

Welcome page

Hello!

We are so glad that you decided to join us in studying the Gospel of John.

This gospel was written by John, a follower of Jesus Christ. Near the end of his account, he writes: “Jesus performed many other 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 Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”¹

As you read and study this gospel, you will hear Jesus’ words and observe his actions through the eye-witness testimony of John. We pray that you will believe what Jesus says about himself, and that you will have life in Jesus’ name.

During each week of our study we will regularly guide you through three steps:

Step #1 - LOOK at the text

- As you read through a chapter or two of John at home in preparation for our weekly meetings, you will answer a series of questions to help you understand what the author is trying to communicate in this section of the book. You will also have the opportunity to see how this passage connects to other parts of the bible, and to reflect on how this passage teaches you to worship God better.
- You will discuss what you learned when you get together with your small group each week.

Step #2 - LEARN from the text

- One of our large group teachers will teach on the text, drawing out biblical themes and application points.

Step #3 - LIVE in light of the text

- After the time of teaching, you will have an opportunity to answer application questions at your tables. As we grow in our knowledge of God and his word, it should affect our attitudes and our actions. This discussion time will naturally lead into a time of prayer, since we need God’s help to live as his people.

We look forward to learning from God and from each other as we study John together!

¹ John 20:30-31

**ISRAEL AT THE TIME
OF JESUS**

1ST CENTURY AD



Jewish Festivals

John tells time in his gospel by linking events to Jewish Festivals. If you keep track of the festivals, and know when these take place during the year, you will know how much time has elapsed between events. As you read, write down the scripture reference when you see a Festival mentioned. If you want more information on which month this festival is celebrated, and what it celebrates, visit www.gotquestions.org.

| Scripture Reference | Name of the Festival | Month Celebrated | What it Celebrates |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | |

Seven Signs

In the Gospel of John, John records seven signs which demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Record them here as you read for easy reference.

| Scripture Reference | Sign | Significance |
|---------------------|------|--------------|
| John 2:1-11 | | |
| John 2:13-22 | | |
| John 4:46-54 | | |
| John 5 | | |
| John 6 | | |
| John 9 | | |
| John 11-12 | | |

Seven "I Am's"

In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven "I am" statements which affirm that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. Record them here as you read for easy reference.

| Scripture Reference | "I Am"... | Significance |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| John 6:41 | | |
| John 8:12 | | |
| John 10:7 | | |
| John 10:11 | | |
| John 11:25 | | |
| John 14:6 | | |
| John 15:1 | | |

John 1:1-18
Lesson 1: The Prologue

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:1-18

Lesson 1: The Prologue

Since we are going to spend the next 19 weeks studying the book that John wrote, we thought it would be a good idea to introduce you to the author himself. Who is John? What do we know about him from the Bible?

1. What does the Bible tell us about John?

- His occupation before he met Jesus. - Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20
 - Who is his brother?
 - Who is his father?
 - What did he do when Jesus called him to follow?

- His relationship to Jesus (as described by the other gospel writers). -
 - Matthew 17:1-3

 - Mark 9:2-4

 - Matthew 26:36-38

 - Mark 14:32-34

- His relationship to Jesus (as described by himself)
 - John 13:18-25

 - John 21:20-21

- His position in the church after Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended into heaven.
 - Acts 3:1-5
 - Acts 4:1-4
 - Galatians 2:8-10
- The way his life ended.
 - Revelation 1:9

2. What do we need to know about John's gospel before we start?

- How it is organized.
 - Prologue: John 1:1-18
 - Part 1: John 1:19 - John 12:50 "Book of Signs"
 - Jesus' Ministry - John recounts how Jesus proved he was the Messiah by performing many signs (miracles)
 - Part 2: John 13:1 - John 20:31 "Book of Passion"
 - Jesus' last days on earth - The last chapters all take place around Jerusalem and record Jesus' final words, death and resurrection.
 - Epilogue: John 21:1-25
- The Purpose of the Gospel. John tells us why he wrote this book!
 - John 20:30-31 - Jesus performed many other 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 Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Ready to get started? We'll begin by reading and recording what we learn from the Prologue: John 1:1-18

John 1:1-18

Lesson 1: The Prologue

LOOK at the Text

1.5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- John introduces us to a person called "The Word". What does John tell us about him?
 - Vs 1 - 4

 - Vs 10-14

 - Vs 16-18

- John also introduces us to another individual named John - John the Baptist, who was the cousin of Jesus. What does he tell us about John the Baptist?
 - Vs 6-8

 - Vs 15

What are people's responses to "The Word"?

