Jesus said a prophet has no honor from His own country.

Verses 46-54

Who and what are these verses about?

Jesus' third encounter in John 3 and 4 was with a royal official seeking healing for his son. He was desperate and knew Jesus could help him.

Jesus healed his son, the second sign He did in Galilee.

How does this encounter compare and/or contrast with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman?

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for John 4.

Jesus and Samaritan woman; healed royal official's son

To end your discussion, you might ask if there is anything else they learned from these chapters about presenting truth to different kinds of people.

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- John 5
- Persecution
- Father and Son

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, their “Signs” list, and the map. Then ask what they remember about John 1–4 and why this gospel was written.

Specific signs were recorded so that the reader might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and have eternal life as a result of believing.

Chapter 1 begins showing that Jesus is the Son of God—the Word became flesh to explain the Father.

In chapters 2–4 there are some signs that cause people to believe that Jesus is from God.
water to wine—disciples believed
signs at Passover—many believed
healed royal official’s son—he and his household believed

Also, in chapters 1–4, Jesus spoke to people and reasoned with them about heavenly things. He and John the Baptist are examples of witnessing to people about Jesus.

JOHN 5

Verses 1-9

Tell your group to look at the map.
What is the setting?

There was an unnamed Jewish feast in Jerusalem, and Jesus went.

There was a pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem where a multitude of sick people / invalids lay. They were waiting to be healed.

NOTE: The end of verse 3 through verse 4 is marked as not being in early manuscripts. You don’t need to bring this up, but someone in your group might.

Who was there and what happened?

Jesus saw a man who had been ill for 38 years and asked if he wanted to get well / be healed.

You might ask your group why they think Jesus asked that question, considering the situation.

What happened in verses 7-9? What was the sign that took place?

The man was explaining why he had not been healed when Jesus told him to
Get up
Pick up his pallet (ESV—take up his bed)
Walk

Immediately he did.

Verses 9-18

When was this event? How did people respond to the healed man?

It was the Sabbath, and the Jews told the man it wasn't permissible / lawful to carry his pallet / take up his bed.

Why was the Sabbath so important? Ask what your group learned from the cross-references.

Exodus 20:8-11

God blessed the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath. He made it holy for Israel.
They were to do no work on the Sabbath but rest.

Genesis 2:1-3

God rested on the seventh day after His six days of creation, so He blessed and sanctified / made holy that day.

Exodus 23:12; 31:12-17

The Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel—He is the God who sanctifies Israel.
It's a perpetual covenant between God and Israel forever. (ESV doesn't say "perpetual.")
Complete rest on the Sabbath.
Anyone who profanes it was to be put to death, cut off from his people.

It was a serious offense for the man Jesus healed to carry his pallet on the Sabbath.

Numbers 15:32-36

A man who gathered wood on the Sabbath was stoned to death for it.

Lead your discussion back to John 5 and ask about what happened in verses 11-15.

The healed man told his accusers that the man who healed him told him to pick up his pallet / take up his bed and walk. They wanted to know who it was, but the man didn't know. Jesus had slipped away / withdrawn into the crowd.

Later Jesus found him in the temple and told him not to sin anymore so nothing worse happened to him. Then the man told the Jews it was Jesus who had healed him.

What is the attitude that begins in verses 16-18? And why?

Persecution against Jesus because He did things on the Sabbath.

Then they sought to kill Him because He called God His own Father, making them equal.

Verses 19-23

How did Jesus respond?

He told them about His relationship with His Father.

The Son does nothing of Himself / of His own accord, only what He sees the Father doing.

The Father loves the Son and shows Him all He is doing, even greater works than healing.

The Father raises the dead and gives life; so the Son gives life to those He wishes.

The Father gave judgment to the Son.

Those who don't honor the Son don't honor the Father.

You might ask your group if there is any application for them from observing this relationship.

Verses 24-30

What did Jesus talk about in these verses?

He was still telling about the Father and Son giving life and having judgment but brought in some facts about hearing.

Hear His word and believe—eternal life, not judgment, passed out of death into life. This is about being saved.

An hour is coming and now is when the dead will hear His voice and live. This explains passing out of death into life. It's about being saved—spiritually dead and then eternal life after believing.

An hour is coming when all in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth:

Those who did good deeds to a resurrection of life

Those who did evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment

This is future.

How does John 3:19-21 compare?

Unbelievers love darkness because their deeds / works are evil, and they don't want them exposed. Believers have deeds that come from God.

Lead the discussion back to John 5 and ask about Jesus' judgment.

Jesus said He judges based on what He hears. His judgment is just because He seeks the Father's will in judgment. The Father sent Him.

You can ask your group if they are sure they have heard His voice and believed. Have they passed from death to life?

Verses 31-47

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson “Who and What Testified.”
What are these verses about?

Various testimonies about Jesus
John the Baptist
The works the Father gave Jesus to do
The Father
The Scriptures
Moses

Why was Jesus’ testimony about Himself not valid? Ask what your group learned from the cross-references.

Numbers 35:30

No person was to be put to death on the evidence of only one witness.

Deuteronomy 17:6

Two or three witnesses were required by the law.

John 8:17-18

The testimony of two men / people is true. Jesus said He and the Father testify of Him.

