



## BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

### Studies in the Gospel of John

#### **Introduction:**

The Gospel of John is the last written of the four gospels. It was written about 95 AD. at Ephesus by John the Apostle. The author was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. He was one of the first called to follow Jesus and if the tradition is correct he outlived all of the twelve. He, his brother James and Peter were specially instructed by Jesus, and experienced a unique relationship with their Lord. The purpose of this Gospel is stated clearly in Chapter 20:30-31:

*Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.*

The first three Gospels are called synoptic gospels which refers to their similarity, John is separate, different and unique. Of course, there are some similarities since John's book like the others is about Jesus but there are many differences. John starts his gospel "in the beginning," not with the incarnation or ministry of Jesus. In John, Jesus is portrayed as God the Son and his deity is a special emphasis. There are no parables in John and five of the miracles in John are unique to the book. John does not refer to the birth, boyhood or baptism of Jesus. He does not mention the temptation, the transfiguration or the agonies of Gethsemane. However, he does record many of the conversations of Jesus, particularly the upper room discourse of Chapters 13-16 and the high priestly prayer of Chapter 17. The "**I Am**" declarations are also an important distinction in John.

Since the Gospel is designed to show that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, all the material included focuses on that purpose. When the Gospel of John is read and attention to its portrait of Jesus is given the reaction of the reader is the same as the centurion spoken of in Matthew after he had observed the crucifixion. Matthew writes of him, "*When the Centurion and those who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "surely he was the Son of God."*"

## **EXPLANATION:**

The study questions are designed as an inductive study. The idea of inductive study is to gain knowledge from the text itself. Inductive study involves three major activities: observation, interpretation and application.

Observation involves noting key words and phrases, comparisons, contrasts, events, questions and anything else present in the text itself. Eight questions in the study involve observation. Of course, there are many other things to observe than what is asked for in the study so there is lots of scope for extra work. Oletta Wald, in her book "The Joy of Discovery" writes:

*The first skill you need to develop is to train your mind to see when you read a passage - to observe carefully the words, to be on the alert for the details. Too many of us are in the habit of reading Scripture without seeing very much, without thinking about the words we are seeing.*

The first questions will assist us to become observers. The next three questions ask, "what do our observations mean?" They are interpretation questions. To discover what something in the Bible means we need to pray for wisdom, we must use the information in the text and other relevant material. We also may need to consult a commentary or discuss the question with someone else. The Holy Spirit in us equips us to understand. We need to persevere. Again, Oletta Wald writes:

*Please note that the primary purpose of interpretation is to discover what the author meant by what he said, to discover his purpose and message.*

The next three questions are application questions. They are concerned about practical lessons to be learned from the text. Application is important for if we stop our study with understanding the text only we shortchange ourselves and fail to enter into the transformation envisioned by the Holy Spirit. Finally, Oletta Wald writes:

*In fact it is very dangerous to study the Bible and not be open to its message. The Word of God is power. It either penetrates hearts or it hardens hearts.*

Each study ends with the same question. You will be asked to identify a key thought or idea that registered with you in a special way. This last question is important for you and for the others whom you will share it with at the study because the answer represents the Holy Spirit's response to the need you had during the study. Sharing that answer is a testimony to the Lord's faithfulness.

**BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL**  
**Studies in the Gospel of John**  
**JOHN - Study #1 READ John 1:1-18**

1. We are introduced to the Word in John I, make a list of the claims made for the Word in vs. 1-2.
  
2. What additional information is given to us about the Word in vs.3-5?
  
3. Who commissioned John the Baptist?
  
4. What was John the Baptist's role according to vs. 7-9 and v.15?
  
5. According to vs.10-11, what phrases describe the reception of the Word in the world?
  
6. List the key action words in v.12.
  
7. What additional information is given to us about the Word in v.14?
  
8. Read vs.17-18, what differences are seen between Moses and the Lord Jesus?
  
9. The introductory verses of John 1 really emphasize that the Word is God; Jesus Christ is not named until v.17.  
Explain from the passage your reasons for believing that the Word and Jesus Christ are one and the same.

