

An In-Depth Book-by-Book Study of the Bible

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## JOHN'S GOSPEL (JOHN 1-11):

ONE WORD,  
ONE LIFE,  
ONE WAY

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE  
FOR THE DEAF

EXPLORE  
THE BIBLE

# BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF

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# Accepting Christ?



Hello!

My name is Dawn (Easterling) Barnes. I am Deaf. I grew up in Spartanburg, SC. I graduated from a public high school. I also graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College, which is now a university, and became a teacher of the Deaf. I taught for 12 years until I decided to stay home with my children.

I did not become a Christian until I was an adult. When I was growing up, I did not attend church regularly. As a young adult, I did not attend church at all. I often hung out with the wrong group of people. I would sometimes drink alcohol. I would sometimes smoke cigarettes. I would sometimes lie to my parents. I was not proud of myself.

After college, I got a job, and moved to Tennessee. I became pregnant, got married, had a baby, got divorced, and moved back home. I eventually got married

again to a wonderful man, Larry Barnes. I am thankful God put him in my life. We started attending First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. We had a wonderful Deaf Sunday school class. I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart, but I didn't have a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him. I didn't pray. I didn't read my Bible like I should.

However, in the summer of 2004, my life changed. My family and I went to Brentwood, Tennessee to attend the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf. Wow! What a life-changing experience for me! The whole week there, it was as if everyone was talking about Jesus and nothing else! The evening worship services were awesome! The morning workshops were awesome! The people were awesome! That week on Thursday evening, my husband and I both decided we were going to follow the Lord! We wanted a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him!

After we returned home, it was tough. Being a Christian is not easy. We lost lots of friends, but we also made lots of new Christian friends. We became more involved in church. Larry became the Sunday School Director. God later called him to be the Pastor of the Deaf Ministry at First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. Life was more



peaceful.

We are now in Fayetteville, NC. God called us here in August, 2010 to begin a brand new church, Fayetteville Deaf Church. We now have 5 children (4 Deaf and one hearing). Our 5th child, Deaf, was recently adopted from China. God is good. Life is good.

Don't wait... Ask Jesus into

your heart today and begin your RELATIONSHIP with Him!

"You will be saved if you honestly say, 'Jesus is Lord,' and if you believe with all your heart that God raised Him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others." Romans 10:9-10 (CEV).

## How to Use the Personal Study Guide

Use your Bible to read all the verses. These lessons may be used for weekly Bible study and reading at home.

Read **Accepting Christ?** on page four to find out how to become a Christian. If you are already a Christian, show this to a friend.

The **Lesson Material** outline gives verses for you to read in your Bible.

The **Bible Truth** will help you to understand the lesson better.

**What These Verses Tell Us** explains in a few words what the lesson teaches. Read it first to help you understand the lesson.

Before you read each part of the lesson, read the Bible verses for that part. Study the lesson and the verses to find the answers to the **Study Questions**. Write your answers and bring them to the Bible study.

The **Leader Guide** is for the teacher. The sections on **The Bible in Context** and **Explore...** offer additional study related to each lesson.

Pray for your teacher, members of your Bible class, and lost Deaf people. Pray for God to use you to share Christ with other people.

We use the New Century Version® in these lessons. Many Deaf people like this version because they can understand it easily. We understand the New Century Version is no longer in print, but copies seem to be available from many sources. If your local Christian bookstore (new or used) does not have it in stock, check online for new and used copies. You can also see this translation and others online at [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com).

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## JOHN'S GOSPEL

*One Word, One  
Life, One Way***John 1-11**

Most people who study the Bible agree John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, wrote this Gospel. It is one of the most popular books in the Bible. The apostle John was an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus (John 1:14; 19:35; 21:24). He knew much about Palestine and the Jewish way of life. The title “According to John” is found in the earliest manuscripts.

John and his brother James worked with their father Zebedee, along with their friends Peter and Andrew. Matthew wrote about how they were working on their fishing nets when Jesus called them. They left the boat and their father to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22). After Jesus’ resurrection, John was a leader in the church in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:6-10). He traveled and worked with Peter. One time these two men went into the temple and Peter healed a crippled man (Acts 3:1-11). They were arrested for this miracle (Acts 4:1-26). Later they went to Samaria to look at the ministry in that church (Acts 8:14-17).

Because they often became angry, Jesus called John and James the “sons of thunder.” They wanted God to destroy a village in Samaria because the people did not want Jesus to enter the village (Luke 9:52-56).

John was one of the disciples closest to Jesus (John 13:23-24; 21:2, 7, 20-24). Peter, James, and John were the only disciples with Jesus when He gave life to Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:37). They were with Jesus on the mountain and saw Him talk with Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36). On the night before Jesus died, John and Peter made arrangements for Jesus’ last Passover (Luke 22:8).

John did not use his name in his Gospel. He called himself, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, and 21:20).

John did not write his Gospel until about sixty years after



the resurrection of Jesus. During that time he probably told the stories and then at about A.D. 85-100, he wrote the Gospel. Many people who study the Bible believe he wrote it for Christians, both Jews and Gentiles. He was not a priest (preacher) or a rabbi (teacher). He was a fisherman until Jesus called him. He walked with Jesus for three years. Then he served as a leader in Christian churches in Jerusalem and spent most of his ministry in Ephesus.

John probably wrote his Gospel and the three letters (1, 2, and 3 John) near Ephesus, before the Roman emperor sent him to the island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation. That island today is near Greece and Turkey. It is a small island, about six by ten miles. The Romans used islands like Patmos as prisons. History books report John was sent to Patmos in the year A.D. 95 by the Roman emperor, but was released less than two years later.

People who study the Bible and other things written at that time believe John died a natural death as an old man in Ephesus soon after A.D. 100. They believe he died after all the other disciples were killed for their faith.

In John 20:31, he said he wrote in order to show Jesus was the Messiah (the Hebrew word for Savior), the Christ (the Greek word for Savior), and the Son of God. This idea is present all through his Gospel.

John wrote a lot about light and darkness. Every person belongs to one or the other. Darkness means death and light means life. Jesus is the light (John 1:4-9; 3:19-21) and men in darkness do not know Him. John the apostle wrote about John the Baptist who told about the light (Jesus) so men would believe in Him (John 5:35). Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5).

# UNIT 1



**THE WORD FROM ETERNITY**



# John 1:1-3:36

This week we begin a new study from the Gospel of John. The theme for these first four lessons is “The Word from Eternity.”

The first lesson (September 1) explains about Jesus coming to earth to tell us about God. Jesus wanted us to know God. He shared many things about God. He showed us what God is like.

The second lesson (September 8) tells about John the Baptist introducing Jesus to his disciples. John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of

God. Jesus took away our sin.

The third lesson (September 15) discusses two stories about Jesus’ **authority**. In the first story Jesus changed water to wine. In the second story Jesus cleansed the Temple.

The fourth lesson (September 22) is about salvation being offered to Nicodemus. Nicodemus went to Jesus with many questions. Jesus explained to Nicodemus how God loved everyone and sent Jesus to die for everyone.

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## Meet the Writer

Jana Lollis is Deaf. She lives in Morganton, North Carolina. She has been a teacher at the North Carolina School for the Deaf for fourteen years.

She grew up in South Carolina and later attended Gallaudet University. She has gone on several mission trips to Central America and Japan. She spent one year in China. She is a member of First Baptist Deaf Mission in Morganton.



# God Revealed



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 1:1-18

**Lesson Material:**  
John 1:1-5,9-14,16-18

**Bible Truth**  
Jesus Christ is the  
Word of God. He is  
God. And He is the  
One who reveals God.

**T**he title of this lesson is “God Revealed.” **Reveal** means to show or make something become visible if it was hidden or unknown to other people. For example, one Deaf school recently hired a new superintendent. Everyone wanted to know who the new superintendent was. The school finally announced, or revealed, the new superintendent’s name. Everyone had many questions about the new superintendent. Everyone wanted to meet this person. The new superintendent was from another state. One retired teacher, Jim, knew this new superintendent and answered many questions. He revealed the information to the people and they were happy Jim knew the answers.

Jesus did the same for us. Jesus came to earth to tell us about God. Jesus wanted us to know God. He shared many things about God. He showed what God is like.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Recognize the Word (John 1:1-5)** – Jesus Christ is the Word. The Word is God. Jesus created everything. The Word gives life and light.
2. **Welcome the Light (1:9-14)** – Jesus became a man and came to earth. Some people did not believe Jesus. Other people did believe Jesus and became God's children.
3. **Experience the Revelation (1:16-18)** – Jesus was full of **grace** and truth. Jesus showed us what God is like.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was the Word?
2. Jesus was full of grace and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who was Jesus compared to?
4. Which is true about Jesus?
5. What did Jesus do in **the beginning**?

## Today's Lesson

The first four books of the New Testament are called the **Gospels**. Four men wrote the good news about Jesus. That is what the word Gospel means – the good news about Jesus. Each of the four Gospel writers wrote many stories about Jesus, but not the same stories. Matthew, Mark, and Luke have many of the same stories. These three Gospels are called the **synoptic** Gospels. The word synoptic is a Greek word that means the same. These three Gospels were written about the same time; about ten to fifteen years after the resurrection. The Gospel of John has many stories not told by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John wrote his Gospel more than twenty years later than the other gospel writers. All the apostles except John had died. John wrote his Gospel to show Jesus is God. Jesus came to earth to show who God is. John wanted to prove Jesus is God. John wanted people to believe in Jesus as God. This first chapter will help you understand some truths about Jesus.

### 1. Recognize the Word (John 1:1-5)

- 1 In the beginning there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.
- 3 All things were made by him, and nothing was made without him.
- 4 In him there was life, and that life was the light of all people.
- 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.

**Verse 1.** The Word here is Jesus. John called Jesus The Word. Why did John give Jesus that name? John wanted to show Jesus came as the message from God. Jesus Himself is the message (or Word). Hearing people communicate using spoken words. Deaf people communicate using signs. We could call Jesus the “Sign.” Jesus brought a message from God. John started at the “beginning.” Where else in the Bible does it say, “In the beginning?” The first verse in Genesis opens with “In the beginning God.” In his Gospel, John said, “In the beginning there was the Word.” John used the same words on purpose. John wanted to show how Jesus was involved in the beginning with God. “The beginning” meant even before time began, before the creation of the world. John wanted his readers to understand Jesus is God. Jesus was back in the beginning, before time began. Only God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – was there at the beginning, before the Creation. No one else was there at the beginning.