Now ask what they observed in John 5:31-47 about the various witnesses. Tell them to use the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

Jesus’ testimony is greater than John’s—the works He did. They were from the Father. But those listening didn’t hear His voice—they didn’t believe. They searched the Scriptures for eternal life, and the Scriptures speak of Jesus. They were unwilling / refused to come. They didn’t have love. They received glory from men but not God.

Moses, who wrote the Law, accused them because Moses wrote about Jesus.

How do the cross-references on Day Five in the lesson add to what Jesus said?

Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18 and Galatians 3:8, 16

Jesus was the seed / offspring promised to Abraham. Moses wrote Genesis.

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 and Acts 3:18-25

Jesus was the prophet like Moses—He spoke God’s word to Israel.

Leviticus and Hebrews 7:26-28

Jesus is the high priest. He only had to make one offering.

John 1:45 and 3:14-15

Philip told Nathanael they had found the One Moses and the Prophets wrote about—Jesus. Jesus compared Himself with the serpent lifted up that Moses wrote about.

Luke 24:25-27

Jesus explained to two disciples what Moses and the prophets had written about Him.

Matthew 1:1, 18–2:6

Jesus the Messiah, conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit to fulfill what was spoken by Isaiah. He was born in Bethlehem of Judea to fulfill what Micah the prophet wrote.

Hebrews 11:17-19

Isaac was a type of Christ—offered up by his father and received back again. (ESV uses “figuratively speaking,” rather than “type.”)

John 1:17

The Law given through Moses

Grace and truth realized / came through Jesus Christ

Ask your group if they truly believe the facts, truths, about Jesus. What do they do with them? How do they relate to life for believers?

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for John 5.

Jesus healed on Sabbath; persecution began; Father and Son; testimonies

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- John 6

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember from John 1–5. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

NOTE: Keep your review brief and watch your time through this discussion. There is a lot to talk about from this lesson.

John began this gospel with Jesus the Son of God—part of his purpose statement. He included John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus in the first few chapters.

Jesus’ first disciples began to follow Him; He performed the first sign, and the disciples believed—also part of the author’s purpose statement. There were other signs in these chapters that resulted in people believing.

Jesus had encounters with individuals also: Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, people who wanted healing.

Persecution against Jesus began because He healed on the Sabbath. When He explained God as His own Father, the Jews sought to kill Him. They understood that He made Himself equal with the Father.

JOHN 6

You might tell your group to look at the paragraph events or themes page in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-21

What are the main events in Group 1 paragraphs?

Signs

Jesus fed the 5,000

He walked on the sea

The boat was immediately at the land

NOTE: Some might not think the boat immediately being at land is a sign. Don’t let your group get into a debate over this because there is a lot to discuss from this lesson.

Briefly discuss the main points of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

When was it, and what happened in verses 1-14?

Another Passover was near.

Jesus asked Philip a question to test him. Philip answered that there wasn't enough money to buy food for them. Then Andrew said that a lad / boy had some food but not enough.

Jesus took what the lad / boy had and in an orderly manner had the disciples distribute food to the people until they were satisfied. And they gathered the leftovers so nothing was lost.

The people said that Jesus was the Prophet who was to come.

How does the cross-reference in Matthew 14 relate to this event in John 6?

Matthew 14:14

Jesus had compassion for the crowd.

What is verse 15 about?

Because of being fed the people wanted to make Jesus their king. But He withdrew.

You might ask your group why they follow Jesus.

What are the events of verses 16-21?

The disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee in the dark with a strong wind blowing. Jesus walked on the sea near the boat, and they were frightened.

When He got in the boat it was immediately at land.

How does the Matthew 14 description of this event compare? What details does Matthew add?

Matthew 14:22-33

The waves were battering / beating the boat.

The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost walking on the sea.

He immediately spoke to them telling who He was and for them not to be afraid; take courage / heart.

Peter got out of the boat and walked on the sea a little toward Jesus but began to sink when he looked at the wind and became frightened / afraid. Jesus took his hand and commented on his little faith and his doubting. When they got in the boat the wind stopped / ceased.

They worshiped Him saying He is God's Son.

Verses 22-59

Lead the discussion back to John 6 and ask about the Group 2 paragraphs.

In these paragraphs Jesus taught in Capernaum the next day.
He taught about the manna and said He is the bread of life.

You might ask your group how this teaching relates to the signs of Group 1.

The day before Jesus had fed 5,000 and not lost any of the leftover food.

What happened in verses 22-25?

The crowd that wanted to make Jesus king was looking for Him and went to Capernaum.

What did Jesus tell the crowd in verses 26-34?

They looked for Him because they ate and were filled (ESV—ate their fill), not because they saw the signs. He gives food to eternal life; He's the Son of Man on whom God set His seal.

They asked about the works of God, and Jesus answered, “. . . believe in Him whom He has sent,” speaking of Himself. They asked for a sign so they could believe.

But Jesus taught about the manna for Israel in the wilderness. God gave them bread, not Moses. God's bread from heaven gives life to the world. Then they asked for that bread.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about the manna.

Exodus 16:4-5, 13-36

During the forty years that Israel was in the wilderness, God sent daily manna from heaven to feed His people. They were to gather it daily except on the day before Sabbath when they were to gather twice as much. No work on the Sabbath.