10. Why is Jesus called "*the only begotten son*" KJV or "*one and only*" NIV by John?

What does this description tell us about the Lord Jesus that is not true of others of God's children?

11. What does John mean when he says in v. 14, that the Word is "*full of grace and truth*" and in v.17 that "*grace and truth*" comes through Jesus Christ?"

12. Why is it so important for Christians to know and accept that Jesus Christ is God.

13. List some of the blessings you have received from the fullness of Christ's grace.

14. John the Baptist was a witness to the Light, this is our responsibility as well. We learn how John witnessed in the Gospel of John, how should we be witnessing to the Light today?

15. What key thought or idea from John 1:1-18 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #2 READ John 1:19-51

1. John the Baptist is important in the introduction of Jesus, what is his testimony about himself?
2. John baptized with water, what was to be the medium of Jesus' baptism?
3. Make a list of the names or titles applied to the Lord Jesus in this section.
4. What attitude did John the Baptist take in relation to Jesus?
5. What results from the curiosity of John's disciples about the Lamb of God?
6. Make a note of the two key phrases in Andrew's witness to his brother?
7. How is Nathaniel convinced that Philip is right about Jesus of Nazareth?
8. What does Jesus promise Nathaniel?
9. In vs. 20-21; John the Baptist denies that he is the Christ, Elijah or the Prophet. What is the significance of his claim taken from Isaiah 40:3 that he is "*the voice of one calling in the desert?*"

What does the message of "*the voice*" mean?

10. What was the purpose of John's baptism?

How does it differ from believer's baptism practised later in the New Testament?

What did John mean when he said, Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit?

11. Review the list you made in answering question 3 and define each name or title and explain how each helps us understand the identity of Jesus.

12. John the Baptist is very realistic and humble about his mission, why?

What can we learn about realism and humility from him?

13. What motivated Andrew and Philip to witness about Jesus?

How can we catch the spirit they had so that our witness is more vigorous and effective?

14. Nathaniel almost allows prejudice towards Nazareth blind him to Jesus' identity.

What kind of prejudices can obscure the knowledge of Jesus Christ to ourselves or others?

15. What key thought or idea from John 1:19-51 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #3 READ John 2:1-25

1. What role did Mary play in the wedding feast story and what do we learn from her?
2. What role did Jesus play in the story and what do we learn from Him?
3. What role did the servants play in the story and what do we learn from them?
4. What role did the master of the feast play in the story and what do we learn from him?
5. What is revealed to the disciples through this first miracle?
6. How does Jesus describe the temple?
7. What are the Jews questioning about Jesus in v.18?
8. How does Jesus react to the people's "*belief*" in v.24?
9. Why are miracles called signs in John?

Note the three references to "*miraculous signs*" in Chapter 2, what is the significance of each reference?

What is the purpose of miracles in Jesus' ministry?

10. The cleansing of the temple according to Matthew, Mark and Luke occurs at the end of the Lord's ministry, John speaks about it at the beginning. Were there two cleansings?

If so, what was the significance of each in the context of Jesus' mission?

11. Jesus reacts strangely to the belief of people according to vs. 24-25, why did he refuse to "*entrust himself to them*" when at other times he welcomed believers with open arms?

12. The Lord's words in v.19 are misunderstood by the Jews, what blinds us to spiritual truths?

13. Is it possible that our "*faith*" or "*belief*" in Jesus is sometimes similar to those "*believers*" spoken of in v.23.

If so, how does Jesus react to us today?

14. Miraculous signs seem to have impressed the disciples and the people, but appear to have left the Jewish Leadership unimpressed. What characteristic is missing when we fail to be impressed by God's work?

What blinds us and what allows us to see?

