

# HOW TO STUDY THROUGH JOHN

## I. General Introduction

- A. The purpose of this study is to help your non-Christian friend come to an initial faith in Jesus as the Son of God. This gospel is an incredible gospel and will produce faith in the heart of anyone who truly desires to believe in God. This promise is given in John 20:30-31. *"Jesus did many other miraculous signs which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*
- B. The key to this study is your own personal faith! You should read through this gospel with your non-Christian friend with a heart of faith, zeal and enthusiasm. The approach of this study is to help your friend for the first time in a simple, powerful and refreshing way to see why Jesus is the Christ. Your heart must convey a sense of joy, wonderment and enthusiasm in your discovery together of Jesus.

## II. Points to Remember

- A. Set up a time for the study in a location where there can be a warm relaxed atmosphere. Allow about one-and-a-half to two hours for the study, so that there is enough time for light conversation, refreshments, etc.
- B. If you have not yet done so, have a Bible ready to present as a gift. Whatever translation you choose is a personal matter, but when reading John together it is recommended that all involved in the study use the same translation. (One recommendation is to use the New International Version).
- C. Have a prayer together and pray powerfully that God will reveal himself through this study of the Word.

## III. How to Begin the Study

There are two points to make at the beginning of the study:

- A. Turn to the letter of 1 John 1:1. Here the apostle John speaks of having seen Jesus and makes the point that his writings are an eyewitness account. The apostle John was actually with Jesus. There is something special about talking to someone who was actually there! (Other references in the Gospel of John are 19:35 and 21:24).
- B. Turn now to John 20:30-31. Jesus did many miracles and taught many things, but these accounts were written down to help non-believers come to faith, or to help believers to renew their faith! If we come to the Scriptures with a heart (a will) desiring to know God and serve God, this gospel will produce faith. State and show repeatedly throughout the study how people are coming to faith. They hear Jesus, see Jesus, talk with Jesus and come to faith.
- C. Turn to John 1. Begin by reading each section aloud, taking turns reading. Keep asking the question, "What did people see in Jesus that gave them faith?" Make it fun and interesting and keep it simple. You will want to cover four to five chapters during each study. The main reason to keep it moving, exciting, and simple is to allow your friend to see Jesus.

## IV. Points to Make in Each Chapter

This section will help you make some important points in each text. It is important not to get too detailed, but rather to give an overview of the Gospel. Be sure to ask the question often, "What did you learn about Jesus?"

## Chapter 1

### 1:1-18

Jesus is God! God became a man! Incredible!

### 1:19-34

John the Baptist was amazed and recognized Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

### 1:35-51

The first disciples spent time with Jesus. Notice how they are impacted by his character and sense of mission and how quickly the disciples come to an initial faith.

## Chapter 2

### 2:1-11

Jesus attends a wedding in Galilee and changes water into wine! Point out the sociability of Jesus. The disciples see the miracle and come to a deeper faith.

### 2:12-25

Jesus clears the temple! The people see the zeal and power of his leadership. They come to faith (v. 23).

## Chapter 3

### 3:1-21

Nicodemus, a religious leader, is inspired and convicted by a conversation with Jesus and later comes to believe! (19:39) Notice how Jesus loves people enough to speak the truth.

## Chapter 4

### 4:1-42

A life-confrontation with Jesus brings the Samaritan woman to faith (vs. 29, 42). Point out again how Jesus speaks the truth in love.

### 4:43-54

An official's son is healed resulting in a whole family coming to faith! Point out the compassion of Jesus and notice again how quickly people came to faith.

## Chapter 5

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath in Jerusalem. The Jews do not believe in Jesus. Notice Jesus' determination to hold to the truth regardless of opposition. The rest of the chapter is a sermon to their hearts to help them repent. Verse 40 says, "...yet you refuse to come to me to have life." People still refuse today.

## Chapter 6

Another miracle! Here the people still do not believe. Jesus preaches to their hearts. Many choose not to believe and decide to leave. With people who refuse to believe, it's never an intellectual problem, but rather a moral one, because they are unwilling to change their lives.

## Chapter 7

His brothers are unbelieving (v. 5). Jesus preaches to their hearts! Jesus travels to Jerusalem. The people are divided because of Jesus. Verse 21 says they are still discussing the miracle of Chapter 5! Jesus preaches to help them come to faith. Verse 40 states that some of the people believe. Notice in these last three chapters that Jesus is preaching and struggling to bring people to faith by challenging their hearts.