ONLY GOD – THE FATHER,  
THE SON, AND THE HOLY  
SPIRIT – WAS THERE AT THE  
BEGINNING, BEFORE THE  
CREATION.

**Verse 2.** Jesus was with God in the beginning. Jesus is God. John wanted to make this very clear. John emphasized this. Why? John did not want people to be confused. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. John wanted people to understand Jesus was alive before He was born in Bethlehem. That would confuse many people. How was

Jesus alive before He was born? Jesus was God (the Son) and was with God (the Father and the Holy Spirit) in the beginning.

**Verse 3.** Jesus made everything in the world. Jesus gave life to everything. All Creation, including humans, plants, and animals, have life through Jesus. Did anything start breathing by itself? No. Jesus gave life to people, trees, flowers, dogs, horses, and bugs. Everyone owes his life to Jesus. Jesus has all power. He used that power to make the world and everything in it.

**Verse 4.** Jesus is the life of the world. The world cannot live without Jesus. Jesus is also the light of the world. The world would be in darkness without Jesus. Jesus came to give both life and light. He wanted people to live and to have light. Life and light are connected. How? Think of the sun. The sun gives light. That light helps plants to grow. If the sun stopped shining, everything on earth would die. Jesus is the same as the sun. Jesus is the light. Jesus is the creator and gave everyone physical life. Now Jesus came to give spiritual life. He wants everyone to live spiritually.

**Verse 5.** Jesus is the light shining in the darkness. Jesus came to earth as the light. Jesus’ coming was the same as turning on a light in a dark room. When you turn on a light switch, the light always shines. It never stays dark (unless the bulb is broken or the electricity has gone out). Darkness

never beats the light. Light always wins over darkness. Jesus is Light. He is stronger than the darkness in the world. Jesus changes the darkness in our lives to light. If we believe in Jesus, He brings light into our dark hearts. As we walk in Jesus' light, we will grow spiritually. We will have spiritual life. People's eyes show if they walk in light or in darkness. If people are full of sin, their eyes will show darkness. If people are full of Jesus, their eyes will show light.

## 2. Welcome the Light (1:9-14)

- 9 The true Light that gives light to all was coming into the world!  
10 The Word was in the world, and the world was made by him, but the world did not know him.  
11 He came to the world that was his own, but his own people did not accept him.  
12 But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.  
13 They did not become his children in any human way - by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God.  
14 The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory - the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father - and he was full of grace and truth

**Verse 9.** Jesus, as Light, came into the world. John was excited to announce Jesus came to earth. Jesus brought light to the world. People will not need to live in darkness anymore.

Light and darkness here do not refer to day and night. Light and darkness mean spiritual light and spiritual darkness. Spiritual light means people can see spiritually. They are Christians. They are no longer blind. Spiritual darkness means people cannot see and understand spiritual things. People who cannot see spiritually are dead spiritually.

SPIRITUAL LIGHT  
MEANS PEOPLE CAN SEE  
SPIRITUALLY. THEY ARE  
CHRISTIANS. THEY ARE NO  
LONGER BLIND.

**Verse 10.** "The Word was in the world." The Word is Jesus. The world is the people in the world. Jesus came from heaven to live among people. Jesus created the world, but people did not know Jesus as the Creator. People thought Jesus was a normal person. They did not understand Jesus was God and came to live with people.

**Verse 11.** Jesus came to earth to live, but the people on earth did not accept Jesus. God reached down to us people. He wanted to have a relationship with us. He made the first move toward us, but we turned



away from Him. People sinned against God. Sin made us enemies with God, but God wants peace. Jesus came to make peace with people, but people did not want Jesus. If people made peace with Jesus, they would have to give up their sins. They chose their sins instead of Jesus.

**Verse 12.** Some people did accept, or believe in Jesus. He made them children of God. Who became children of God? The people who believed in Jesus. These people were happy because Jesus came. These people welcomed Jesus and were happy. They became God's children.

**Verse 13.** How did these people become God's children? Was it because they were born into Jewish families? Was it because of their parents' decision to have children? No. People became God's children through a spiritual birth. God made them His children.

**Verse 14.** This verse has three powerful truths in it. These truths are important to Christians. The first important truth is this: the Word, God, became human. The Word, Jesus, became one of us. The eternal God put on a human body and became fully human. The second important truth is this: Jesus lived among us. The Greek word used in this verse for live means to pitch a tent. Jesus came to live among us for a short time. Heaven was His home. Jesus came to earth for about 33 years. He came. Why? So we would see and know God. The third important truth is this - Jesus was full of grace and truth. Jesus showed the glory of God. Jesus was fully God and fully human. Jesus showed us how God was full of grace. What does grace mean? God's grace means God is loving and kind. We often have a wrong concept of God. Some people may think God is mean, strict, and quick to punish sin. Jesus came to show how God is full of love. God is kind and loving toward us. Jesus was also full of truth. Jesus' message from God was true. Don and Debbie are a Deaf couple who like to go camping. Every fall they pack up their tent and camping supplies. They go camping with their son and a group of their Deaf friends. Is the campground their home? No. The campground is a **temporary** place where they stay. Jesus did the same. He came to earth to "camp out" for a short while. He wanted to be with us, just like Don and Debbie wanted to camp with their Deaf friends. Wow! The Creator of the universe wanted to come down from heaven and camp out with us! This is what Jesus did.

### 3. Experience the Revelation (1:16-18)

16 Because he was full of grace and truth, from him we all received one gift after another.

17 The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. But God the only Son is very close to the Father, and he has shown us what God is like.

The revelation is God shown, or **revealed**, to people. What does it mean to “experience the revelation?” It means what we learn about God becomes real to us. We believe in Jesus and become God’s children.

**Verse 16.** Jesus is full of grace and truth. Grace is God’s goodness to us. God is good. Jesus shows God’s goodness and love to all people. Jesus blessed everyone. Jesus blessed us and He gave many gifts to us. What did Jesus give us? Jesus gave us salvation. Jesus gave us homes, clothes, food, family, friends, and health. There are many more blessings Jesus has given to us. What is truth? Truth is Jesus’ message from God. Jesus’ message was true. What was this message? Jesus showed people how God is holy. God hates sin. God wants to be friends with people. God sent Jesus to die for our sins. Now, people can be friends with God. Jesus came to tell people this truth.

**Verse 17.** The Law and Moses means the Old Testament time. Grace and truth and Jesus Christ mean a new start, a new time in history. The Old Testament is finished. Now God is working in a new time in history through His Son, Jesus. Before our present calendar was developed, time was measured by each nation, usually by the year a king began his reign. In A.D. 525 a man named Dionysius suggested a calendar starting with the birth of Jesus and counting forward or backward from that. This is how we have B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (Latin words *anno domini*, meaning in the year of our Lord). That calendar has been revised several times. The calendar was developed to show this most important event in the history of the world. Jesus came and changed our world.

**PEOPLE NOW KNOW  
WHAT GOD IS LIKE. JESUS  
SHOWED PEOPLE WHAT  
GOD IS LIKE.**

**Verse 18.** Nobody has seen God. Jesus came to earth to show God to people. People now know what God is like. Jesus showed people what God is like. Tom is a Deaf father. His son, Bobby, is in elementary school. Bobby’s teacher asked the students if they wanted to bring their parents to school for “show and tell.” Bobby wanted his classmates to meet his Deaf father. Bobby wanted to show his class how his father was Deaf and a welder. Bobby was excited when his father went to school with him. Tom taught the class some basic signs. He showed pictures of things he welded. Bobby was happy when his friends met his dad. Jesus came to earth and showed God to us. Jesus is God. When Jesus did things, people saw how God would do things. Jesus was happy to help us understand God better.

# What About You?

What is your response to Jesus when you feel He is calling you to follow Him?

Have you accepted Jesus as the Creator of everything and your Savior?

Is Jesus the Lord (ruler) of your life?

Do you study your Bible to learn more about Jesus?

Do you know God like you know your best friend?

How can you show Jesus and God to the people around you?

What are some ways people can see Jesus in you?

Can your family, friends, and co-workers see Jesus in you?

## Applying the Lesson

Make a list of what Jesus showed us about God. Think about what you remember from reading the four Gospels. Examples include: God loves people. God heals people. God calms the storm.


Share your list with your Bible study class.

You can use this list as a witnessing tool with your friends. You can ask them, "Hey, did you know \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus?" For example, "Did you know Jesus created the world?" "Did you know Jesus has blessed us in many ways?"

A verse to remember: "He (Jesus) has shown us what God is like" (John 1:18).

# Jesus Identified

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 1:19-51

**Lesson Material:**  
John 1:29-36,40-  
42a,45-51

**Bible Truth**  
We have wonderful  
news: Jesus is  
the Lamb of God,  
**Messiah**, and Son of  
Man!



**D**awn has Deaf friends from around the world. She has a friend from Brazil. She knows a Deaf couple from Honduras. She has other friends from China, from Sweden, and from Poland. The word from gives us the idea of a place. The title of this unit is “The Word from Eternity.” Remember, The Word is Jesus. Jesus is from eternity. Where is eternity? That is a strange idea. Eternity is a time word, not a place word. Eternity means time without beginning or end. Jesus is from eternity. What does this mean? Jesus is from a place where there is no time. Jesus is from outside our universe. Jesus came from heaven. Time is not counted in heaven. God promised the Jewish people Jesus would come. Jesus stepped into our world. Jesus came to us as the Lamb of God. Jesus is our Savior. This is the wonderful news we have and news we can share!

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **I Can Be Forgiven (John 1:29-36)** – John the Baptist said Jesus was the Lamb of God. Jesus took away our sin.
2. **I Can Trust God's Promises (1:40-42a,45-46)** – Moses and the prophets said Jesus would come. And Jesus came!
3. **I Can See God Working (1:47-51)** – Jesus is God. Jesus had great power. Jesus showed God doing great things.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote the Gospel of John?
2. What did John the Baptist call Jesus?
3. Who did Andrew bring to Jesus?
4. How did Andrew and Peter know each other?
5. Who did Jesus see under the fig tree?