15. What key thought or idea from John 2:1-25 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #4 READ JOHN 3 & 4

1. What attracted Nicodemus to Jesus?
2. What is promised as a result of faith and what is promised as a result of unbelief?
3. Note the key phrase in John the Baptist's explanation of his role in vs. 27-30.
4. What interested the woman of Samaria in Jesus?
5. How does Jesus describe His gift for her?
6. What is the woman's reaction to the Lord's revelation of her past?
7. How do the disciples react to the conversation observed?
8. What word describes Jesus' view of his conversation with the woman?
9. Contrast and compare the Lord's method of witnessing to Nicodemus and the woman of Samaria.

What specific things does He teach us about witnessing?

10. What are the central issues that stand between Jesus and the woman of Samaria concerning worship?

11. Explain the Lord's view of his mission and the future mission of the disciples.

What is the key emphasis?

12. Jesus promises believers eternal life, what does that mean for you now and in the future?

List the privileges and responsibilities eternal life gives you?

13. John the Baptist accepts his diminishing role well, what truths help him to respond as he does.

How can we apply these truths to our own changing roles now and in the future?

14. What does worshipping in "spirit and truth" mean to you?

How does one become prepared to worship in that way and how would such worship be carried out?

15. What key thought or idea from John 3 & 4 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #5 READ John 5:1-6:21

1. Describe Bethesda.
2. What was the invalid's problem?
3. How does the healed man explain his actions on the Sabbath?
4. What prompts the death threats to Jesus?
5. How do vs. 25 and 28/29 differ and what does each refer to?
6. What is the reaction of the disciples when Jesus suggests feeding the huge crowd gathered to hear Jesus in Chapter 6:1-8?
7. Describe the reaction of the people to the miracle Jesus performed.
8. What are the two miracles in the event described in 6:16-21?
9. Explain the different attitudes of Jesus and the Jews about the Sabbath.

Why are the Jews so disturbed and hostile by the healing at Bethesda?

10. What can we learn about the relationships in the Godhead from the Lord's explanation about Himself and His Father in 6:16-30?

List the key gifts to the Son from the Father.

11. Read John 6:45-47, this is the third reference so far in John about Moses. (See 1:17 and 1:44-45)

Why is he being referred to.

What is his significance related to Jesus and the Jews?

12. Do you ever find yourself in the dilemma of the lame man of John 5, expressed in the words, "I have no one to help me?"

What can we learn from the incident to help us cope with our helplessness?

13. Jesus in Chapter 5:44 states that "*praise that comes from God*" it's available, what is it and how can you go about obtaining it?

14. The disciples are overwhelmed by the Lord's command about feeding the multitude, what commands overwhelm us?

What is our reaction to great opportunities?

What should our reaction be?

15. What key thought or idea from John 5:1-6:21, has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #6 READ John 6:22-70

1. What motivates the people's search for Jesus?
2. What answer does Jesus give to the question asked in v.28?
3. Make a note of each reference to manna in the passage we are studying.
4. What confuses the people about our Lord's declaration: "*I am the bread that comes down from heaven,*" vs.50-59?
5. The Jews appear to take the Lord's comments, vs.50-59 literally, according to v.63, how did He mean them to be taken?
6. What prompts the defection of some of the disciples?
7. How does Jesus react to the defections?
8. List the positive things Peter says about Jesus in vs.68-69.
9. Explain the meaning of the Lord's words in vs.26-27.

How has the Lord Jesus already set an example for us through His own lifestyle?

10. Why did the people bring up the subject of manna?

Explain how the Lord uses the subject to illustrate His own role in the world?

What is the major difference between manna and the Lord Jesus?

11. What does the Lord mean by the statement "*unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you?*"

How did the disciples misunderstand Him and how is it misunderstood today?

12. In what way do we sometimes "*labour for the food that spoils,*" instead of "*for the food that endures to eternal life?*"

Suggest how the first attitude might be curtailed (or contained) to allow time for the second.