NOTE: Watch your time and don't let your group get into discussing all the details about manna in this cross-reference.

Deuteronomy 8:3

God let Israel be hungry and fed them, to make them understand that man doesn't live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of / comes from His mouth.

Go back to John 6 and ask about verses 35-40. What did Jesus teach?

He is the bread of life; whoever comes to Him will not hunger. He who believes will never thirst. Then He said they didn't believe.

Verse 37 begins two of the repeated statements Jesus used throughout His teaching. All the Father gives will come, and Jesus will not / never cast out.

And verse 39 continues with another repeated statement that Jesus will lose nothing, but raise the one who comes on the last day. It's the Father's will. He spoke of believers.

You might ask how this relates to Jesus feeding 5,000. Then ask about verses 41-51.

Jesus answered their grumbling and questions.

No one can come to Him—believe in Him—unless he is drawn by the Father.

Again, He said that one will be raised on the last day. He who believes has eternal life.

Jesus contrasted the manna with Himself as the bread of life. Those who ate the manna died.

He gives eternal life. He is the living bread from heaven.

He gives His flesh for the life of the world.

How does His teaching continue in verses 52-59?

They began to argue / dispute but Jesus told them they had no life without eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of Man.

The one who does has eternal life and will be raised on the last day. They are the ones given and drawn by the Father and come to Jesus. Eating and drinking are synonymous with believing in Jesus.

What does this say about the security of salvation?

Salvation is secure.

Given and drawn by the Father to the Son

The Son will raise on the last day

He will not cast out anyone, lose none

Has eternal life

You might ask your group why they think Jesus used the illustration of eating and drinking.

Whatever a person eats and drinks becomes a part of him.

When one believes in Jesus, He becomes a part of that one.

Verse 56 says the believer abides in Jesus and Jesus abides in the believer.

Then you can ask if they are sure they have the Lord as part of them. Have they truly believed?

Verses 60-71

What happened as a result of the teaching? What is Group 3 about?

Many of those following Jesus said it was a difficult statement / hard saying. It caused them to grumble.

Then He mentioned His ascension.

And then He said the Spirit gives life, the flesh has no profit (ESV—is no help at all). His words are spirit and life.

But He knew some of His followers did not truly believe. This compares with John 2:24-25.

Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas didn't believe and would betray Him.

Verse 65 is the last repeat that only those granted by the Father come to Him—believe.

Many disciples—followers—didn't walk with Him anymore. He asked the twelve if they wanted to go away too. But Peter said Jesus has words of eternal life and they knew He was the Holy One of God.

Go back to John 6. Who and what are verses 70-71 about?

Judas

Jesus chose him to be one of the twelve but He knew Judas was a devil and would betray Him.

You can ask your group if they have seen people who claimed to believe and then turned away from the Lord when Christianity demanded their all. What is true of those who turn away? How do they handle it when they are close to the one who turns?

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they recorded as a possible theme for John 6.

Jesus fed 5,000; I am the bread of life; many disciples withdrew; Judas will betray

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- John 7

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember from John 1–6. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

NOTE: Keep your review brief and watch your time through this discussion. There is a lot to talk about from this lesson.

John began this gospel with Jesus the Son of God—part of his purpose statement. He included John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus in the first few chapters.

Jesus’ first disciples began to follow Him; He performed the first sign, and the disciples believed—also part of the author’s purpose statement. There were other signs in these chapters that resulted in people believing.

Jesus had encounters with individuals also: Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, people who wanted healing.

Persecution against Jesus began because He healed on the Sabbath. When He explained God as His own Father, the Jews sought to kill Him. They understood that He made Himself equal with the Father.

Then in John 6 Jesus fed 5,000 by multiplying fish and loaves of bread, and He said He is the living bread of heaven. Many of those who followed Him went away because of the difficult teaching. But Judas, an unbeliever, was still one of the twelve.

JOHN 7

Tell your group to look at the chart at the end of the lesson, and the map and the Feasts of Israel chart in the Appendix as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 1-9

What are these verses about?

Jesus was in Galilee because the Jews in Judea were seeking to kill Him.

But the Feast of Booths was near, and His brothers suggested that He go to Judea and show Himself to the world. They said this because they didn't believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus replied that His time was not yet.
The world hated Him because He testified that its deeds / works are evil.
He said He wasn't going to the feast as His time had not fully come—His time to be public.

Ask your group what they learned about the Feast of Booths. Tell them to look at the Feasts of Israel chart as a visual aid.

The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles was celebrated for seven days in the seventh month. It was in memory of Israel living in booths—tents—in the wilderness before entering their land. And it celebrated the fall harvest. It points to the future when God will tabernacle or live with men.

What do the cross-references say about this feast?

Leviticus 23:33-44

The first day was a holy convocation, as was the eighth day—no work, only rest. After gathering the harvest, Israel made booths for themselves and lived in them for seven days. It was a time of rejoicing.

Deuteronomy 16:13-16 and Nehemiah 8:13-18

They were to celebrate / keep the feasts in the place where the Lord chose—Jerusalem—three times a year. The Feast of Booths was one of the feasts in the seventh month. And all the men of Israel were to go to Jerusalem. It was especially meaningful and joyful to those of Nehemiah's time when Israel had returned to their land after 70 years of captivity. The first Feast of Booths was after 400 years of slavery in Egypt.