## Today's Lesson

### 1. I Can Be Forgiven (John 1:29-36)

- 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 30 This is the One I was talking about when I said, 'A man will come after me, but he is greater than I am, because he was living before me.'
- 31 Even I did not know who he was, although I came baptizing with water so that the people of Israel would know who he is."
- 32-33 Then John said, "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven in the form of a dove and rest on him. Until then I did not know who the Christ was. But the God who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a man; he is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'
- 34 I have seen this happen, and I tell you the truth: This man is the Son of God."
- 35 The next day John was there again with two of his followers.
- 36 When he saw Jesus walking by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

**Verse 29.** In this verse, the man named John is John the Baptist. Do not confuse him with John the apostle. John the apostle wrote the Gospel of John. John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. What does Lamb of God



mean? In the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed to cover people's sins. All these lambs pointed to the day when God's Lamb, Jesus, would come to die for people's sins. John the Baptist knew Jesus was God and also the Lamb of God. Jesus came to die to take away the sin of the world. At first, it seems there is an English grammar mistake with the word sin. It seems it should be sins, but that is not the point. All of our different sins are not the problem here. What did Jesus come to do? He came to deal with the problem of sin itself. Jesus took away sin as a **barrier** between us and God. A barrier is something blocking our way. Sin prevents us from being friends with God. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Jesus died to remove sin as a barrier. Now we can have peace with God. People who live in North Carolina often travel to the Outer Banks. These are called "barrier islands." Why? These islands are between the mainland and the ocean. When a hurricane comes, it hits these barrier islands first. These islands suffer the strongest winds. Jesus was the Lamb of God. Jesus suffered on the cross for our sin. Jesus took God's punishment upon Himself. Jesus came to remove that barrier of sin.

**Verse 30.** John said, "A man will come after me, but He is greater than I am, because He was living before me." If we put the names with the pronouns, this sentence is easier to understand. John said, "A man (Jesus) will come after me (John)." Jesus was born after John. "But He (Jesus) is greater than I (John) am." Jesus is greater than John because Jesus is God. "Because He (Jesus) was living before me (John)." Jesus was born after John, but John realized Jesus is God. He came to earth. Because Jesus is really God, Jesus was already living before John was born. It is amazing how God already revealed these things to John before Jesus started His ministry.

**Verse 31.** John said he did not know Jesus was God. John was preaching about God coming. John was baptizing people. He was getting people ready for God to come, but John did not yet know Jesus was from God.

**Verses 32-33.** God told John he (John) will see the Holy Spirit come down on a person some day in the future. That will be God's sign to John. John will know this is the Man he had been preaching about. The words Christ and Messiah are Greek and Hebrew words for our English word Savior. Jesus was the Savior God promised in the Old Testament books written by the prophets. John baptized Jesus. John saw the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus. In that moment, John knew Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior. Can you imagine John baptizing many people and waiting for the Holy Spirit to come down on someone? We don't know how long John waited.

**Verse 34.** John said he saw the Holy Spirit come down on a person. Who was that person? That person was Jesus! John said Jesus is the Son of God!

**Verse 35.** John taught about the kingdom of God. John preached about how people needed to prepare themselves for God's coming. John had many

disciples (followers). These people followed John so they could learn more about God. In this verse, John was with two of his followers. Andrew was one of the two men. People who study the Bible agree the other follower was John the apostle. John the apostle was the one who wrote this Gospel.

**Verse 36.** John saw Jesus again. John told his followers, “Look! That man is the Lamb of God!” John was excited to tell his followers about Jesus. John said Jesus is the Lamb of God! Jesus can forgive people of their sins. John did not talk about himself. He talked about Jesus. He was excited to finally see God! A group of Deaf students went to Gallaudet University for the Academic Bowl tournament. Three girls, Mary, Samantha, and Becky, were excited because a famous Deaf actor would be there. The girls had never met this actor before. The girls got their tickets to meet the famous Deaf actor. They waited in a long line. Finally, they met the actor and got an autographed picture. They were so excited. They went back to school and showed their pictures of this Deaf actor. They told about meeting him in person. This was how John felt. He was excited because he finally met God in person. Jesus came to show God in person.

JOHN SAID JESUS IS THE  
LAMB OF GOD! JESUS CAN  
FORGIVE PEOPLE OF THEIR  
SINS.

## 2. I Can Trust God’s Promises (1:40-42a,45-46)

- 40 One of the two men who followed Jesus after they heard John speak about him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.
- 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and say to him, “We have found the Messiah.” (“Messiah” means “Christ.”)
- 42 Then Andrew took Simon to Jesus.
- 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law, and the prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”
- 46 But Nathanael said to Philip, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Philip answered, “Come and see.”

**Verses 40-41.** Andrew was one of the two followers of John. Andrew heard John say, “Look! The Lamb of God!” Andrew understood John was talking about Jesus. Andrew had a brother named Simon Peter. Andrew immediately thought about his brother. What was the first thing Andrew did after he saw Jesus? He immediately went to look for Simon Peter. What did Andrew tell his brother? He told him, “We have found the Messiah.” Andrew, and all the Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come. Andrew knew how God promised the Jewish people a Messiah will come

in the future. Andrew listened to John the Baptist teach. Andrew believed God's promise. Finally, Andrew saw Jesus standing with John! Andrew quickly went and shared the wonderful news with his brother, Simon Peter.

**Verse 42.** Andrew told his brother, Simon Peter, about Jesus. Andrew did more than that. Andrew led Simon Peter to Jesus. He helped his brother find Jesus.

Andrew wanted Simon Peter to see Jesus. He did not want Simon Peter to miss Jesus. Andrew took Simon Peter directly to Jesus. Andrew was happy because his brother met Jesus, too!

**Verse 45.** In verse 44, you can read about how Jesus found Phillip. The first thing Phillip did was go find his friend, Nathanael. Can you see what happened? Jesus looked for Phillip and found him. Then Phillip looked for Nathanael and found him. Phillip and Andrew both started looking for people, just like Jesus looked for people.

Phillip told Nathanael he found the Messiah. Phillip and Nathanael both knew the teachings from the Old Testament prophets. They knew the Old Testament told about the Messiah and how He would come in the future. Phillip told Nathanael exactly who the Messiah was. Phillip said Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth is the Messiah.

**Verse 46.** Nathanael knew the Scriptures well. He asked Phillip if the Bible said anyone special would come from Nazareth? Phillip did not try to argue with Nathanael. Phillip only said, "Come and see." Jeremy lived in an apartment in a large city in the United States. One day, two people came to visit Jeremy. They wanted to talk with Jeremy about the Bible. Jeremy knew the Bible, so he decided to argue with these men. He realized they were from a cult. A **cult** teaches things different from what the Bible says. A cult does not believe Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior. Jeremy used many Bible verses. The men became frustrated with Jeremy. Finally, the two men left. Jeremy realized he made a mistake by trying to argue about the Bible. Arguing did not change their minds. In this verse in our lesson today, Phillip did not argue with Nathanael. Phillip simply led Nathanael to Jesus. Phillip knew it was important for Nathanael to meet Jesus. Then Nathanael would have no more questions.

ANDREW, AND ALL THE  
JEWISH PEOPLE WERE  
WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH  
TO COME. ANDREW  
BELIEVED GOD'S PROMISE.

### 3. I Can See God Working (1:47-51)

47 As Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said, "Here is truly an Israelite. There is nothing false in him."

48 Nathanael asked, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip told you about me.”  
49 Then Nathanael said to Jesus, “Teacher, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”  
50 Jesus said to Nathanael, “Do you believe simply because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that.”  
51 And Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man.”

**Verse 47.** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him. Jesus immediately said two positive things about Nathanael. First, Jesus said Nathanael was a true Israelite. Second, Jesus said Nathanael had nothing false in him. What did these two **compliments** mean? A true Israelite meant a person was descended from Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. Jacob was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob was first known as a **deceiver**. He tricked his father and his brother. However, Jesus said Nathanael was an honest man, not a deceiver. Jesus’ compliments to Nathanael showed Jesus knew Nathanael’s heart.

**NATHANAEL KNEW JESUS  
WAS GOD. NATHANAEL  
ALSO RECOGNIZED JESUS’  
AUTHORITY.**

**Verse 48.** Nathanael was surprised to learn Jesus really knew him. That was the first time Jesus and Nathanael met. Nathanael asked Jesus, “How did you know me?” Jesus told Nathanael He saw him standing under a fig tree earlier that day. Jesus already saw Nathanael there. That happened before

Phillip told Nathanael about Jesus. Nathanael was shocked. He realized Jesus knew everything about him. Nathanael realized Jesus was God.

**Verse 49.** Nathanael answered, “Teacher, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Nathanael realized only God knew everything. Nathanael knew Jesus was God. Nathanael also recognized Jesus’ authority. Nathanael said Jesus was the King of Israel. Jesus was Nathanael’s King.

**Verse 50.** Jesus said it was a simple thing to see Nathanael standing under the fig tree. Jesus told Nathanael, “You will see greater things than that.” These great things were the miracles Jesus would do later.

**Verse 51.** Jesus again referred back to Jacob. This time Jesus referred to the time Jacob left his home and slept alone outdoors (Genesis 28:12). Jacob was afraid his brother would chase him and kill him. Jacob had a dream and woke up. Jacob saw angels going up and down a ladder between earth and heaven. Jesus told Nathanael and the people around him they would see heaven open and angels moving back and forth from Jesus to heaven. Jesus meant He would open the way for people to go to God.

# What About You?

When is the last time you witnessed to someone in your family and talked with them about Jesus?

When is the last time you witnessed to a friend or co-worker about Jesus?

When is the last time you went out with others from your church to witness about Jesus?

What do you think about Jesus? Is Jesus just a good man or is He God?

## Applying the Lesson

Make a list of things Jesus has done for you.

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Practice sharing with others in your class what Jesus has done for you (your testimony).

Ask someone in your Bible study class to become your witnessing partner and plan to go talk with other Deaf people about Jesus.

Make a goal to witness to one person a week.

Challenge others in your church to do the same.

A verse to remember: "Andrew took Simon to Jesus" (John 1:42).