- Two different responses are described in verses 10-12. List them below.

- According to these same verses, what two things must people do before they can become children of God?
 - What do these two things mean?

 - What is the difference between the two? Can you do one without the other?

What does John say that he and his fellow disciples have experienced and received from "the Word"?

- Vs 14

- 16

When did "the Word" originate? How long has he existed?

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

- **“In the Beginning”** The vast majority of people who originally read John’s gospel would be familiar with the Hebrew Bible (what we now call the Old Testament), and would know how the Biblical story began. The first few verses of John’s Gospel would sound familiar to them...
 - Read Genesis 1:1. Why do you think John alludes to this verse 4 times in John 1:1-3? What is he claiming as he begins his gospel account?

- **“The Word”** John’s original audience would also be familiar with how the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) described the word of God. There are hundreds of passages, but we’ve highlighted two for you to review today. What do these two passages teach us about the word of God?
 - Isaiah 40:7-8

 - Isaiah 55:10-11

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 1:19-51

Lesson 2: Testimony and Testifying

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

John 1:19-51

Lesson 2: Testimony and Testifying

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- John the Baptist
 - Who does he say he is not?

 - Who does he say he is?

- The people questioning John the Baptist
 - Who are they?

 - Why are they questioning him? (Who are they reporting to?)

- Jesus
 - What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- The Disciples
 - List the names of all those who follow Jesus in this text, and any applicable details (eg. relationship to other people, hometown etc).

What are the Priests / Levites / Pharisees concerned about in this text? Circle all the questions they ask John. What do they want to know?

What is the difference between the way that John baptizes people and the way that Jesus will baptize people?

What is John the Baptist's testimony according to this text?

- This text uses the word "testimony" three times in connection with John the Baptist. Circle each use of the word, and then summarize what you learn in the sentences right before or after this word is used. If John was on the witness stand in a courtroom, what would he be testifying?

What is the testimony of each of the disciples? (The author doesn't use the word testimony to describe the words of the disciples, but they, too, are testifying about Jesus. Record their words below.)

- The Testimony of Andrew
- The Testimony of Philip
- The Testimony of Nathanael

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 1:19-34
- John 1:35-51

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? How many days pass by between verses 19-51?

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

These verses are full of Old Testament references which would have been familiar to the original readers of John's gospel. In order to understand what John is claiming about who John the Baptist is, and who Jesus is, we need to investigate these references. Look up the passages below and record what you learn.

Are you Elijah? Elijah was an Old Testament prophet and, while we don't have time to read his entire story, two facts are important for us to keep in mind if we want to know why the Jewish leaders were asking John the Baptist if he was Elijah.

- Read 2 Kings 2:1-12. How did Elijah's life on earth end?
- Read Malachi 4:5-6. These were the final words written by prophets in the Old Testament. What do they affirm?

Are you the Prophet? What prophet? Who are they talking about?

- Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 to find out. Who is prophesying about this future prophet and what does this person say about the Prophet?
- Isaiah describes this future prophet. List all the descriptions he uses?
 - Isaiah 9:1-7
 - Isaiah 11:1-5
 - Isaiah 11:10-12

The voice of one calling... John [the Baptist] replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the LORD.’”

- Read Isaiah 40:1-5. (John the Baptist quotes verse 3)
 - According to verses 1-2, why will this voice start calling? What message is God communicating to his people by sending this messenger?
 - According to verses 3-5, several things will happen as a result of this voice calling. What are they?
 - What is John the Baptist claiming, by quoting this verse? (see also Matthew 3:1-3, Mark 1:1-4, Luke 3:1-6)

Descriptions of Jesus. John the Baptist virtually disappears from the scene after this chapter so we have spent more time unpacking his identity in this lesson. Jesus’ identity, however will be developed throughout the book. For the sake of time, we’ve provided one text for each name below. Look them up to see what you learn about Jesus.

- **The Lamb of God...** See Revelation 5:6-12
- **Son of God...** See Psalm 2 (esp v 7 and 12)
- **King of Israel....** See Zephaniah 3:14-15
- **The Son of Man...** See Daniel 7:13-14

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 2:1-3:21

Lesson 3: Jesus and the new (Part I)

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to

them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

John 3

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?

¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 2:1-3:21

Lesson 3: Jesus and the new ... (Part I)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus.
 - What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

 - What does Jesus say he has come to do?