Zechariah 14:16-19

This passage is telling what will happen during what's called the Millennium. Jesus—the King—will reign on earth and the nations will also go to Jerusalem for the feast.

Revelation 21:1-8

And this describes what will be in the new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem after the 1,000-year reign on earth. God tabernacles / dwells with men. God will give the water of life to those who thirst. Overcomers / conquerors will inherit this; 1 John 5:4-5 says those born of God overcome by faith.

You might ask your group if they are looking forward to the time when God tabernacles with men and why.

Verses 10-13

Lead the discussion back to John 7 and ask about these verses. What happened?

Jesus secretly / privately went to the feast in Jerusalem, and the Jews were looking for Him. The crowds grumbled / muttered about Him whether He was a good man or led people astray. But they didn't speak openly because they feared the Jews.

You might ask your group who they are afraid of and what they don't say because of it.

Verses 14-24

When did these verses take place, and who did what?

In the middle of the feast, Jesus entered the temple and taught. People were astonished / marveled at His teaching. Again, Jesus brought up Moses and the Law when speaking with Jews. He asked why they were seeking to kill Him. And He taught about what is done on the Sabbath again.

Verses 25-36

Who was another group, and what were they saying about Him?

Some of the people of Jerusalem thought they knew where Jesus came from—the Galilee area. But they also thought no one knew where the Christ was to come from. They questioned if the rulers / authorities really knew He was the Christ.

Jesus then cried out / proclaimed that they did know where He came from—He had told them. They didn't know the one who sent Him; they didn't know God. So they tried to seize Him but didn't because His hour had not come.

But many of the crowd believed in Him understanding that the signs showed Him as Christ.

Then another group, the Pharisees and the chief priests, sent officers to seize Jesus, and evidently, they couldn't either.

Then Jesus said that in a little while He would go back to the one who sent Him. They would seek Him then and not find Him. They couldn't go where He was going.

That statement also caused discussion about His meaning.

At this point you might ask your group what they learned about Jesus' repeated statement that His time or hour had not yet come.

From verses 6-8 and 30, it has to do with Jesus in public and the Jews seizing Him. And verse 33 says that He's going to the Father in a little while. He was speaking of His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

Verses 37-39

What are these verses about? Tell your group to look at the Feasts of Israel chart.

Believers in Jesus will receive the Spirit after Jesus is glorified.
He used rivers of living water within believers to illustrate the Holy Spirit.

According to the cross-references in Acts, what happened after Jesus went back to His Father?

Acts 1:1-12; 2:1-21, 32-33

After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to the eleven apostles over a period of 40 days. He taught them about the kingdom of God and promised they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from when He was with them. He said that when the Spirit came on them they would receive power and be His witnesses.

Then they saw Him ascend to heaven.

On the day of Pentecost—the Feast of Weeks or Harvest—Jesus' promise in John 7:37-39 was fulfilled. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and witnessed to the people gathered.

NOTE: There are some synonymous terms in Acts 1 and 2 for the same event—baptized with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit has come upon, and filled with the Spirit.

Peter explained from the Old Testament prophet Joel that God said He would pour forth / out His Spirit on all mankind / flesh—sons, daughters, young, and old. He specified in Acts 2:18 that He meant His bondslaves (ESV—male and female servants), not the whole world of unbelievers.

This was fulfilled after Jesus was glorified
raised
exalted
received the promise of the Spirit

How was this different from the Spirit's relationship with people in the Old Testament? Tell your group to look at the cross-references in Exodus, Judges, and 1 Samuel.

Exodus 31:1-5

God filled Bezalel with His Spirit for a specific job regarding His tabernacle.

Judges 13:24-25; 14:6, 19; 15:14

The Spirit of the Lord came on / rushed upon Samson at specific times for a specific task.

1 Samuel 10:10 and 16:13-14

The Lord's Spirit came on / rushed upon Saul and David for a specific task—they were the first two kings of Israel. But the Spirit left Saul.

NOTE: In John Part 2 there is more study about the Holy Spirit. But in case someone asks if the Spirit leaves believers now, the answer is "no" according to John 14:16-17.

Ask your group about their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Verses 40-44

Lead your discussion back to John 7 and ask about the people's response.

The people were divided in their thoughts about Jesus. Some said He is the Christ, and others disagreed because they thought He came from Galilee instead of Bethlehem.

Although some wanted to seize / arrest Him, no one laid hands on Him.

Verses 45-53

Who are these verses about, and what was their response?

The officers who were sent to seize / arrest Him—in verse 32—returned to the chief priests and Pharisees without Jesus. When questioned, they said no one had ever spoken like He did. They were accused of being led astray / deceived.

The Pharisees said that none of their rulers / authorities had believed and the crowd was accursed.

Then Nicodemus spoke about not judging a man until hearing him and knowing what he was doing. And his loyalty and knowledge of the prophets was questioned.

What was the cause of the division in this chapter?

People were confused about where Jesus had come from.

The Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, and they thought Jesus was from Galilee.

But in the previous chapters, Jesus had clearly told people He was from the Father in heaven. He was from above.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a theme for John 7.

Feast of Booths; hour not yet come; division because of Jesus

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- John 8–9
- Jesus—the Light of the World

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group how John 1–7 compares with John’s purpose for writing the Gospel. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help.