# Authority Acknowledged



## **Background Study**

Verses: John 2:1-25

## **Lesson Material:**

John 2:1-16

## **Bible Truth**

Christian obedience means we will submit to Jesus' authority.

**T**he Book of Genesis tells the story of Abraham (Genesis 11-25). He and his wife had a son when they were very old. Later, God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on a mountain far away.

Abraham loved Isaac very much. What did Abraham do? Did Abraham wait a long time and pray first? No. Abraham got up early the next morning and started on his trip. Abraham did not question God. God's words did not make sense to Abraham, but that did not stop Abraham. Abraham immediately obeyed God.

This lesson involves two stories. In both stories, people had the opportunity to obey Jesus. In the first story, Jesus' command did not make sense, but people still obeyed Jesus. In the second story, Jesus showed His authority in a dramatic way. People respected Jesus' authority and obeyed Him immediately.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Obey Jesus (John 2:1-5)** – Jesus’ mother told people to obey whatever Jesus commanded.
2. **Grow in Faith (2:6-11)** – Jesus tested the servants. Jesus asked them to do something strange. The servants obeyed Jesus without asking any questions.
3. **Make Worship Genuine (2:12-16)** – Jesus got angry when He saw people buying and selling things at the temple. Jesus wants the church to be a place of worship.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go first?
2. What was the first miracle Jesus did?
3. How many jars of wine did Jesus make?
4. What did Jesus do in the temple?
5. Why did Jesus get angry at the temple?

## Today’s Lesson

The first story in today’s lesson is about a wedding. This was where Jesus did His first miracle. Jesus used an ordinary situation to do His first miracle. Jesus used ordinary people for His miracle to happen. God often works in different ways to do His work.

### 1. Obey Jesus (John 2:1-5)

- 1 Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there,
- 2 and Jesus and his followers were also invited to the wedding.
- 3 When all the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”
- 4 Jesus answered, “Dear woman, why come to me? My time has not yet come.”
- 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you to do.”

Some people think Jesus was always serious and never enjoyed a good time. This is a wrong concept about God. John gave us a very different picture of Jesus. In this story, where did Jesus go? He went to a wedding. Jesus wanted to be part of people’s special occasions. The same is true today. Jesus wants to be a part of your life.

**Verse 1.** John explained the scene for us. There was a wedding and it was in Nathanael's hometown. Jesus' mother was there. Many Bible teachers believe Jesus' mother was related to the wedding host. Jesus' mother is not called Mary here. Why? God did not want attention given to Mary. She was mentioned here in her relationship to Jesus. She is identified only as Jesus' mother.

**Verse 2.** Jesus and His followers were invited to the wedding. We do not know exactly how many of Jesus' disciples were with Him. John only wrote how Jesus and His followers went to the wedding. Jesus obviously approved of weddings and people getting married.

**Verse 3.** Wine was a common drink at Jewish weddings. The Jewish people drank wine (often very weak) with their meals, like we would drink tea or coffee. When John wrote this story, he immediately explained the problem. The people had drunk all the wine. There was no more wine. This was a big problem. Jewish weddings often lasted a week, so the supply of wine was important. He was embarrassed. Jesus' mother knew about the problem with the wine. That is why Bible teachers believe she was a relative or very close friend of the wedding host. It is possible the servants knew something about Jesus.

**NOW MARY KNEW JESUS  
WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE  
PROBLEM. SHE TOLD THE  
SERVANTS TO OBEY JESUS.**

Jesus' mother took care of the problem in a simple way. She told Jesus about the problem. She had faith in Jesus to take care of the problem. When we face a problem, we can tell Jesus about it. Jesus' mother told Jesus, "They have no more wine." She knew Jesus cared about people and He had the power to do something about it.

Notice how Jesus' mother did not ask for help for her own need. She asked for help for the needs of her friends. She was sensitive to the needs of others. How often do we pray for the needs of other people? Do we pray for other people as much as we pray for our own needs?

**Verse 4.** Jesus told His mother, "My time has not yet come." What did Jesus mean? Jesus was not yet ready to show Himself as God to other people. Jesus was not yet ready to show His power to everyone.

**Verse 5.** Jesus' reply did not bother His mother. She told the servants to do whatever Jesus said to do. Jesus' mother had faith in Him. She knew He would act. She told Him the problem. Now Mary knew Jesus would take care of the problem. She told the servants to obey Jesus.

People today often show the same kind of faith in Jesus as His mother did. Phyllis taught a Deaf Bible study class. One Deaf woman, Katie, was a new Christian. Katie was very hungry to learn about God and the Bible. When Phyllis taught a new command in the Bible, Katie started to obey it. She did not question what God said to do. In our Bible verses, the servants

did the same thing. They immediately obeyed Jesus, without question. Jesus blesses people who obey Him immediately.

## 2. Grow in Faith (2:6-11)

- 6 In that place there were six stone water jars that the Jews used in their washing ceremony. Each jar held about twenty or thirty gallons.  
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled the jars to the top.  
8 Then he said to them, "Now take some out and give it to the master of the feast." So they took the water to the master.  
9 When he tasted it, the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine came from, but the servants who had brought the water knew. The master of the wedding called the bridegroom  
10 and said to him, "People always serve the best wine first. Later, after the guests have been drinking awhile, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine till now."  
11 So in Cana of Galilee Jesus did his first miracle. There he showed his glory, and his followers believed in him.

**Verse 6.** Jesus pointed to six stone water jars. The jars were empty. John was specific about how many jars and how much water these jars held. Each jar probably held about 150 gallons of water. That was enough for 2,400 servings of wine! Jesus did not plan to do a small miracle. Jesus was ready to do a big miracle. Jesus was going to provide much more than was needed! Jesus often gives us much more than we ask for.

**Verse 7.** Jesus gave a strange command. He told the servants to fill the jars with water. The servants knew they needed more wine, not water! But the servants were wise. They obeyed Jesus without questioning His command.

**Verse 8.** Jesus' next command is stranger than the first command. He told the servants to take some water out of the jars and give to the wedding host to drink. The servants probably thought, "Oh, no! This is water! The host will think we are stupid to give him water to drink!" But the servants did not question Jesus. They obeyed Jesus. This verse says it was still water. They carried water to the host. Has God ever told you to do something and you thought it was strange? But later, you saw the reason. One time Juan, a Christian man, was working with a machine. The machine stopped working. Some other men came and stood around the machine. God told Juan to kneel down and pray. Juan thought this was strange, but he obeyed God. As he knelt down, he saw a small part of the machine had fallen off. Juan obeyed God and he was able to fix the machine.

**Verse 9.** When the host of the wedding tasted the drink, it was wine! When the servants obeyed, Jesus did the miracle. Jesus works in response to our faith, too. The servants believed Jesus and obeyed Him. The host did not know where the wine came from. The servants knew Jesus changed the water to wine. They knew they saw a miracle happen.

**Verse 10.** The host of the wedding called the groom and told him he had saved the best wine for last. The host complimented the groom on the delicious wine. He said people usually serve the best wine first, but this groom saved the best wine for last. The host did not yet know Jesus had changed the water to wine.

**Verse 11.** John wrote these words and said this was the first miracle Jesus did. Jesus' disciples already believed Jesus was God. Now their faith became stronger. What did this miracle show? Jesus showed He has power over nature. Normally, grape juice takes many months to change

**JESUS' DISCIPLES ALREADY  
BELIEVED JESUS WAS GOD.  
NOW THEIR FAITH BECAME  
STRONGER.**

to wine. Here, Jesus changed water to wine immediately! Jesus did not need a long time to make wine. He also did not need to start with grapes. Jesus has power over time and power over nature. Jesus is all-powerful. This was truly a miracle! Jesus showed His power as the Creator.

### **3. Make Worship Genuine (2:12-16)**

- 12 After this, Jesus went to the town of Capernaum with his mother, brothers, and followers. They stayed there for just a few days.
- 13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast, Jesus went to Jerusalem.
- 14 In the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves. He saw others sitting at tables, exchanging different kinds of money.
- 15 Jesus made a whip out of cords and forced all of them, both the sheep and cattle, to leave the Temple. He turned over the tables and scattered the money of those who were exchanging it.
- 16 Then he said to those who were selling pigeons, "Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place for buying and selling!"

**Verse 12.** Jesus traveled to another town (Capernaum) with His mother, brothers, and disciples. Capernaum was on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee. It was not far from Nazareth where Jesus grew up. This is the area where Peter, Andrew, James, and John lived and had their fishing business. The gospels tell us Jesus spent much of His time in the area near



Capernaum. They stayed in that town for only a few days.

**Verse 13.** John wrote and explained how it was almost time for the Passover Feast. This feast celebrated the time when the Jewish people left Egypt. The families sacrificed lambs as part of the feast. You can read that story in Exodus 12:1-13:16.

**Verse 14.** In Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. He saw two groups of people. He saw people selling animals, including cows, sheep, and birds. He saw other people sitting at tables changing money. Missionaries who work in other countries have to exchange money. Other countries usually do not accept American money.

Roman money was used in businesses. Jewish money was used in the temple. People could not use Roman money to buy animals for sacrifice. They changed their Roman money to Jewish money, so they could buy animals.

People bought animals in the temple because that was easier than bringing their animals from home.

**Verse 15.** When Jesus arrived, He saw people buying and selling. Many Bible teachers believe part of the problem was because the men who sold animals and the men who traded money cheated the people. They were more interested in making money than in worshipping God. Jesus made a whip. He used the whip to force all the animals out of the temple area. He turned over the tables with money on them. He scattered the money all over the temple floor.

HIS FATHER'S HOUSE  
WAS A SPECIAL PLACE  
TO WORSHIP GOD. THE  
TEMPLE WAS NOT A PLACE  
FOR SELLING OR BUYING  
THINGS.

**Verse 16.** Jesus yelled at the people selling birds for use as sacrifices. Jesus told them to take away the birds. He said, "Don't make my Father's house (the temple) a place for buying and selling!" Jesus was angry. Why was He angry? He was angry because they used the temple for a place of business, like a store. His Father's house was a special place to worship God. The temple was not a place for selling or buying things. God wanted His people to use His house to worship Him.

Jesus came to change things. When Jesus comes into your heart, He will clean you and change you spiritually. Our bodies serve as His temple today. Jesus still expects clean temples. (See 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19, and 2 Corinthians 6:16.)