 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- The disciples.
 - List the various things the disciples do in this text.

- “The Jews” (2:6, 18)
 - This term is used twice in this text. Although most of the people who Jesus was teaching were Jews, the word seems to be used here for a specific group. Who do you think this term is referring to? Why?

- Nicodemus
 - Who is he?
 - What does he know?
 - What does he not know?

Who has eternal life, according to this text?

Who stands condemned, according to this text?

What responses do we see in this text to Jesus?

What does this text teach us about human nature? (See especially 2:24-25, 3:19-21)

- How do these verses convict or challenge you?
 - Could Jesus entrust himself to you?
 - Where are you living - in darkness or light? How do you know?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 2:1-12
- John 2:13-22
- John 2:23-25

- John 3:1-15

- John 3:16-21

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival, because festivals take place at the same time every year).

Why do people believe in Jesus, according to the first part of this passage (John 2:1 - 3:2)? What are they basing their belief upon?

- How stable is this type of belief? Do you know people who look for the same evidences today?

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

These verses are full of Old Testament references which would have been familiar to the original readers of John's gospel. In order to understand the significance of Jesus' words and actions in this passage, we need to investigate these references. Look up the passages below and record what you learn.

The master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine...

- What is significant about the jars which were filled with water? How are they described in this text?

- What is the significance of wine in Old Testament prophecies? What does "new wine" seem to symbolize?
 - Isaiah 42:6-9

 - Jeremiah 31:10-14

 - Joel 3:17-18

- With this information in mind, what do you think John is suggesting as he specifically points out that Jesus turns water (which is held in jars used for Jewish ceremonial washing) into wine?

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and you do not understand these things?”

Jesus is amazed that Nicodemus doesn’t understand that people need to re-born - by water and the Spirit. Why is he astonished? What should Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel know? Read the following passages and record what you learn.

- Isaiah 32:15-20

- Isaiah 44:1-6

- Ezekiel 36:24-28

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up... What is Jesus teaching by quoting this story?

- Read Numbers 21:4-9 and describe the events which occur in these verses.

- What was the purpose of the snake lifted up in the wilderness?

- Re-read John 3:10-15. Why is Jesus drawing on this story from Numbers as he talks to Nicodemus? What is he communicating to him?

In John 3:16, we are told that God **“gave his one and only Son”**. This passage is also borrowing language from the Old Testament.

- Read Genesis 22:1-19 and take note of verse 2, 12 and 16.
 - Who is the Father in this story?

 - Who is the “one and only son”?

- What happened to the “one and only son” in Genesis 22 (see verses 9-14, especially verse 13)?

- In contrast, what will happen to God’s “one and only son” while he is on earth?

- Why does God allow this to happen to his “one and only son” according to John 3:16?
 - Spend some time praising God for his love for the world!

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 3:22-4:54

Lesson 4: Jesus and the new (Part II)

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

²⁷ To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.

²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less."

³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

John 4

¹ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

⁴³ After the two days he left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸ “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

⁴⁹ The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰ “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

John 3:22-4:54

Lesson 4: Jesus and the new ... (Part II)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- John the Baptist
 - What do you learn about John the Baptist's character in this text? What is his attitude towards his own mission and towards Jesus?
 - How does his attitude challenge or encourage you?

- Jesus
 - We know that John 3:31-36 is written by John (the author of the gospel), and not said by John the Baptist because these words aren't in quotation marks. What facts does the author of this gospel confirm about Jesus in John 3:31-36?

 - Why did Jesus leave Judea?

 - As you read through his conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-4:26, how would you characterize Jesus' tone and his attitude towards this woman? What surprises or encourages you about the way he converses with her?

- In Chapter 4, Jesus transforms the Samaritan woman's idea of 2 things, and transforms the disciples' idea of 1 thing. What are the 3 things that Jesus redefines in this section?

- What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

- What does Jesus say he has come to do?

- What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- The Samaritan woman
 - List what the text tells us about her.

- The Royal Official
 - List what the text tells us about him.

Who has eternal life, according to this text?

Who will not see life, according to this text?

What responses do we see in this text to Jesus?

- **Why** do the Samaritans believe that Jesus is the Messiah? Several reasons are listed in the text.

- **Why** does the Royal Official believe that Jesus is the Messiah?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 3:22-36
- John 4:1-42
- John 4:43-54

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival, because festivals take place at the same time every year).