NOTE: Keep your review brief.

Certain signs were recorded so people who read the Gospel will believe that Jesus is
The Christ
The Son of God
Believing = life in His name

John began this gospel with Jesus the Son of God.
He included John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus in the first few chapters.

Jesus’ first disciples began to follow Him; He performed the first sign, and the disciples believed. There were other signs in these chapters that resulted in people believing.

Persecution against Jesus began because He healed on the Sabbath. When He explained God as His own Father, the Jews sought to kill Him. They understood that He made Himself equal with the Father.

Many of those who followed Him went away because of the difficult teaching.
Judas, an unbeliever, was still one of the twelve.

At the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem, there was division regarding Jesus.
Some believed He was the Christ because of the signs He did.
Others were confused about where He came from.
The rulers wanted to seize / arrest and kill Him.

Have your group get out their Map of Jerusalem to use during the discussion.

JOHN 8

Verses 1-11

NOTE: These verses are not in the earliest manuscripts of John, as the lesson said. But a couple of questions are in the lesson. Don't spend a lot of time here as there are two chapters to discuss.

Who brought the adulteress to Jesus and why?

Scribes and Pharisees wanted to accuse / bring a charge against Jesus so they tested how He would deal with the woman.

How did Jesus deal with the situation?

He told them that whoever was without sin should throw the first stone at the adulteress. And one by one, they left.

He didn't condemn the woman. But He told her not to sin anymore.

Verses 12-20

What happened in these verses?

Jesus again spoke to the Pharisees.
One of His "I am" statements—the Light of the world.

His followers won't walk in darkness but have the Light of life.
Again, He connects life with who He is.

Ask what your group learned from their study of "light" from John 1–9, Day Five of the lesson.

John 1:4-9

The life that is in Jesus is the Light of men. He came into the world to enlighten / give light.

John 3:19-21

The judgment Jesus brought was that Light came into the world.
Men with evil deeds / works hate the Light and don't come to it.
Men with deeds of God (ESV—works carried out in God), those who practice truth (ESV—do what is true), come to the Light.

Lead the discussion back to John 8 and ask about verses 13-21. What was the subject?

They argued that His testimony alone wasn't valid, but He said the Father also testified of who He is. His testimony and His judgment were connected with the Father who sent Him. He also brought up again where He was from and going.

Jesus said these things as He taught in the temple.
No one seized Him because His hour had not yet come.

These statements compare with some in John 7.

Verses 21-30

How do these verses continue what Jesus was saying?

He repeated what He said in John 7:33-36. He was going away, and they would seek Him.

Then He added that they would die in their sins because they couldn't go where He was.

What did the Pharisees ask after Jesus made His statement in verse 21?

They seemed to miss His point and questioned if He would kill Himself.

Then Jesus clearly told them that if they didn't believe that He is "I am" they would die in their sins.

How does Jesus' statement, "I am" relate to the cross-reference in Exodus 3?

Exodus 3:14

"I AM" is God's name.

What was their response?

They were still asking who He was. And they didn't understand that He spoke of the Father. He had been telling of His connection with the Father from the beginning.

You might relate this to John 1:18.

Jesus, the only begotten God, explained the Father.

What did Jesus refer to in John 8:28-30? Had He said these things before?

They would know Jesus is "I am" when they put Him on the cross—lift up.

His Father had not left Him alone although He was being
tested
accused
persecuted

And some were trying to kill Him.

Many believed in Him.

Ask your group if they know the same truth. If they are a true believer, the Father is with them through anything.

Verses 31-47

Who did Jesus address, and what did He say?

He told those who believed what a true disciple is.

Continuing / abiding in His word proves that a follower is a true disciple of Jesus, a true believer.

Now ask what your group learned about the progression of belief and unbelief in John 1–9, Day Five.

John 1:7, 12-13

John the Baptist testified / bore witness about Jesus the Light so all would believe.

Those who believe become children of God, born of Him.

John 2:11, 19-25

After the first sign at the wedding in Cana, His disciples believed.

Verse 22 says again that they believed after He rose from the dead and they remembered His words.

Many believed because of the signs Jesus performed, but He didn't entrust Himself to them. He knows what is in all men.

John 3 and 4

Jesus told Nicodemus, the religious leader, that those who believe in the Son will not perish or be judged but have eternal life. Many Samaritans believed. The royal official believed and his son was healed.

In John 5, persecution began among those who did not believe and wanted to silence the truth.

John 6

Jesus knows from the beginning those who truly believe and those who don't.

Even of those who followed Him, many withdrew / turned back when they heard the hard statements / sayings about belief.

John 7

Unbelief led to persecution which progressed to the point that they sought to kill Jesus.

Lead the discussion back to John 8. What else did Jesus say about a true disciple, believer? And what was the response?

The truth makes believers free.

The response was that as Abraham's descendants / offspring the Jews had never been enslaved.

What does the cross-reference in Exodus 2 say?

Exodus 2:23

Israel had been in bondage / slavery in Egypt.

What was Jesus talking about in John 8:34-47?

Slavery to sin

Jesus the Son makes people free when they truly believe in Him.

He told those who questioned Him that they were of their father, the devil, and did His works—lying and murder. The contrast is that the Father’s children love Jesus.