13. List the promises given in vs.35-40.

How do these especially encourage us today?

14. What are some of the reasons given by defectors from the Lord Jesus to justify their actions?

How can we obtain the strength to persevere in faith despite difficulties in understanding Scriptures and the adversity we experience?

15. What key thought or idea from John 6:22-70, has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #7 READ John 7-9

1. List both the positive and negative reactions to Jesus referred to in Chapter 7.
2. According to 7:14-19, what is the key to understanding the source of the Lord's teaching?
3. How does Jesus answer the objections of the Pharisees in Chapter 8:12-18?
4. The Pharisees claim to be Abraham's children, according to Jesus who is really their father?
5. Why are the Jews about to stone Jesus in v.59?
6. Why is there doubt about the Pharisees' conclusion recorded in 9:16?
7. What changes the healed man's conclusion about Jesus?

Compare v.17 and vs.35-38.

8. Who is really "*blind*" in Chapter 9?
9. Note Chapter 7:6-8 and v.30; what does Jesus mean by the phrase "*my time has not yet come?*"
10. Explain the disagreement between Jesus and the Jews about their relationship with Abraham?

11. The Pharisees seem to believe that they must disprove the healing of the blind man and discredit Jesus and him, why?

12. The brothers of Jesus seem to ridicule Jesus in Chapter 7.

Many Christians experience this from their family members.

Why is it that family members are often the last to accept the testimony of a believer?

What can be done about it?

13. What can we learn from the Lord's comment to those who believed on Him as recorded in Chapter 8:31-32?

What is the sign of the disciple and how does the truth set us free?

14. In Chapter 7:20, 7:50-52, 8:48, 8:59, 9:22, 9:28 and 9:34; we have the reaction of the Jews to their opposition.

What causes people to resort to personal attacks, insults and intimidation when they are opposed?

Has this sort of thing happened to you?

How did you deal with it?

15. What key thought or idea from John 7-9, has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #8 READ John 10:1-42

1. What identifies a shepherd in vs. 1-6?
2. Who are the thieves and robbers of v.8?
3. What is significant about Jesus' claim to be "*the gate for the sheep?*"
4. Compare and contrast the true shepherd with the hired shepherd, v.11-14?
5. What is foreshadowed in the Lord's statement of vs.17-18?
6. What characterizes a true sheep of God?
7. Why are the Jews so alarmed by the Lord's words, vs.25-30?
8. What is the significance of the phrase, "*I and my Father are one?*"
9. Explain the meaning of v.9?
10. What is the Lord referring to in v.16?

What is the one flock and who is the one shepherd?

11. The security of the sheep is promised in vs.27-30.  
What are the promises and how should they encourage believers today?

12. Jesus compares Himself, the good shepherd, with a hired shepherd in Chapter 10.

Since He is our example what can we learn about leadership from Him?

Who is represented by the hired shepherds then and now?

13. We are often told that Jesus never claimed to be God (wrongly!).  
If someone made that statement to you how would you answer it from Chapter 10:22-39?

14. Have you met any good shepherds?

If so, how have they helped you?

15. What key thought or idea from John 10 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #9 READ John 11:1-57

1. List the details given about the family referred to in vs. 1-3.
2. How is Jesus addressed by the two sisters in the chapter?
3. What is to be accomplished by Lazarus' illness?
4. How do the disciples react to the planned return to Judea?
5. When is the resurrection according to Martha?
6. What words in the Lord's prayer of vs.41-42 demonstrate His confidence in His Father?
7. What is the immediate affect of the resurrection of Lazarus on the Jews?
8. How do the crowds react to Jesus' tears?
9. What does the Lord mean by his statement in v.4?

How would this sickness contribute to God's glory and be to the Son's glory?

10. Both Martha and Jesus are speaking about resurrection in vs.23-25, what is similar and what is different about what is said?