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

Now he had to go through Samaria.... What is the big deal about Samaria? If we read through the New Testament gospels we become aware that the Jews and the Samaritans were at odds with one another. Why? This question will take up most of our Whole Bible Connections section this week, because understanding the background of this conflict will help you understand much more of John 4.

Read 2 Kings 17:1-6.

- What happened to the Israelites who originally lived in the Israelite region which was called Samaria?

Read 2 Kings 17:7-23

- Why were these Israelite people taken into exile in Assyria?

Read 2 Kings 17:24 - 26

- Who moved into this region after the Israelites left?

Read 2 Kings 17:27-41

- How does the Bible describe the worship practices of this new group of people who became known as the Samaritans?

Read Deuteronomy 11:26-32

- The Samaritans' beliefs were partly founded on Old Testament texts. What places of worship are listed here? Do these places appear in the John 4:1-42?

- Syncretism is a fancy word used to describe the melding of two opposing beliefs or worldviews. How do these two texts draw attention to the syncretism of the Samaritans?

With this information in mind, read John 4:1-42 again. How do the passages in 2 Kings and Deuteronomy help you to understand Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman?

... he would have given you living water

The Samaritan woman may not have known what Jesus was referring to when he spoke of living water, but these words would be familiar to Jews reading John's Gospel. Look up the following verses to see how the Old Testament talks about living water.

What is the problem with Israel?

- Jeremiah 2:1-13

What is the solution for Israel?

- Isaiah 12:1-6

- Isaiah 55:1-3

What does the appearance of living water signify?

- Zechariah 14:1-9

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 5:1-47

Lesson 5: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 1: Testimony)

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,¹⁰ and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

¹¹ But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

¹² So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. ²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. ²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

³¹ “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

³³ “You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

³⁶ “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

⁴¹ “I do not accept glory from human beings, ⁴² but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. ⁴³ I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

⁴⁴ How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

⁴⁵ “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. ⁴⁷ But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

John 5:1-47

Lesson 5: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 1:Testimony)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- The Paralyzed man.
 - What do you learn about him?

 - What does Jesus say to him in verse 14? What questions do you have regarding Jesus' words here?

- Jesus
 - What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

 - What does Jesus say he has come to do?

 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- The Jewish Leaders
 - Why do they confront the man who was cured? What rule has he broken?
 - Do you think this rule is found in the Bible, or do you think it is simply a tradition? How do you know?
 - This text gives two reasons why the Jewish leaders begin to persecute Jesus. What are they?

- The Father
 - What do we learn about God the Father in this passage?

Who (and what) testifies to who Jesus is, according to this text?

What responses is Jesus seeking from those he meets?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 5:1-15
- John 5:16-18
- John 5:19-30
- John 5:31-47

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival, because festivals take place at the same time every year).

Why, according to Jesus, are the Jewish leaders not believing him and coming to him? There are several reasons Jesus identifies in this passage

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

... **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** The Jews of Jesus' day were committed monotheists. They believed in one God, and recited Deuteronomy 6:4 (which they called "The Shema) everyday: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." In light of this belief, Jesus' claim seems ludicrous to them. Look up the following verses to see what happened to other people in the Bible who claimed to be equal with God.

- Ezekiel 28:1-10 Who claims to be equal with God? What happens to him?

- Ezekiel 29:1-6. Who claims to be equal with God? What happens to him?

- Daniel 4:28-37. Who claims to be equal with God? What happens to him?

- What do the following passages add to this picture?
 - Isaiah 42:8

 - Isaiah 48:11

- Do these passages help you understand the Jewish leaders' response to Jesus?

My Father is always at work to this very day, and I too am working. In this passage, Jesus claims that the Father has delegated certain work to him. Look up the following texts to see what God is doing in each passage, and then note the parallel in John 5:1-47.

Work #1

- What actions are attributed to God in each of the texts below?
 - Genesis 2:7
 - Job 10:12
 - Job 33:4
 - Psalm 36:9

- In John 5:1-47, where (in which verses) does Jesus say that he does the same thing?

Work #2

- What actions are attributed to God in each of the texts below?
 - Genesis 18:25
 - Judges 11:27

- In John 5:1-47, where (in which verses) does Jesus say that he does the same thing?

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true... Jesus isn't calling into question his own truthfulness here, but instead referring to Old Testament teaching regarding how the truthfulness of a person's words should be established. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about God's guidelines for his people.