They didn’t understand, couldn’t really hear what Jesus was saying, because they were not of God. Verses 45-46 say they didn’t believe.

NOTE: Some in your group might have a question about Jesus saying these things to “those Jews who had believed Him.” This indicates He spoke to those who believed in verse 30. In which case they didn’t truly believe.

Ask your group if they know for sure that they are truly disciples of His. How do they know?

Verses 48-59

How did the conversation continue? And you might ask if they’ve observed any of these statements before in John.

They repeated that Jesus had a demon and called Him a Samaritan.

Another statement about a true believer is keeping His word, verses 51 and 31.

When Jesus again said, “I am,” they tried to stone Him but again He hid Himself. His hour had not yet come.

Leviticus 24:16

The Law said the one who blasphemes the Lord’s name was to be stoned to death.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart. What is a possible theme for John 8?

Adulteress; Jesus said, “I am,” and Jews tried to stone Him

JOHN 9

How does this chapter relate to or compare with John 8?

Jesus said He is the Light of the world and then He healed a man born blind. There was controversy and division.

“Sin” is a key word in both chapters.
Belief and unbelief are contrasted.

Verses 1-12

What was the sign? Ask your group about any details they want to bring up.

The man was born blind so that God’s work was displayed in him.
No one sinned to cause his blindness.

The healing took place after he washed where Jesus told him to.
He didn’t know it was Jesus who healed him.

You might ask your group if they have considered that some disabilities are to show God’s work.
And what do they think about that?

Verses 13-34

What happened as a result of Jesus healing the blind man?

It was a Sabbath, so some said Jesus was not from God because He didn’t keep the Sabbath. This is also a repeated problem some had. And there was division again.

The man didn’t know who healed him but began understanding by thinking He was a prophet, verse 17.

Then the Jews called his parents because they didn’t believe the sign Jesus had performed.
The parents confirmed that the man had been born blind but were afraid to say any more.

The Jews agreed to put out of the synagogue anyone who confessed Jesus as the Christ.
That meant ex-communication, put out of their way of life and community.

The second time the man was questioned, he said God doesn’t hear / listen to sinners but those who fear / worship God and do His will. He referred to Jesus. So he was put out.

How can fear of others prevent people from telling the truth?

Verses 35-41

What happened in these verses?

Jesus found the man and told him that He is the Son of Man.
The man believed and worshiped Jesus.

Jesus again mentioned judgment
The blind see
Those who see become blind

The Pharisees asked if they were blind, and Jesus answered that they were ones who said they could see. But sin / guilt had blinded them and they remained in it. They were spiritually blind.

Ask your group what they learned from Jesus' example of dealing with the blind man and with those who didn't believe.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart again and ask about a theme for this chapter.

The Light of the world healed a man born blind

To close your discussion, ask if there is anything you haven't discussed that someone learned from the study they did on Day 5.

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis:

- John 10
- Jesus—the good shepherd

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart. Then ask why John was written and what they remember from the first nine chapters.

Certain signs were recorded so people who read the Gospel will believe that Jesus is
the Christ
the Son of God
believing = life in His name

John began this gospel with Jesus the Son of God.

Jesus' first disciples began to follow Him; He performed the first sign, and the disciples believed. There were other signs in these chapters that resulted in people believing.

Persecution against Jesus began because He healed on the Sabbath. When He explained God as His own Father, the Jews tried to seize Jesus. They understood that He made Himself equal with the Father.

Many of those who followed Him went away because of the difficult teaching.

He fed 5,000 and then said He is the bread of life.
He said that He is the Light of the world and then healed a man born blind.

There was division regarding Jesus.
Some believed He was the Christ because of the signs He did.
Others were confused about where He came from.
The rulers wanted to seize / arrest and kill Him.

JOHN 10

Verses 1-10

Who does it seem like these verses are directed to?

The end of chapter 9 says Jesus spoke to Pharisees, and there were probably others among those listening to Him.

What was Jesus' teaching about in these verses? What figure of speech did He use?

The doorkeeper / gatekeeper of a sheepfold opens the door only for the sheep's shepherd. Others, thieves and robbers, try to come in another way.

The sheep hear the shepherd's voice and recognize it, so they follow him.

Jesus contrasted the thief, robber, with Himself—probably referring to the Pharisees as the thieves. Jesus' true sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

Compare this with the cross-references in John 6.

John 6:37, 39, 44, 65

All the Father gives will come to Jesus—the ones who hear His voice.

Go back to John 10. What happened beginning in verse 6?

Since they didn't understand what He meant, He said He was the door of the sheep. Enter through Him and be saved, have abundant life. This is another way of saying what John is all about—believe in Him and have eternal life.

Verses 11-18

How did Jesus continue with the figurative speech and its meaning?

Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. This is contrasted with the hired hand who flees when the wolf comes, maybe referring to the Pharisees. They weren't really concerned about the sheep, their people—the Jews.

Jesus knows His own, and His own know Him—they hear His voice and follow. They are the true disciples.

You might ask your group if they remember when they heard His voice and they began to follow Him. What happened?

How do the cross-references add to what Jesus said in John 10:1-18?

Psalm 23

God used the illustration of the shepherd back when David wrote this Psalm. The good shepherd guides, provides for, is with His sheep in fear or danger. He's with them forever; they live with Him.