11. Reread vs.45-53, why are the Jewish leaders worried about the growing popularity of Jesus?

How does the statement made in v.50 apply to that concern?

12. Mary and Martha are perplexed about the apparent lack of response on Jesus' part to their request v.3, also note vs.21 & 32.  
What can we learn about the apparent delays that occur in regard to our requests of the Lord.

How does this chapter help us to cope with those delays?

13. Read vs.33-35 and v.38. These verses describe the Lord's reaction to Mary and Martha's sorrow. What encouragement can we draw from the story?

Can you think of other verses in the New Testament that refer to the Lord's compassion for us?

14. The Jews express fear about Jesus in v.47-48. They are particularly worried about his affect on their "place" and "nation."  
How do ours selfish goals interfere with the growth of Jesus' popularity and power now?

15. What key thought or idea from John 11:1-57 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #10 READ John 12-13

1. What important Jewish feast is anticipated in Chapters 12-13?
2. Why does Judas react negatively to Mary's act of worship?
3. How does Jesus defend Mary's action?
4. What prompts Jesus' declaration recorded in 12:23?
5. What is foreshadowed in vs.27-29?
6. Note the key words that explain Satan's activity toward Judas?
7. What word describes the purpose of Jesus' act of service to his disciples?
8. Write out the New Commandment issued in Chapter 13.
9. Compare and contrast Judas and Mary.

What has created the significant difference between them?

10. Explain what the Lord meant by his statement in 12:23-24.

How does the analogy apply to him and what is its relevance to the challenge for the disciples and us given in 12:25-26?

11. What lessons are being taught by Jesus through his assumption of a servant's role in 13:1-10?

What does v.8 mean?

12. Mary's gift, or sacrifice, for Jesus prompted a negative reaction from Judas but is much appreciated by Jesus and shared by the others in the house. Why do our efforts sometimes meet with a negative response on the part of other disciples?

How should we react to that response and what can we do about it?

13. Reread 12:42-43, secrecy about their commitment is necessitated by their desire to avoid criticism or censure. Does this happen today in the church?

If so, how is it evidenced and cured?

14. Reread 13:12-17, in what practical ways can we follow our Lord's example and obey the command of v.15?

15. What key thought or idea from John 12-13 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #11 READ John 14-15

1. What is the cure for "heart trouble" according to Jesus?
2. How does Jesus describe himself in 14:6?
3. Who is the counsellor or comforter promised by Jesus?
4. What does Jesus say is "*to my Father's glory*?"
5. Jesus assures the disciples of his love, how can they remain in it?
6. Jesus possesses many things, what two does he promise us in Chapters 14-15?
7. What word describes the reaction to Jesus that disciples are to share?
8. What will be the activity of the Holy Spirit according to 15:26-27?
9. Explain what Jesus meant by each of the descriptive words in 14:6, way, truth and life?
10. At least three great promises are given to the disciples in Chapter 14; Note vs. 1-3; 13 & 14; and 15-18.

What are the promises and how do they relate to the Lord's announcement about his return to his Father.

Why are the promises important to the disciples at this time?

11. Explain the Lord's teaching in 15:1-8.

What is the result of abiding in Christ? Define fruit.

12. Our Lord's sensitivity to the disciples "heart trouble" is evident in his teaching given in 14-15, how should we gain support and encouragement from the promises when we are troubled?

13. Note the references to obedience in 14:15-24.

What does obedience demonstrate and what are its results?

14. In 14:27 Jesus promises us "*My peace*" and in 15:11 he promises "*My joy*"

What would this mean to us practically if we were really to accept these gifts?