- Deuteronomy 17:6

 - Deuteronomy 19:15

 - Numbers 35:30
-
- What do these passages teach you about God's wisdom?
(Why is it necessary for God to put these safeguards in place? What does He know about the human heart?)

 - Jesus, who is claiming equality with God himself, welcomes this human practice of allowing His words and his claims to be scrutinized and validated by the testimony of others. How is his humility here a model to us? (Have you encountered people who claim to speak with God's authority and get upset if people seek to evaluate or validate their words?)

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 6:1-71

Lesson 6: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 2: Bread of Life)

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.”

²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³ Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph,

whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

⁴³ "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!”

⁷¹ (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

John 6:1-71

Lesson 6: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 2: Bread of Life)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- The crowd.
 - Why is the crowd following Jesus? There are a few different statements in this passage which illuminate their motivation for doing so.

 - How does the attitude of the crowd towards Jesus change from the beginning of this passage to the end? Identify some of the key verses which explain how the crowd is responding to him in the various sections of the text.

- Jesus.
 - This passage highlights Jesus' omniscience (the fact that he is all-knowing). What information does Jesus instinctively or supernaturally know, according to this passage?

- What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

- What does Jesus say he has come to do?

- What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- The Disciples
 - How do the disciples experience and respond to Jesus in the first 21 verses of this passage? What do they learn about him?

 - How do the disciples experience and respond to Jesus in the last 11 verses of this passage?
 - Two distinct groups of disciples appear near the end of the passage. How would you differentiate between the two?

 - How are you challenged or encouraged by Peter's words in verse 68? Do you resonate with what He is saying here? Why or Why not?

- The Father
 - What do we learn about God the Father in this passage?

What is the “work of God” according to this text?

What is the “will of God” according to this text?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 6:1-15

- John 6:16-21

- John 6:22-59

- John 6:60-71

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival, because festivals take place at the same time every year).

Why, according to Jesus, do some people come to him for salvation?

- What does this mean?

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness... The crowds respond to Jesus providing them with bread in the wilderness by referencing another time that God provided them with bread in the wilderness. The parallels between these two stories will take up most of our Whole Bible Connections section this week, because understanding the Old Testament references will help you understand much more of John 6.

- Read Exodus 16:1-36.
 - What similarities do you see between this passage and John 6?

 - What is the attitude of the Israelites in Exodus 16:1-8?
 - Where, in John 6, do you see this same attitude identified?

 - Why does God say he is giving them manna in Exodus 16:4?
 - How does this compare with what is stated in John 6:6?

- What does Moses say about their grumbling in Exodus 16:8? They think they are grumbling against Moses, but what does he clarify for them?
 - How does this relate to what Jesus has said about himself in the gospel of John?

- What is the key difference between the bread given to the Israelites and the bread offered to the Jews in Jesus' day according to John 6?

- Let's look at the wider context of Exodus 16. Skim through Exodus 14 and record the event which came before the Old Testament discussion regarding bread?
 - What event comes before the New Testament discussion regarding bread? (see John 6:16-21)

- When the crowd says to Jesus "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?" (6:30-31), it sounds like they are suggesting to him that they'll believe him if he does the same sort of signs that Moses did. What is ironic about this statement? Did their ancestors believe & obey Moses? If you need more background to answer this question, read Numbers 11.

- Read Hebrews 3:1-6. How does this passage connect Moses and Jesus?
 - If you have time, read the rest of Hebrews 3! What does the author warn his audience against?

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 7:1-52

Lesson 7: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 3: Division)

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. ² But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do."⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

⁶ Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do."⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. ⁸ You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come."⁹ After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰ However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. ¹¹ Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people."¹³ But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

¹⁴ Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

¹⁶ Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸ Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. ¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

²⁰ "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

²¹ Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. ²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. ²³ Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, ²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

³³ Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

⁴¹ Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

⁴⁶ “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.

⁴⁷ “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. ⁴⁸ “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ⁵¹ “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?”

⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

John 7:1-52

Lesson 7: Jesus and the Opposition (Part 3:Division)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus' brothers.
 - What do we learn about Jesus' brothers in this passage?

 - How are their perceptions of him incorrect? What do they think Jesus is concerned about?

- Jesus.
 - What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

 - What does Jesus say he has come to do?

 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- Given this concern, what is ironic about what people say in 7:42, and what the Pharisees say in 7:52?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- John 7:1-13
- John 7:14-36
- John 7:37-44
- John 7:45-52

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text & locate them on the map on page 3.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival, because festivals take place at the same time every year).