1 Peter 5:1-4

Peter, another of the twelve apostles wrote about Jesus being the Chief Shepherd. Until He comes again, He has shepherds, church elders or pastors, to care for His sheep. They oversee by example. Jesus is their example.

Ezekiel 34

In this passage God contrasted the selfish shepherds—leaders—of Israel with Himself. They fed themselves instead of the sheep and dominated them with force and severity. This sounds like the Pharisees of Jesus' day.

God Himself searches for His sheep—they hear Jesus' voice and follow.

He will care for and deliver them. In the future He will set one shepherd David over them to feed them. This passage is about Israel, and that's who Jesus spoke to in John 10.

Lead your discussion back to John 10.

You might ask who your group thinks the other sheep are in verse 16.

This statement is probably referring to Gentile believers.
One flock with one shepherd—the church, made up of Jews and Gentiles.

What did Jesus say about laying down His life in verses 17-18?

No one would take His life; He would lay it down. He initiated it.

How does this compare with the cross-references in John 5:16, 18; 7:30, 34 and 8:59?

The Jewish leaders had not been able to seize / arrest and kill Him because it was not His time yet. He was in charge of the time. He was the authority even over His own death

He will also take up His life again after He lays it down for the sheep.

Verses 19-21

What happened after Jesus' teaching?

Again, division among those who heard Him.

You can ask if division because of Jesus' words still happens? Why? How?

Verses 22-39

Tell your group to look at the Map of Jerusalem and ask when these things took place and where.

It was winter—the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem.
Jesus was in the portico / colonnade of Solomon in the temple.

If you have time, you can ask what your group learned about the Feast of Dedication. The Hebrew word translated “dedication” is “Hanukkah.”

It wasn't one of the feasts directed by God in the Old Testament. The Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights, Hanukkah in Hebrew, was instituted in 165 B.C. by the Jews after they cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem from desecration by the Seleucid, Syrian ruler,

Antiochus Epiphanes who had dominated Jerusalem for many years. Described in the Talmud, the cleansing and dedication needed olive oil that had not been desecrated to burn in the lamps, but they found only enough for one day. Rabbinic tradition is that the oil lasted eight days.

The Feast of Dedication continues today with lighting lamps or candles for eight days. The event begins on the 25th of Kislev of the Jewish calendar, which is usually in December, but occasionally late November. As John 10:23 says, “it was winter.”

What was the conversation in verses 24-30?

The Jews asked Jesus to tell them plainly if He was the Christ, and His reply was that He had but they didn't believe. They were not His sheep.

His sheep follow Him, have eternal life, and will not be snatched out of His or the Father's hand. He said that He and the Father are one.

Compare this with John 1:1-3.

Jesus is God, the creator of all.

How secure is salvation for those who truly believe? Give your group time to discuss how this personally applies to them—how secure are they?

What happened in verses 31-39?

They picked up stones to stone Him because they thought He blasphemed God. He answered them with Scripture from the Law.

He called them to believe the works that testified about Him, who He is. But again, they tried to seize / arrest Him, and again He eluded / escaped from them.

How does Psalm 82 help explain verses 34-36?

In this psalm, God is in the midst of human rulers / gods or judges, asking about their unjust judgment. They are all gods or rulers and yet they will die like men.

If these were called “gods,” the Pharisees should not stone Jesus for saying the same about Himself.

Verses 40-42

What are these verse about? Tell your group to look at the map.

Jesus went to the place where John was first baptizing—Bethany beyond the Jordan. Many believed in Him there.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for John 10.

The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep; they hear His voice and follow Him;
Feast of the Dedication

JOHN PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis:

- John 11
- Jesus—the resurrection and the life

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart. Then ask why John was written and what they remember from the first ten chapters.

Certain signs were recorded so people who read the Gospel will believe that Jesus is
The Christ
The Son of God
Believing = life in His name

John began this gospel with Jesus the Son of God. He became flesh and lived among men to explain the Father.

You might ask how Jesus explained / made known the Father in John 1–10. And give a short time for your group to say what they think.

Then ask about the persecution against Jesus. Why did it come? How severe was it?

Persecution against Jesus began because He healed on the Sabbath. When He explained God as His own Father, the Jews tried to seize / arrest Jesus. They understood that He made Himself equal with the Father, and they tried to kill Him. But His hour had not come.

At the end of chapter 10, Jesus left Jerusalem and went beyond the Jordan to the place John had baptized people at the beginning of this gospel. Refer your group to the map.

JOHN 11

Tell your group to look at the page at the end of this lesson as a visual aid for discussing Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. And tell them to continue looking at the map as a visual aid when needed.

Verses 1-16

How does this chapter begin in verses 1-2? What's the setting?

Lazarus, a man who lived in the village of Bethany, was sick.
His sisters, Martha and Mary lived in the village.

NOTE: You can tell your group that they'll study about Mary anointing the Lord in John 12, the first lesson of John Part 2.

What does the cross-reference in Luke 10 tell about the sisters?

Luke 10:38-42

This might be Jesus' first encounter with Martha and Mary. Martha invited Jesus into her home, and she began serving. But Mary sat at His feet listening to His word / teaching.

When Martha complained to Jesus about Mary not helping her, He said Mary chose the good part that won't be taken away. Martha was distracted, worried / anxious, and bothered / troubled about many things.