# What About You?

Do you think about Jesus every day? When you go to the grocery store? When you go to pay your bills? When you go to work? Jesus is interested in everything you do. Do you take Jesus with you?

What is your attitude when you go to church? Do you think about your work? Do you think about cooking lunch for your family? Or are your thoughts on God and how wonderful He is?

## Applying the Lesson

The next time you are in church and your preacher is preaching, write down your thoughts while your mind is thinking about Jesus.

Pick one day during this next week and invite Jesus to spend the day with you.

Try to think about Jesus and talk to Him all through the day. At the end of the day, think back. Did you enjoy spending the day with Jesus?

Think about this past week. List some of the times you remember you felt very near to Jesus.

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Was it at work? Was it when you drove your car? Was it when you ate a meal? Was it only when you read your Bible?

A verse to remember: "So in Cana of Galilee, Jesus did His first miracle. There He showed His glory, and His followers believed in Him" (John 2:11).

# Salvation Offered

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 3:1-36

**Lesson Material:**  
John 3:1-16

**Bible Truth**  
When we respond to  
God's Son with faith,  
He gives us eternal life.



A young Deaf man named Pete worked in a factory. He had many tattoos. Pete did not grow up in church, so he did not know much about God. He started coming to a Deaf church. Pete asked many questions. The pastor and the people were happy to answer Pete's questions. They helped him understand about God and Jesus. Later, Pete gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Today's lesson is about another man with many questions. He was a religious leader named Nicodemus. He came to Jesus with many questions. Jesus answered this man's questions. The most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, is part of Jesus' answer to this man. Many people do not know the story behind John 3:16. This story is a good example of Jesus witnessing to someone. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to find the truth. We can learn much by reading how Jesus witnessed to Nicodemus.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Are You Interested? (John 3:1-3)** – A **Pharisee**, named Nicodemus, came to Jesus at night, and asked many questions. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again.
2. **Do You Have Questions? (3:4-9)** – Nicodemus wanted to learn from Jesus. Nicodemus asked Jesus questions about what He said. Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions.
3. **Do You Know the Truth? (3:10-12)** – Nicodemus studied the Old Testament, but he did not understand the basic truths in it.
4. **Will You Believe? (3:13-16)** – The important truths are these: Jesus came to tell us about God. Everyone who believes can have eternal life.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who came to visit Jesus at night time?
2. Circle all the statements if they are true about Nicodemus.
3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he must do?
4. What did Nicodemus really want?
5. What did Jesus **foretell** would happen?

## Today's Lesson

### 1. Are You Interested? (John 3:1-3)

- 1 There was a man named Nicodemus who was one of the Pharisees and an important Jewish leader.
- 2 One night Nicodemus came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know you are a teacher sent from God, because no one can do the miracles you do unless God is with him."
- 3 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom."

Nicodemus came to Jesus because he wanted to talk to Jesus. Nicodemus was interested in the kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus how he could become part of God's kingdom. What Jesus told Nicodemus 2000 years ago is true for each of us today.

**Verse 1.** The third chapter of John's Gospel begins with these words: "There was a man named Nicodemus." Jesus was, and still is, interested in individuals. Jesus was interested in Nicodemus. Jesus knew Nicodemus'

name. Jesus knew everything in Nicodemus' heart when he came to Jesus. Jesus knows your heart today.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. A Pharisee was a Jewish religious leader. The Pharisees studied the Old Testament carefully. A Pharisee tried to obey all the Old Testament laws. A Pharisee believed the Messiah would come in the future. They believed in the idea of the resurrection. They believed miracles did happen. A Pharisee had many good beliefs. He tried to live a good life.

Nicodemus was also a Jewish ruler. He was a man of high responsibility in the Jewish community.

**Verse 2.** Nicodemus came to Jesus at night time. We don't know why he came at night. Maybe he wanted to see Jesus secretly. Maybe he was busy in the daytime. Jesus was busy with the crowds. Nicodemus probably thought Jesus was too busy during the day to talk with him. Nicodemus was a Jewish leader and probably had many people come to see him. Some Pharisees may think they were important and they could tell Jesus to come see them. But Nicodemus went to Jesus. He said he knew Jesus was a teacher sent from God. Nicodemus knew Jesus had power to do miracles because God gave Jesus those powers. Nicodemus did not yet realize Jesus was God.

**Verse 3.** Jesus never wasted words with people. Jesus went straight to the point with Nicodemus. Jesus knew Nicodemus was interested in the kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus he could not be part of God's kingdom until he was born again. We know from the rest of the story how Nicodemus was surprised at the strange answer he got from Jesus.

JESUS KNEW NICODEMUS  
WAS INTERESTED IN THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD. JESUS  
TOLD NICODEMUS HE  
COULD NOT BE PART OF  
GOD'S KINGDOM UNTIL HE  
WAS BORN AGAIN.

## 2. Do You Have Questions? (3:4-9)

4 Nicodemus said, "But if a person is already old, how can he be born again? He cannot enter his mother's womb again. So how can a person be born a second time?"

5 But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God's kingdom.

6 Human life comes from human parents, but spiritual life comes from the Spirit.

7 Don't be surprised when I tell you, 'You must all be born again.'

8 The wind blows where it wants to and you hear the sound of it, but you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus asked, "How can this happen?"

Nicodemus had many questions. Jesus was patient with him. Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions. If you have questions, God will answer your questions today, the same as Jesus did with Nicodemus. God knows your heart if you are sincere.

A few years ago, a woman named Isobel was a very popular girl. Inside her heart, she felt empty. She had many questions about God. She did not have peace in her life. She asked God if He was real to reveal Himself to her. She said if He did, she would follow Jesus with all her heart. She had not slept well in a long time, but that night she slept very well. She woke up and knew God was there with her. She had His peace. She started following Jesus. Later, she worked as a missionary in western China. God knew her heart and answered her, just like Jesus answered Nicodemus.

**Verse 4.** Nicodemus was very interested in what Jesus said. Nicodemus immediately asked Jesus how someone old could be born again.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,  
GOD WILL ANSWER YOUR  
QUESTIONS TODAY, THE  
SAME AS JESUS DID WITH  
NICODEMUS.

Nicodemus was obviously thinking about himself. He was an older man. How could he be born again (physically) into God's kingdom? This puzzled Nicodemus. He did not expect this from Jesus.

**Verse 5.** Jesus answered Nicodemus' question and said a person must be born of water and the Spirit. Jesus was not talking about a natural birth. Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth.

**Verse 6.** Jesus made His comment clearer for Nicodemus. Jesus explained He was talking about spiritual life, not physical life. God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, not a physical kingdom. The Jewish people expected a physical king, or messiah. Jesus made it clear - His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom.

**Verse 7.** Jesus emphasized again how Nicodemus must be born again. Jesus said everyone must be born again, not just Nicodemus. Jesus said Nicodemus should not be surprised at this. The prophet Isaiah said God's thoughts are not like our thoughts. God's ways are not like our ways (Isaiah 55:8). Jesus said the same thing to Nicodemus. Jesus told Nicodemus not to be surprised to learn Jesus' kingdom requires a spiritual birth.

**Verse 8.** Jesus used the wind as a picture. Jesus said you don't know where the wind is coming from or where it is going, but you know the wind is there. Jesus said the Spirit of God is the same. We can't see the Spirit, but we can see the Spirit's work. The Spirit works to bring people into God's kingdom through a new birth.

**Verse 9.** Nicodemus asked another question. Nicodemus still did not understand what Jesus was saying. He said, "How can this happen?" Because Jesus answered these questions patiently, we know Nicodemus

was sincere. God will always be patient to help us find answers to questions when we are sincere.

### 3. Do You Know the Truth? (3:10-12)

- 10 Jesus said, “You are an important teacher in Israel, and you don’t understand these things?”  
11 I tell you the truth, we talk about what we know, and we tell about what we have seen, but you don’t accept what we tell you.  
12 I have told you about things here on earth, and you do not believe me. So you will not believe me if I tell you about things of heaven.

**Verse 10.** Do you know the story of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson? They were not real people, but Sherlock Holmes was a famous detective in books written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Often Sherlock Holmes solved a crime and Dr. Watson did not know how Sherlock Holmes solved it. Sherlock Holmes often told Dr. Watson, “It is elementary, my dear Watson.” Sherlock Holmes meant the answer was easy.

Jesus basically told Nicodemus the same thing. Jesus said, “You are an important teacher in Israel, and you don’t understand these things?” Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know this was easy to understand. Nicodemus was a teacher. Nicodemus should be able to understand what Jesus told him.

**Verse 11.** Jesus told Nicodemus what He knew and what He saw. Nicodemus still did not understand what Jesus said. Jesus said He is an eyewitness about God and heaven. Jesus came to share what He knows and has seen. Jesus is an eyewitness, but people still do not accept His testimony.

Peggy was a Deaf woman from a Baptist church in a large town. She went on mission trips. She traveled to Thailand. When she returned home, Peggy shared with her church about her experiences in Thailand. People believed her stories. Peggy was an eyewitness about Deaf life in Thailand.

Jesus told Nicodemus He knows about heaven. Jesus was an eyewitness. Jesus shared what He knew. People like Nicodemus still did not believe what Jesus told them.

**Verse 12.** Jesus told Nicodemus about things on earth and Nicodemus did not believe Him. If Jesus told Nicodemus about things in heaven, would Nicodemus believe Him? Jesus did not think Nicodemus would believe Him about heaven. Nicodemus couldn’t understand the easy truth. Could

WHEN A PERSON IS BORN  
AGAIN, THE HOLY SPIRIT  
WILL START TEACHING  
SPIRITUAL TRUTHS. A  
PERSON WILL BEGIN TO  
UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.



Nicodemus learn more advanced truths? Jesus said no. When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit will start teaching spiritual truths. A person will begin to understand the Bible. Before a person is saved, he cannot understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit makes the Bible clear to believers. Nicodemus could not understand because he was not yet a believer.

#### **4. Will You Believe? (3:13-16)**

13 "The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, the Son of Man must also be lifted up.

15 So that everyone who believes can have eternal life in him.

16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life."

**Verse 13.** Jesus said the only person who has been to heaven is God's Son, who came down from heaven. Jesus was talking about Himself. Jesus is the only person who can tell people what God and Heaven are like.

