

JOHN STUDY

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.

Chapter 8

Jesus continues to address their unbelief and in verse 30 it states that they came to faith. Verse 31 says that faith comes through deciding to hold to his teachings. Again, Jesus is courageous enough to confront their unwillingness to believe.

Chapter 9

Jesus heals a blind man, an obvious miracle that people refused to believe! Verse 8 shows that his neighbors did not believe, verses 15 and 41 show that the Pharisees did not either, and verse 20 indicates that his parents also refused to believe.

Chapter 10

Jesus preaches to the Pharisees to help them believe. Verses 19-21 show that they are divided about Jesus. Jesus says, «You still do not believe" (vs. 24-25). Why? Because of their heart• (v. 26). Jesus goes back to the Jordan to preach (v. 40). Many believe (v.42)! Notice again how Jesus is determined to help them come to faith. People can come to faith quickly if their hearts are desiring change.

Chapter 11

Jesus raises Lazarus! People come to faith (v. 45). The leaders of the Jews acknowledged the miracle (v. 47), yet still do not. believe. Incredible! Notice the deep compassion and sympathy for those who are hurting.

Chapter-12

Jesus enters Jerusalem. He prays publicly in verse 27 that God might be glorified. The voice of God answers in verse 37, but the Jews still will not believe! Again, Jesus preaches to their hearts (vs. 47-50). Notice once again Jesus' determination. This closes the first section of John. In the next section, Chapters 13-16, Jesus spends time with the 12 apostles to strengthen their faith.

Chapter 13

Jesus washed their feet and shows his love. He predicts his betrayal by Judas and denial by Peter.

Chapter 14

Jesus explains his deity and the purpose of his coming more clearly. Notice his eternal commitment to his disciples.

Chapter 15

He refocuses the 12 on the mission. He gives them vision to bear fruit for God.

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Chapter 16

He speaks of the reality of persecution and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to help us through all situations. In verse 31, the 12 finally come to a deeper faith. Their hearts are where Jesus wants them. Notice again how being with Jesus and hearing his teachings can quickly bring people to a deeper faith.

Chapter 17

Jesus prays for the disciples. The work is completed (v. 4). They have come to faith. He prays for future believers. Notice again his concern for all disciples.

Chapter 18, 19

Jesus is arrested, tried and crucified. Focus on the character of Jesus through these trials. Only the Messiah could have this kind of confidence! Jesus maintains his faith even in the face of death. Point out the incredible love of God for us and his willingness to die on the cross for us. On the other hand, the disciples become fearful and lose faith. However, there is no reason for this, because Jesus had told them earlier of his death, burial and resurrection (16:16-30).

Chapter 20

The resurrection and appearance to the 12. The disciples come to a deeper faith (v. 20). However, Thomas is still doubting in Jesus (vs.24-29), so Jesus appears to him and calls him to believe. Point out how Jesus is willing to struggle with us in our doubts to help us believe. Verse 29 says, "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus calls us blessed who have not seen and yet believe.

Chapter 21

Peter, even after seeing the resurrected Jesus, has still not come full circle in his convictions. Why? Because of sin and an unwillingness to follow. He goes to Jesus and Jesus restores him. Jesus is willing to give us a second chance. Verse 22: "Peter, you must follow me!"

V. Question at the End of the Study

A. Call your non-Christian friend to make the decision to believe: "**Do you believe in Jesus and are you ready to follow him?**"

B. If the answer is yes, turn now to John 1:12. This promise states that those who have received him and believe now have the right or the authority to become "children of God." Therefore the next step is to continue to study the Bible together to teach your friend how to become a child of God. The next study will be "Discipleship."

C. End the study with a prayer. Set up the next study right away. Give your friend some reading assignments in the Gospel of John to do at home. Have your friend continue to come to Bible Talk and church.