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

When the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near... All of the events of this chapter take place right before or during the Festival (or Feast) of Tabernacles. In the next few pages we'll explore the background to this festival, so that we can understand the significance of Jesus' invitation to take living water on the last day.

- Skim through Leviticus 23 and then make brief notes on the names, dates and length of each Jewish Festival.
 - Leviticus 23:4-8 (Feast name / Date / Length)
 - Leviticus 23:23-25 (Feast name / Date / Length)
 - Leviticus 23:26-32 (Name of Day / Date / Length)
 - Leviticus 23:33-44 (Feast name / Date / Length)
- Leviticus 23:33-44 refers to the Festival called either the Festival of Booths or the Festival of Tabernacles. What is the point of this festival according to this text? What event does it commemorate?
 - What did God miraculously provide for the Israelites when this event originally took place, according to Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:2-13?
- We know from historical records that it became tradition to read Zechariah 14:16-19 on the last day of the feast. What reward or punishment is linked to people observing the Feast of Tabernacles according to this text?

- So, with this background information on the Festival of Tabernacles, and Exodus 17, Numbers 20 and Zechariah 14 in our minds, what is the significance of Jesus stating, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink” on the last and greatest day of the festival?
 - Who provided living water in the Old Testament?
 - Who is providing living water now?

- Jesus invites anyone who is thirsty to come to him: what does it mean to be thirsty?
 - Read Psalm 42 and record your thoughts below.

 - Read Revelation 22:17. What is the very last invitation offered in scripture? *(Note: the book of Revelation is also written by John!)*
 - *Are you thirsty?! Come! Take the water of life without price!*

- Why does John join the imagery of water with a promise of the Spirit? Read the following texts to see what he was referencing:
 - Isaiah 44:1-5

 - Ezekiel 36:25-27

 - Joel 2:28-32

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 8:12-59

Lesson 8: Radical Confrontation (Jesus and The Jews)

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

¹⁹ Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

²² This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

²³ But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. ²⁶ “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.”

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not

clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

⁴⁹ "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

⁵² At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴ Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

John 8:12-59

John 8:12-59: Radical Confrontation (Jesus and The Jews)

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus
 - What does Jesus say he has come to do?

 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- Pharisees
 - What do the Pharisees accuse Jesus of?

 - What does Jesus tell the pharisees about themselves?

- The Jews
 - What do the “Jews who believe” say about themselves?

 - What does Jesus tell the “Jews who had believed in him” about themselves?

 - How are the Jews in this passage unlike their father Abraham?

- God the Father
 - What do we learn about God the Father in this passage?

What does Jesus say about sin in this passage?

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- 12-20

- 21-30

- 31-47

- 47-51

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival because festivals take place at the same time every year) (hint: look back to John 7:2, 14)

How would you summarize the main point of this passage?

2. Whole Bible Connections:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life...At the beginning of this passage, Jesus says he is the light of the world.

- Read the following passages and observe what we learn about “light”.
 - Exodus 13:21–22
 - Who was leading the people of Israel, and how was he leading them?

 - Psalm 27:1
 - In this Psalm who is the light?

- Isaiah 42:1-9
 - Who is this about? (see Isaiah 42:1)

 - What do we learn about the light?

- Isaiah 9:1-7
 - What does the light do?

- Many of the people John records hearing Jesus say he is the light of the world, would have been familiar with these texts, with this in mind, how would they have understood Jesus’s claim to be the light of the world?

We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?... The Jews in this passage believe that they have never been a slave to anyone. Jesus tells them they are slaves to sin, because they don’t understand the nature of their relationship to sin.

- What do we learn about slavery to sin in the following passages?
 - Proverbs 5:22
 - 2 Peter 2:10-22 (esp. v19)
 - Romans 6:15-18
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10
 - How does this passage describe our human state before God’s intervention?
- Connecting these ideas to John 8, why do the ‘Jews who had believed him’ think they are free?
- What does Jesus tell the ‘Jews who had believed him’ will set them free?

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did...” The Jews in this passage are assuming that their ethnic heritage will ensure they receive the promises given to Abraham. They believe that because they are Abraham’s physical descendants, they automatically inherit the blessings promised to him and his descendants. They believe this makes them God’s children.

- What do the following passages tell us about descendants (or children) of Abraham?
 - Romans 4:13-17
 - Romans 9:6-9
 - Galatians 3:6–9
 - Galatians 3:26-29

How do these passages tell us we inherit the promises given to Abraham and become God's children?