**Verse 14.** Jesus foretold about His death on the cross. Jesus used the story of Moses in the wilderness from the Book of Numbers. The people sinned, so Moses lifted up a brass snake on a pole for the people to look at. If the people looked at the snake and believed God would heal them, they were healed (Numbers 21:4-9). Jesus said Moses lifted up the snake for the people to see and become healed physically. Jesus said He would be lifted up, too, so people could be healed spiritually. How would Jesus be lifted up? He would be lifted up on the cross.

**Verse 15.** Jesus said He would be lifted up (die) on the cross. Why? So all people who believe in Jesus will have eternal life. This is the only way people will live forever. They must believe Jesus died for them. Jesus' death on the cross was not an accident. Jesus and God the Father planned that long ago. Jesus knew He would die on the cross.

**Verse 16.** Why did Jesus come to die on the cross? Because God loved the whole world. The world includes everyone. God loves everyone on earth. God loves you. God the Father decided to send His Son, Jesus, to die for everyone. If a person believes Jesus died for him or her, then that person will live forever.

People think eternal life begins at death, but this is not true. Eternal life begins the moment a person believes in Jesus. You can start living eternally now! Jesus knows each person on the earth and Jesus died for each person. That includes you! You are valuable to God. Jesus died for you.

# What About You?

Are you like Nicodemus with many questions? Jesus is ready to help you find answers.

Do you believe what the Bible teaches? You will find answers to your questions in the Bible.

Are you like the crowd who followed Jesus for His miracles or are you like Nicodemus who earnestly wanted to find God?

Have you been born again?

Have you witnessed to your family and friends about Jesus?

Jesus shared what He knew about God. When was the last time you shared about God to someone?

## Applying the Lesson

If you are a Christian, practice sharing the good news with someone in your class.

Pray for someone you can share about Jesus with. Go visit that person this week. Share what Jesus means to you. Continue to pray for that person.

In the spaces below, write a prayer list of family members, friends, co-workers, and other people you know are lost. Make a schedule to pray regularly for those people.

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A verse to remember: "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

# UNIT 2



## THE WORD WITH POWER

# John 4:1-6:71

This week we begin a new unit. The theme for these next four lessons is “The Word with Power.”

The first lesson (September 29) is about Jesus’ power to give life. Jesus met with the woman at the well and told her He was the living water.

The second lesson (October 6) is about Jesus’ power to save people. Two stories in this lesson are about the woman at the well and a father with a dying son. Both of them

were saved and shared Jesus with others.

The third lesson (October 13) is about Jesus’ power to heal people. Jesus had compassion on a man who had not walked for thirty-eight years. Jesus healed him.

The fourth lesson (October 20) is about Jesus’ power to meet any need. Jesus fed 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

# The Power to Give Life



## **Background Study Verses:**

John 4:1-38

## **Lesson Material:**

John 4:1-15,25-26

## **Bible Truth**

We can plan to witness  
to people who need  
to hear the good news  
about a new life in  
Christ.

**A** Deaf woman in another country was a farmer. She asked Ann, a Deaf missionary, to help her pull weeds. Ann wanted to show Jesus' love. Ann and another Christian Deaf woman went to help. They worked hard in the field pulling weeds. They also picked beans and other vegetables. They went back to the village. The farmer went to a well. She used well water to clean her vegetables. Ann remembered the story in today's lesson. Ann shared with her about Jesus as living water.

In the lesson last week, Jesus talked with a religious leader in Israel. In this lesson, Jesus talked with a village woman. This woman was a Samaritan who had a bad reputation. Jesus went against Jewish culture to talk with this woman. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus will meet anyone who truly seeks Him. It does not matter where people are or what their background is. Jesus will seek His lost sheep.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Go (John 4:1-5)** – Jesus left Judea and headed back to Galilee. On the way, Jesus felt the need to go through Samaria.
2. **Engage (4:6-9)** – Jesus started talking with a Samaritan woman. Jesus did not follow Jewish culture. The woman was surprised because Jesus talked with her.
3. **Clarify (4:10-15;25-26)** – Jesus talked about living water. The woman was curious and asked Jesus some questions. Jesus explained what living water means.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus go back to Galilee?
2. Which people did the Jews hate?
3. Where did Jesus meet the woman?
4. What did Jesus **offer** the woman?
5. What did Jesus promise the woman she would never do again?

## Today's Lesson

This story is another example of how Jesus looked for lost people and what He did when He found them. The woman at the well was different from Nicodemus. Jesus approached her differently. But this woman and Nicodemus had the same need. They both needed a Savior.

### 1. Go (John 4:1-5)

- 1 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more followers than John,
- 2 although Jesus himself did not baptize people, but his followers did.
- 3 Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard about him, so he left Judea and went back to Galilee.
- 4 But on the way he had to go through the country of Samaria.
- 5 In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar, which is near the field Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

**Verse 1.** The Pharisees did not like John the Baptist. John was in prison so the Pharisees probably thought everything would quiet down. Then the Pharisees heard about Jesus. The Pharisees heard about many people following Jesus. The Pharisees learned how Jesus was baptizing more people than John the Baptist did.

We see another example of how John the apostle tried to be accurate in his writing. He explained how Jesus did not baptize people Himself, but His followers baptized people. The Bible does not tell us much about the disciples of Jesus baptizing people. This verse and John 3:22 suggest it was a common thing.

**Verse 2.** Jesus knew everything. Jesus knew the Pharisees heard about Him. Jesus knew the Pharisees did not like Him. Jesus did not want problems with the Pharisees. Jesus decided to leave Judea and go back to Galilee. Judea was the area around Jerusalem. Galilee was the area about 100 miles north of Jerusalem, around the Sea of Galilee. That area would be farther away from the Pharisees.

**Verse 3.** To go back to Galilee meant Jesus would go through the area called Samaria. That area was between Judea and Galilee. The Jewish people did not like Samaritans. Jewish people looked down on Samaritans because they were not pure Jews. Many Jewish people chose to take a long route to go around Samaria when they traveled from Judea to Galilee. Jesus wanted to go through Samaria. Why? Jesus wanted to talk to a woman near the town of Sychar in Samaria.

**JESUS WANTED TO GO  
THROUGH SAMARIA. WHY?  
JESUS WANTED TO TALK TO  
A WOMAN NEAR THE TOWN  
OF SYCHAR IN SAMARIA.**

**Verse 4.** This is an interesting story. Look at the words John wrote: “Jesus had to go through Samaria.” Did someone force Jesus to go through Samaria? No. Jesus decided he must do that. This story was not an accident. Jesus had a divine appointment to meet with this woman. Jesus knew this woman was a Samaritan but that was not important to Him.

**Verse 5.** As Jesus traveled through Samaria, He came to the town named Sychar. Notice how the Bible is full of details when God is meeting with people. Not only was the town’s name mentioned, but John explained how this was where Jacob gave a field to Joseph (Genesis 33:18-20). Jesus knew exactly where He was.

In these verses, Jesus wanted to talk to this woman. He knew where to find her and He knew what she needed.

## **2. Engage (4:6-9)**

6 Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside the well. It was about twelve o’clock noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water, Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.”

8 (This happened while Jesus’ followers were in town buying some food.)

9 The woman said, “I am surprised that you ask me for a drink, since



you are a Jewish man and I am a Samaritan woman.” (Jewish people are not friends with Samaritans.)

When we go to talk with people, we need to engage them. In this story, engage means to talk with a person and lead them to become involved in the conversation or to become interested in what we talk about.

**Verse 6.** Jesus was tired from His long trip. Jesus was a man just like us. Jesus, even though He was God, became tired. He was fully human. When Jesus arrived near Sychar, He sat by the well. This well was called “Jacob’s well.” This well come from underground spring, so the water was fresh and cool. Because it was moving around and not from a cistern the people called it “living water.” That information helps us understand the conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus.

John explained Jesus arrived at the well at “the sixth hour.” Some translations give the time of day the way Jewish people did at that time. Other translations use our way of telling time. Jesus arrived at the well at noon.

**JESUS GOT THE SAMARITAN  
WOMAN INTERESTED BY  
TALKING ABOUT WATER.**

**Verse 7.** A Samaritan woman came to the well to get water. This was very unusual. Noon was the hottest time of day. Most women went to the well in the morning while it was cooler. Why did this woman go to the well at noon? We understand from the rest of the story she was not a “good” woman. Maybe she was not accepted in her community.

Jesus immediately asked this woman for something. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. Notice Jesus’ conversation with this woman was different from His conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus spoke tenderly with her. Sometimes today, God will lead us to do things different from what is normal. Jesus got the Samaritan woman interested by talking about water.

**Verse 8.** Jesus’ disciples were not there at the well. They went on into the town to buy food. John did not explain to his readers a “cultural” problem in this conversation because his readers knew the problem. First, Jewish people did not speak to Samaritans. Second, men did not speak to women. And third, a good Jew never bought anything from a Samaritan. But Jesus and His disciples were more interested in teaching the truth than in following customs.

**Verse 9.** The woman answered Jesus bluntly. She was surprised for a Jewish man, like Jesus, to ask a drink from a Samaritan woman. The woman did not bother to give Jesus any water. This shows us how the Samaritans did not want to be friends with the Jewish people. The Jewish people did not like the Samaritans. The Samaritans did not like the Jews.

### 3. Clarify (4:10-15;25-26)

- 10 Jesus said, “If you only knew the free gift of God and who it is that is asking you for water, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”
- 11 The woman said, “Sir, where will you get this living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with.
- 12 Are you greater than Jacob, our father, who gave us this well and drank from it himself along with his sons and flocks?”
- 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life.”
- 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty again and will not have to come back here to get more water.”
- 25 The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming.” (Messiah is the One called Christ.) “When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us.”
- 26 Then Jesus said, “I am he—I, the one talking to you.”

The woman began to talk with Jesus. Jesus wanted to clarify her thinking. Clarify means to help a person understand or to make something clear. Jesus wanted the woman to clearly understand what He told her. When we witness to people, we want to make the gospel clear to them so they do not misunderstand. Many times they will have some idea they learned from someone else, but that idea is not correct.