You might ask your group the question that's in the lesson. Who are they more like and why?

Lead the discussion back to John 11. What happened in verses 3-6?

The sisters sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick. They knew Jesus healed the sick. Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, but He said Lazarus' sickness was not to end in death, but God's glory.

He stayed where He was two days after He heard Lazarus was sick.

You might ask your group why they think Jesus delayed going to Lazarus?

Maybe so that Lazarus would die, and Jesus then raise Him from death. Verse 15 gives a clue—another sign for the disciples to believe.

What was the conversation between Jesus and the disciples in verses 7-16?

When Jesus said for them to go to Judea—Bethany is in Judea only 2 miles from Jerusalem—the disciples reminded Him that the Jews were about to stone Him in Jerusalem.

NOTE: In case someone in your group brings it up, Bethany in Judea close to Jerusalem is not the Bethany beyond the Jordan where John first baptized, John 1:28 and 10:40.

Verses 9 and 10 seem to say that those who wanted to kill Him didn't see clearly, speaking of spiritual sight. They stumbled because they couldn't see. But Jesus saw everything clearly. Their desire and plan to kill Him didn't control Him.

Then Jesus told the disciples that Lazarus had fallen asleep, speaking of his death.

At this point, ask about the cross-references about falling asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

When Paul referred to a believer's death in Christ, he said they had fallen asleep.

NOTE: Watch your time here if your group wants to talk about this passage and "the rapture." What you need for your discussion is only what it says about sleep and death.

Acts 7:59-8:1

When the high priest and Jewish Council in Jerusalem stoned Stephen because of his witness against them, the text says he fell asleep; he died.

Take your discussion back to John 11.

What did the disciples think based on Thomas's statement in verse 16?

Evidently, they thought going back into Judea meant death for Jesus and for them.

Verses 17-27

Who and what are these verses about?

Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days when Jesus got to Bethany.

Martha went to meet Jesus and stated that if He had been there Lazarus wouldn't have died. This shows her belief that Jesus would have healed him. She even had hope for what Jesus would ask at the present time.

Jesus told her that Lazarus will rise again, and she thought He referred to the resurrection on the last day, John 5:24-29 and 6:39-40, 44.

Then Jesus made another "I am" statement, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is what the Gospel of John is about. Martha believed Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Verses 28-37

What happened in these verses?

Martha told Mary that the Teacher was asking for her, and she quickly went to Him. The Jews who were consoling the sisters in the house saw Mary leave and followed her.

When Mary got to Jesus, she made the same statement her sister did.

When Jesus saw the weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

Ask what your group learned from the definitions they found from the word studies.

weeping—“to weep or wail, with emphasis upon the noise accompanying the weeping”⁹

deeply moved—“to have an intense, strong feeling of concern, often with the implication of indignation”¹⁰; “to be enraged, indignant”¹¹

troubled / greatly troubled—“disturb”¹²; “to cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind”¹³

How does death cause those emotions? Why?

Give your group time to discuss personal application of these questions.

What happened next in verses 34-37? Ask about the definition when relevant.

It seems Jesus was heading to Lazarus’ tomb, and He wept.

wept—“to shed tears.”¹⁴ The Greek word is used only in John 11:35.

Those observing knew Jesus loved Lazarus.

And they questioned if He could have kept Lazarus from dying.

It seems that they also believed in His healing powers.

Ask your group if they understand that some people only “believe” certain things about Jesus?

Why do they need to know this?

Verses 38-44

What is the sign? What are some of the details?

Jesus raised Lazarus!

When He got to the tomb, He called for the stone to be removed.

Martha pointed out that there would be a stench / odor.

He basically said that if she believed, she would see God’s glory.

When the stone was removed, Jesus prayed so that the people around them would believe.

⁹Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989), 1:303.

¹⁰Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989), 1:293.

¹¹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993), G1690.

¹²Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993), 3:335.

¹³James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G5015.

¹⁴W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996), 2:670.

Then He cried out for Lazarus to come forth / out, and he did even though he was bound hand and foot. Jesus said to unbind him and let him go.

Ask what your group personally learned from this passage. What does it mean? How does it apply to them individually? How did Jesus explain the Father in this sign?

Verses 45-53

What was the result of Jesus raising Lazarus?

Again, division
Many believed
Others reported to the Pharisees

The chief priests and Pharisees convened a council because of Jesus' signs. They were afraid all would believe and the Romans would take their authority. But Caiaphas made a prophecy that one man should die for the nation—Israel. And verse 52 says not only for Israel but those scattered also.

So they planned together to kill Jesus.

What was the result for Jesus and the disciples according to verse 54?

They weren't walking publicly / openly among the Jews anymore but went to Ephraim to stay.

Verses 55-57

What was going on at this time?

Many Jews were going to Jerusalem for Passover.
And they were looking for Jesus.

Chief priests and Pharisees gave orders for anyone who knew where Jesus was to report so they could seize Him.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for John 11.

I am the resurrection and the life; Jesus raised Lazarus

You might end your discussion with questions about how Jesus explained the Father and who Jesus said He is. What did they learn about the Father from what Jesus said or did?

How do the truths of these chapters affect their lives?

Encourage your group to continue in their study of John with John Part 2.