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”...At the end of this chapter, Jesus says something that causes the people to have heard enough and pick up stones to kill him. (John 8:58-59)

- Read Exodus 3
 - What does God tell Moses in Exodus 3:14?
- What does Jesus tell the Jews in John 8:5?
- In light of Exodus 3, what would they have perceived him to actually be saying?
- How does this help you understand the Jewish people's reaction to Jesus words?

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 9:1-10:42

Lesson 9: The Man Born Blind and the Good Shepherd

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.

²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

¹⁰ “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

²¹ But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication[c] at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My

sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, ³² but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

³³ "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"'? ³⁵ If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— ³⁶ what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? ³⁷ Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. ³⁸ But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." ³⁹ Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, ⁴¹ and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true."

⁴² And in that place many believed in Jesus.

John 9:1-10:42

Lesson 9: -The Man Born Blind and the Good Shepherd

LOOK at the text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Man Born Blind
 - What do we learn about the man?
 - What is the purpose in the man's blindness and healing?
 - Who does the man born blind think Jesus is?
 - In his first encounter with the Pharisees?
 - In his second encounter with the Pharisees?
 - In his response to Jesus?
- Jesus
 - What do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

- What does Jesus say he has come to do?
- What does he call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?
- Neighbours
 - What is the Neighbours response to the man born blind?
- Pharisees
 - What are their questions about the man born blind?
 - What actions and words do they use to pronounce judgement for the man?
 - What conclusions do they come to about Jesus?
- Blind man's parents
 - What do we learn about the blind man's parents?
- The Jews
 - The Jews are again divided in their response to Jesus. How do the Jews respond to the teaching of Jesus in Ch.10?
 - What do the Jews want to do Jesus?

- What is their reason for this?

- The Sheep
 - What do we learn about the sheep in this passage?

 - What is the reason some sheep are part of the flock?

 - What do we learn about Jesus' "other sheep"?

 - What are the reasons that some sheep don't belong to Jesus?

- God the Father
 - What do we learn about God the Father in this passage?

 - What do we learn about the relationship between God and Jesus?

What are the main accusations that are levelled against Jesus in this 9:16 and 10:33?

What "testifies about Jesus" in this passage (what evidence backs up his claims?) And what does this point to? (hint: 10:38-39)

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize each section?

- 9:1-1
- 9:13-34
- 9:35-41
- 10: 1-18
- 10:19-21
- 10:22-39
- 10:40-42

What words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases, they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!

Where are all these events taking place? Write down every location you see mentioned in the text.

When are all these events taking place? What indications are in the text? (note time of day or number of days mentioned, and/or a specific festival because festivals take place at the same time every year)

How would you summarize the main point of this passage?

Whole Bible Connections:

I am the good shepherd...Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. In Israel's past they had been lead by several bad leaders, but God promised a Good Shepherd would one day come to save them and lead them as a shepherd should.

- Read Isaiah 56:9-12. What do we learn about Israel's shepherds?

- Read Ezekiel 34.
 - What does this passage tell us about the shepherds?

 - What happened to the people as a result?

 - What will God do to the shepherds?

 - Who will take care of the sheep?

 - List all the things God will do for his sheep?

 - In light of this Old Testament background, who is Jesus claiming to be in John 10?

- How do you see the Pharisees actions In John 9-10 paralleling the bad shepherds described in Ezekiel 34?
- Read Psalm 23 and Meditate on it, listing what we learn about what it is like to have the Lord as your shepherd?

I and the Father are one...Jesus says that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. He says they are one. To understand what he means, we need to look at how those listening to Jesus would have understood this statement?

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4. What does this passage say about God?
- In light of this, why would the listeners in this scene in John respond to Jesus the way they do in John 10:31-33?

John 11:1-54

Lesson 10: Raising Lazarus

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. ⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

⁵⁴ Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

John 11:1-54

Lesson 10: Raising Lazarus

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus
 - What does Jesus say he has come to do?
 - What does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?
- The Disciples
- Mary

- John 11:28-37
- John 11:38-44
- John 11:45-54

What does Caiaphas prophesy about Jesus in this text (v 49-52)?

What role does Jesus's prayer before raising Lazarus have in this story?

Where are these events taking place? Take note of the different locations mentioned in the text (see 10:40 for the location that Jesus begins in).

Why does Jesus say it was good that he was not with Lazarus before his death?

When do these different events take place? List the time references in this passage.