**Verse 10.** Jesus was wise. Jesus did not get into a discussion about racial relations with this woman. Jesus used words to attract the interest of this woman. How did Jesus attract this woman? He made a comment to make her curious. He spoke about living water. Do you remember how people at that time called good spring water living water? Jesus meant spiritual water but the woman was still thinking about water from a well.

**Verse 11.** The woman paid attention to Jesus. It was hard work for her to go every day and draw water from the well. This man, Jesus, offered her living water. Just like with Nicodemus, Jesus used an earthly picture to illustrate a spiritual need. Nicodemus needed spiritual rebirth. This Samaritan woman needed living water. The woman was puzzled. She asked Jesus how He was going to do this. She said the well was deep and Jesus had nothing to drop into the well to get the water.

**Verse 12.** Jesus always **stimulated** people’s thinking and led them to ask questions. Jesus knew how to capture people’s interest. At the beginning of the conversation, the woman thought Jesus was just a regular Jewish man. Now, however, she started to compare Jesus with Jacob. Was it possible?

Was this man (Jesus) greater than Jacob? Jacob dug that well a long time ago. Both the Jews and the Samaritans were descendants of Jacob, so Jacob was an important man to them. Jesus knew how to attract people. Jesus knew what was in people's hearts. Jesus' conversation with this woman was a good example of fishing for people.

**Verse 13.** Jesus continued to talk about living water with this woman. When a fisherman gets a bite, the fisherman does not let go. He keeps reeling in the fishing line. Jesus did the same. Jesus knew water was important to this woman. Jesus also knew the woman was missing something in her life. She was spiritually thirsty. Jesus was patient and answered her questions. Jesus said the people who drank the water from Jacob's well would be thirsty again.

**Verse 14.** Jesus said whoever drinks from His living water would never thirst again. Jesus said the water He gave would become a gushing (flowing) spring of water inside people. When Jesus talked about that gushing, or living, water, He meant eternal life.

**Verse 15.** The woman's mind was stuck on regular water. Remember in last week's lesson how Nicodemus was the same way? Nicodemus was stuck on physical birth. Now the woman changed the conversation and she asked Jesus for that living water. At first, Jesus asked her for water. She did not give Jesus water. Now, she told Jesus she did not want to thirst again.

She did not want to come draw water from the well again. She still thought Jesus was talking about regular water from a well or a spring.

**Verse 25.** After talking some more, the woman admitted her sins to Jesus. She admitted she needed a Savior. Now, she changed the subject again and talked about the Messiah coming. Samaritans and Jews were both looking for the Messiah to come. Messiah is the Jewish word for Savior. She knew the Messiah would be able to explain everything to her and answer all her questions.

**Verse 26.** Jesus told her clearly He was the Messiah, the Savior of the world. He was here, humbling Himself to talk to her, a lowly, sinful woman drawing water from a well. What a wonderful Savior we serve! He cares about each of us wherever we are, no matter how sinful we are!

WHEN WE WITNESS TO  
PEOPLE, WE WANT TO  
MAKE THE GOSPEL CLEAR  
TO THEM SO THEY DO NOT  
MISUNDERSTAND.

# What About You?

Do you have living water flowing from you?

Are you looking for Jesus to come again soon?

Jesus reached out to this woman at the well. Are you reaching out to people in your community?

Jesus asked the woman questions to get her curious and talking about spiritual things. Have you tried to get your friends interested in spiritual things?

## Applying the Lesson

Write some questions you can use when you witness to lost Deaf people. Discuss these questions with your Bible study class.

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Talk with your pastor or Bible study teacher about other “tools” to use when you witness to lost Deaf people.

Talk with your class about starting a witnessing class one evening each week, to help you become better witnesses.

Discuss with your class some different ways to reach out to Deaf people who don’t come to church.

Go out to visit Deaf people in your community. Become their friend. Lead them to know Jesus as Savior.

A verse to remember: “Whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life” (John 4:14).

# The Power to Save

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 4:39-54

**Lesson Material:**  
John 4:39-54

**Bible Truth**  
When people are  
open to faith in  
Jesus, Christians can  
influence them to  
believe.



**T**he famous American preacher, Dwight Moody, went to England and preached. A man was saved. That man was Edward Studd. He went home and influenced his three sons to become Christians. One of his sons, C.T. Studd, was a famous cricket player in England. Cricket was the national sport in England (sort of like baseball). C.T. gave his life to Christ. C.T. and six other young men traveled through England and Scotland to urge other young people to follow Christ and become missionaries. C.T. went to China and Africa as a missionary. C.T. had a great influence for Christ in England, China, and Africa.

We never know what will happen next when we tell someone about Jesus and that person accepts Jesus as Savior. Do you remember the person who led you to faith in Jesus? Will that person be pleased to see how many other people you have influenced with your faith?

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Tell Others You Believe (4:39-42)** – The Samaritan woman witnessed to the people in her town. Many of the people in her town believed in Jesus.
2. **Challenge Others to Believe (4:43-48)** – A man's son was very sick. Jesus challenged the father to believe in Him.
3. **Guide Others to Believe (4:49-54)** – After Jesus healed the man's son, the father led everyone in his home to believe in Jesus, too.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In the first story, who witnessed to many people about Jesus?
2. How did the woman share her testimony?
3. What did the Samaritans say about Jesus?
4. What did the government officer **beg** Jesus to do?
5. How did Jesus heal the sick son?

## Today's Lesson

### 1. Tell Others You Believe (John 4:39-42)

- 39 Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said: "He told me everything I ever did."
- 40 When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they **begged** him to stay with them, so he stayed there two more days.
- 41 And many more believed because of the things he said.
- 42 They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of what you said, but now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

**Verse 39.** The Samaritan woman Jesus met at the well wasn't a popular woman, perhaps because of her past life with five husbands. However, when she met Jesus, she immediately went back to town and told everyone there about Jesus. What did she say about Jesus to the people in her town? She said Jesus "told me everything I ever did." Just like Nathaniel, the woman at the well was convinced by Jesus' **omniscience**. Omniscience means to know everything. Jesus knew everything about her. Is this the sort of thing you would tell people? "Jesus knew about all my sins." When people meet Jesus, they are brought low before God and don't care about what other people think. The woman immediately wanted the other

people in her town to meet Jesus, too. It is interesting how they believed her and followed her to go meet Jesus. They, too, believed because of the woman's testimony.

**Verse 40.** The Samaritans responded to the woman's testimony. She told them, "Come and see." They went to Jesus and saw Him for themselves. They, too, were changed by talking with Jesus. They begged Jesus to stay with them and not go on to Galilee. The word beg means to ask again and again. They truly wanted His help. They knew Jesus did not plan to stay in Samaria. Jesus was on His way to Galilee. Jewish people did not stay overnight in Samaria! These people begged Jesus. Jesus heard the desire of their hearts and stayed two days with them. Can you imagine how hungry they were to listen to Jesus? They knew Jesus had the message of eternal life.

**Verse 41.** Jesus spent the two days teaching them many things. Many more Samaritans believed on Jesus after hearing Him teach.

**Verse 42.** These Samaritans told the woman they first believed in Jesus because of her testimony. When they heard Jesus for themselves, they really believed Him. Now these Samaritans testified, too, saying Jesus is truly the Savior of the world.

THE SAMARITANS  
RESPONDED TO THE  
WOMAN'S TESTIMONY. SHE  
TOLD THEM, "COME AND  
SEE.

Think about the influence of this one woman. If it had not been for her, the people in that town may never have met Jesus. Jesus used this woman to reach many more people and lead them to faith in Him.

You have influence, too. If you told your friends, your family, and your co-workers about Christ, imagine how far your influence could go. We will never know when one person might be the key to reaching many more people.

## 2. Challenge Others to Believe (4:43-48)

43 Two days later, Jesus left and went to Galilee.

44 (Jesus had said before that a prophet is not respected in his own country.)

45 When Jesus arrived in Galilee, the people there welcomed him. They had seen all the things he did at the Passover Feast in Jerusalem, because they had been there, too.

46 Jesus went again to visit Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. One of the king's important officers lived in the city of Capernaum, and his son was sick.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went



to Jesus and begged him to come to Capernaum and heal his son, because his son was almost dead.

48 Jesus said to him, “You people must see signs and miracles before you will believe in me.”

**Verse 43.** Jesus stayed with the Samaritans for two days, and then He traveled on to Galilee. You can use a map to locate the places in today’s lesson. Jesus left Judea (the area around Jerusalem) and went north into Samaria, to the town of Sychar. Then He went into Galilee. This probably means He went back to Capernaum or Nazareth. Your map may show how many miles He walked on this trip.

**Verses 44-45.** Jesus said a prophet is not accepted in his own country. Jesus meant the Jewish people in Jerusalem, especially the Jewish leaders, did not accept Him like people in other areas did. This is probably why Jesus spent more of His time in the area around the Sea of Galilee than He did in the area near Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrived in Galilee, the people were thrilled to see Him. They saw some of the miracles Jesus did while He was in Jerusalem for the Passover feast. The people in Galilee went to the Passover, too, so they saw Jesus there. Now Jesus was in their home area and they were glad.

THE CROWD WAS  
INTERESTED ONLY IN  
HIS MIRACLES AND NOT  
REALLY INTERESTED IN  
BELIEVING HIM AS THE SON  
OF GOD.

**Verses 46-47.** Jesus went back to Cana where He changed the water to wine. Now, an important man in Capernaum heard Jesus was in Cana. The news about Jesus spread fast! Capernaum was twenty-five miles from Cana. The man had a serious need. His son was very sick. He heard about Jesus doing miracles. This father had faith to believe Jesus could heal his son. The father traveled from the city of Capernaum to the city of Cana because

he wanted to see Jesus. Most people back then walked from place to place. He probably walked the twenty-five miles in one day, in the hot desert sun.

Here is that word **begged**, again. This father was serious. His son was almost dead. The father left his son and went to Jesus. The father believed Jesus could heal his son. Jesus did not respond immediately. The father continued to beg Jesus to go with him to Capernaum and heal his son. Jesus wants us to tell Him our needs. Jesus does not respond to half-hearted people. Jesus responds to **desperate** people (serious people with real needs). Jesus responded to the Samaritans in the first story. Many people in the New Testament were desperate when they came to Jesus.