15. What key thought or idea from John 14-15 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## **JOHN - Study #12    READ John 16-17**

1. What looms large in the disciples future?
2. What do all anti-Christian forces have in common?
3. Why is Jesus' return to His Father important?
4. How is the Holy Spirit going to bring glory to Christ?
5. What will follow the disappearance of Jesus?
6. What is eternal life?
7. How are the disciples referred to in the Lord's high priestly prayer?
8. What important activity of Jesus does He ask the Father to undertake?
9. Explain each activity of the Holy Spirit in regards to the world, 16:5-11.
10. Reread 16:12-15, what is the work of the Holy Spirit on behalf of disciples?

Why is this important?

11. In John 17:6-10, Jesus reviews his ministry to the disciples, explain exactly what that ministry was.

Try to think of examples for each action.

12. What does the Lord mean by the phrase in 16:22 "*Now is your time of grief?*"

How is the illustration given in 16:21 relevant to them and how could it be applied to us today?

13. In 17:11-12, Jesus asks for protection for the disciples. From what or who did they need protection?

The high priestly prayer includes us. From what things, people or circumstances do we need protection?

14. What does oneness mean in the context of the request in 17:20-23?

How is oneness practically achieved and how can it be maintained?

15. What key thought or idea from John 16-17 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #13 READ John 18-19

1. What phrase in 18:2 underlines the treachery of Judas?
2. Why does Jesus readily confess "*I am He?*"
3. List the events that directly fulfill prophecy in Chapters 18-19?
4. What behaviour by the Jews betrays their hypocrisy?
5. Why did the Jews present Jesus to Pilate for trial?
6. What role of Jesus has prominence in these chapters?
7. How does Pilate react to his contact with Jesus?
8. What phrases identify Joseph and Nicodemus?
9. Is there a difference between the act of Judas and the act of Peter toward Christ as recorded in Chapter 18?

If so, what is the difference and how important is it?

10. What does the statement by Pilate found in 18:38, 19:4 and v.6, "I find no basis for a charge against him" say about Jesus, Pilate and the Jews in the context of these chapters?

**Jesus:**

**Pilate:**

**The Jews:**

11. Explain what the declaration of 19:30 "*it is finished*" means?

How does it relate to such statements as John 4:34?

12. Many emotions are evident in this passage, for example love and hate. Reread the section and list as many examples as you can find.

What feelings does the section illicit from you?

13. Several Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the crucifixion of Christ. How does that fact help your attitude toward the Bible?

What is the believer's obligation to the Bible?

14. It is obvious from Chapters 18-19 that the Passover and the Sabbath are much more important to the Jews than justice, compassion and truth. How can we help ourselves and each other keep a balance between proper attitudes and proper practice in the church?

15. What key thought or idea from John 18-19 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?

## JOHN - Study #14. READ John 20-21

1. What was the conclusion Mary drew from her discovery of the empty grave?
2. How does God reward Mary's devotion to Jesus?
3. What word opens Mary's eyes to the "*gardener's*" real identity?
4. How does Jesus refer to his disciples in his command to Mary?
5. What was the disciples reaction to the appearance of Jesus?
6. How does John describe his purpose for writing the Gospel?
7. What enables John to identify Jesus?
8. How does Jesus respond to Peter's curiosity about John's future?
9. Contrast and compare the attitudes and actions of Mary and those of Peter and John.

What prompts Mary's vigil and how is it rewarded?

10. Note the commission given to the disciples in Chapter 20:21-23.

Make a list of the similarities and differences between the mission of the apostles and the mission of Jesus?

11. Why do you think Peter decided to go fishing?

What is the lesson taught to the disciples through this experience?

12. Thomas asks for tangible evidence of the Lord's resurrection rather than the witness of the disciples.

Do you ever feel like Thomas, if so, what can be done about it?

13. What lessons can be learned from the interview that Jesus has with Peter in 21:15-17?

What was its purpose for Peter?

14. Peter seems quite curious about John's future in 21:20. Why is it that we are sometimes like that as well?

What does this trait tell us about human nature in general and ourselves in particular?

15. What key thought or idea from John 20-21 has especially encouraged, challenged or rebuked you?