How does Jesus respond to the news of Lazarus's sickness?

- **How** is Jesus's response at the tomb of Lazarus different than his initial response to the news of Lazarus's sickness?

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" With this declaration, Jesus brought Lazarus, a dead man, back to life. There are other instances in the Bible when people who were dead came back to life. Let's look at two examples:

- 1 Kings 17:7-24
 - What is happening in this story?
 - How does Elijah raise the boy to life in this story?
 - What role does prayer play in the raising of the boy?
- 2 Kings 4: 8-37
 - What is happening in this story?
 - How does Elisha raise the boy in this story?

- What role does prayer play in the raising of the boy?
- Consider again the raising of Lazarus in John 11:38-44.
 - How does Jesus's prayer differ from that of Elijah and Elisha?
 - How does Jesus action differ from that of Elijah and Elisha?
 - What does this seem to indicate about the power and nature of who Jesus is?
- Resurrection is a big idea in the New Testament but is only hinted at explicitly a few times in the Old Testament. Look up the following passages and make a note of how the idea of resurrection is referenced:
 - Isaiah 26:19-21
 - Daniel 12:1-3
 - 2 Samuel 12:15-23
- The reality of resurrection was a debated idea amongst the different Jewish groups. The Pharisees believed that resurrection was a true idea while the Sadducees thought there was no resurrection or afterlife (see Acts 23:6-8). All

the New Testament authors, however, believed hope for a future resurrection to be the basis for hope and meaning in life at all.

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28
 - How does belief in resurrection fuel hope for what's to come?

 - How does disbelief in resurrection affect one's hope for the future?

- Read Revelation 7:9-17 & 21:1-4
 - How do these passages give us hope for the life that is to come for those who believe?

- Jesus raised more than just Lazarus from the dead. Look up the following two references and take note of who He raised and how He raised them.
 - Luke 7:11-17

 - Matthew 9:18-26

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**

John 11:55-12:50

Lesson 11: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

LOOK at the Text

⁵⁵ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. ⁵⁶ They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” ⁵⁷ But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

³⁴ The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.”

⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

⁴⁷ “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

John 11:55-12:50

Lesson 11: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

LOOK at the Text

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus
 - **What** do we learn about who Jesus is in this passage?

 - **What** does Jesus say he has come to do?

 - **What** does Jesus call people to do? What are his commands in this passage?

- Mary

- Martha

- Judas Isacariot

Why does John record the Father speaking in 12:28? This is the only instance of the Father speaking in John's gospel.

When do these different events take place? List the time references in this passage.

How does Jesus enter into Jerusalem?

- **Why** is it important that he entered the city in the manner that he did? (see v16)

How would you summarize the main point of this passage? What does John want you to know?

2. Whole Bible Connections

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him...” (John 12:12-13) As the crowd gathered around to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem, Jesus found a donkey and entered the city in accordance with the Scriptures.

- Look up and read Zechariah 9:9-13
 - How does this help us better understand Jesus entering into Jerusalem in John 12?

 - Many of the Jews at this time were expecting the coming Messiah to usher in a time of war, after which the Jews would reclaim the land that God had given them. How does the description of the Messiah in Zech 9:9-13 counteract that idea?

 - Theologians talk about the “already/not yet” fulfillment of many Biblical promises.
 - How has this promise about what Jesus would accomplish already been fulfilled?

 - How has this promise of what Jesus would accomplish not yet been fulfilled?

- As Jesus enters the city, crowds gather around him and worship him as he approached Jerusalem. Look up and read Psalm 118.
 - How do the crowds in John 12 take appropriate this Psalm to worship Jesus?

- How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus being welcomed in this manner? Why?

“Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet” (John 12:37-38). John goes on to quote two different passages from the prophet Isaiah. Look up and read the following making note of what is happening in each passage and how they are used in John 12:

- John 12:38 quotes Isaiah 53:1. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and write down how this servant of God (who is not recognized by the people) is described.
 - Circle the descriptions that seem to match what you know about Jesus through the gospel of John so far.
- John 12:40 quotes Isaiah 6:9-10. Read Isaiah 6 to catch the flow of the narrative. What mission is God giving Isaiah?
 - Why is God giving this mission to Isaiah?

- Isaiah 6 is quoted in the other Gospels as well.
 - Read Matthew 13:1-23.
 - How does this parable help us understand what is being recorded in John's gospel?

3. Reflection:

- **Adoration**

- **Confession**

- **Supplication**