Bob and Linda were Christians. They had financial problems. They talked together a lot about their financial problems. Bob worried about how to pay his bills and debts. In his great need, Bob finally cried out to God to help him. The next day his bank emailed him and offered a plan to put all his debts into one loan and give him a lower interest rate. Bob realized this was how God answered his cry for help. Bob realized also how God did not help him until he prayed to God in desperation. He had worried a lot, but did not ask God for help. When Bob turned to God with a sincere desire for help, God helped him. Bob and Linda shared with their friends at church how God answered their prayers.

**Verse 48.** How did Jesus respond to this begging father? Jesus said, “You people must see signs and miracles before you will believe in Me.” That seems like a rude response. Jesus was talking to the crowd, not just to the one man. Jesus said the crowd was interested only in His miracles and not really interested in believing Him as the Son of God.

### **3. Guide Others to Believe (4:49-54)**

49 The officer said, “Sir, come before my child dies.”

50 Jesus answered, “Go. Your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus told him and went home.

51 On the way the man’s servants came and met him and told him, “Your son is alive.”

52 The man asked, “What time did my son begin to get well?” They answered, “Yesterday at one o’clock the fever left him.”

53 The father knew that one o’clock was the exact time that Jesus had said, “Your son will live.” So the man and all the people who lived in his house believed in Jesus.

54 That was the second miracle Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

**Verse 49.** The father ignored Jesus’ comment and again begged Jesus to hurry. He told Jesus to come before his son died. The father said, “Sir,” to Jesus. This showed respect to Jesus.

**Verse 50.** Jesus gave the father a simple command, “Go.” Jesus also gave the father a promise, “Your son will live.” The man immediately believed Jesus and went home. He stopped begging Jesus. Jesus responded to his need. Now the man trusted Jesus and obeyed Him. He went home.

**Verse 51.** As the father travelled home, his servants met him on the road. The servants told the father good news. They said his son was alive. As we obey Jesus, He will do as He promised.

**Verse 52.** The man wanted to know exactly what time his son started to improve. The servants said, “Yesterday at 1:00 p.m.”

**Verse 53.** The father knew what time Jesus told him, “Your son will live.” What time did Jesus say that? It was exactly 1:00 p.m. What did the father and all the people in his house do? They believed in Jesus. When we see Jesus’ power, we will want to believe in Jesus with all our hearts. If you are a father, you have the responsibility to lead your family to faith in Jesus. In this story, the whole house (the people living in the house) turned to faith in Jesus. When people meet Jesus and tell their family about that experience, their family will want to believe in Jesus, too.

If this father did not tell his family about his faith, the people in his house might not have become saved. This father had an amazing influence in his home!

The Bible has the story of another father who felt desperate. Do you remember the New Testament story about when Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison? An earthquake opened all the doors of the prison. All the prisoners’ chains fell off. The jailer thought all the prisoners had escaped. The jailer was ready to kill himself. This jailer was desperate. The Romans would punish him terribly if the prisoners escaped. Paul told the jailer to stop. Paul told him everyone was still in the prison. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his home. The jailer and his entire family were saved. You can read this story in Acts 16:16-40.

**WHEN PEOPLE MEET JESUS  
AND TELL THEIR FAMILY  
ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE,  
THEIR FAMILY WILL WANT  
TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, TOO.**

**Verse 54.** This was the second miracle Jesus did in this area. What did this miracle show? This miracle showed Jesus did not have to be with someone to heal him or her. Maybe people thought Jesus could only heal someone near Him. This story shows Jesus had power to heal someone far away. The son was very sick. The son was almost dead. Jesus had power to heal someone near death. Jesus also healed only by speaking. He said, “Your son will live.” In Genesis 1:1-30, God created the heavens and the earth by speaking. Here, Jesus healed a boy only by speaking. John presented Jesus as the Word, the message from God. This message is powerful and can heal people, no matter what their sicknesses are. As you witness for Jesus, it is important for people to see their need before God. This father was aware of his need and he was desperate for Jesus to meet that need. People who are lost need to see their needs as sinners. They need to come to Jesus to save them. Jesus gives eternal life to all people who come to Him in faith and repent of their sin.

# What About You?

Think about these questions.

Are you making a difference to the people around you as you live for Jesus?

Have you gone desperately to Jesus with your need?

Are you faithful in praying to Jesus?

Do you encourage people around you to believe in Jesus?

Are you reaching out to your family with the story of Jesus?

Are you reaching out to your friends with the story of Jesus?

## Applying the Lesson

Think about the people in your family. Are they all believers?

Think about your friends and co-workers. Are they Christians?

Make a list of some people you can witness to this week.

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Pray for these people every day this week, and ask God to show them their need for a Savior.

Pray for those who are Christians and ask God to make them bold witnesses for Jesus.

A verse to remember: "Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said" (John 4:39).

# The Power to Heal



© Christian Mission for the Deaf

## **Background Study Verses:**

John 5:1-47

## **Lesson Material:**

John 5:2-3a, 5-17

## **Bible Truth**

Believers demonstrate  
Christlike **concern**  
when they boldly take  
actions to help people  
with physical needs.

**A**ndrew Foster was an African American who went to Africa as a missionary. Andrew knew Deaf children there needed help. Andrew started a mission organization. He arrived in Africa and started the first Deaf school in Africa. Andrew also taught Deaf people the good news about Jesus. Later, Andrew established more than thirty schools for the Deaf across Africa.

No one told Andrew Foster he must go to Africa. No one in Africa invited him to come help them. Andrew felt God leading him to go to Africa and he went. He saw a need. He knew Deaf children in Africa did not have a school. He knew Deaf adults in Africa did not know about Jesus. He knew God called him to go, so God would help him do God's work in Africa.

Andrew accepted the responsibility to help people in Africa learn about Jesus. Andrew followed Jesus' example.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Taking the Initiative** (John 5:2-3a,5-9a) – Jesus healed a crippled man. The man did not ask Jesus for help.
2. **Dealing with Resistance** (5:9b-13) – The Jewish leaders were upset because Jesus healed the crippled man on the **Sabbath day**.
3. **Keeping On** (5:14-17) – Jesus said His Father always keeps working. Jesus was going to keep working, too.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. This story happened at a pool near which gate?
2. For how many years was this man sick?
3. Jesus told the man to stand up and walk. How possible was it for the man to do?
4. What day of the week did Jesus heal this man?
5. Some evil people started persecuting Jesus. What did Jesus do?

## Today's Lesson

### 1. Taking the Initiative (John 5:2-3a,5-9a)

- 2 In Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches, which is called Bethesda in the Hebrew language. This pool is near the Sheep Gate.
- 3 Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool. Some were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed.
- 5 A man was lying there who had been sick for thirty-eight years.
- 6 When Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for such a long time, Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be well?"
- 7 The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. While I am coming to the water, someone else always gets in before me."
- 8 Then Jesus said, "Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk."
- 9 And immediately the man was well; he picked up his mat and began to walk.

The title for this section is "Taking the Initiative." What does taking the initiative mean? It means to do something without waiting for someone else to help. Do you remember the story we studied a few weeks ago about Nicodemus? Nicodemus took the initiative. He went to Jesus first. In

this story, Jesus took the initiative. Jesus went to help the sick man. Jesus acted without waiting for someone else to lead. The man did not ask Jesus for help. Perhaps the man felt he had no chance. Perhaps Jesus knew the man truly wanted to be healed. Jesus knows everything about everyone. Jesus went to the man. The man did not know who Jesus was. Jesus had compassion on the man and healed him. Jesus knew other people would be mad at Him for doing this. Jesus did not let that stop Him. Jesus said He would continue to do good things to help people.

**Verse 2.** This story happened near the temple in Jerusalem, beside a pool near a gate, called the Sheep Gate. This pool had five covered porches next to the pool. Again we see how much detail John wrote in his Gospel.

**Verse 3.** Many sick people lay on these porches, beside the water in the pool. These porches were covered, so people could lie there in the shade. The people were protected from the sun and rain. Some of these sick people were blind, crippled, or paralyzed.

**Verse 5.** The man in this story was very sick. He was lying on a mat (blanket) on the ground. He had been sick for thirty-eight years.

**Verse 6.** Jesus showed His omniscience. Omniscience means Jesus knows everything. Jesus looked at the man and knew he had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus knew the man wanted to be healed. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed. That seemed to be a stupid question, but Jesus had a reason for asking it. Jesus wanted the man to confess his need to Jesus.

**Verse 7.** The sick man did not say yes or no to Jesus. The sick man explained to Jesus why he could not be healed. Why? Verse 4 explained how the people believed the first person to step into the water when the water moved would become healed. This sick man said he never got into the water first. Why? He had no friends to help him. Someone else always got into the water first.

This man was completely dependent on other people, and no one would help him. What a sad situation! Jesus loved to help needy people. Jesus did more than heal the man. Jesus wanted a conversation with this man first. Jesus wanted the man to tell Jesus his need.

**Verse 8.** Jesus gave the man a command. What was the command? “Stand up!” Stand up? Did Jesus not know this man was sick for thirty-eight years? Jesus asked the sick man to do the impossible. The man had not stood up for thirty-eight years! Why did Jesus ask him to do something impossible? Jesus wanted the man to show faith in Jesus. He also told the man to pick up his mat and walk. Jesus never healed a person halfway. The man would stand, but he would also walk and carry his mat. He would never need to depend on other people again.



**Verse 9a.** Immediately the man was healed. He picked up his mat and walked away. The man had faith, so Jesus healed him completely.

## 2. Dealing with Resistance (5:9b-13)

9 The day this happened was a Sabbath day.

10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day.”

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

12 Then they asked him, “Who is the man who told you to pick up your mat and walk?”

13 But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, because there were many people in that place, and Jesus had left.

The word resistance in the title of this section means someone trying to prevent you from doing something.

When someone does a good thing, often other people will criticize that person. Jesus did a good thing in this story. Later, people started criticizing Jesus and persecuted Him.

**Verse 9b.** Many stories about Jesus’ healing ended when the person was healed, but this story did not end there. John said the man was healed on what day? On the Sabbath day. What was the Sabbath? The Sabbath day was the Jewish holy day. The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week, like our Saturday. The Jewish people did not do any work on the Sabbath day. The strict Jews, such as the Pharisees, made many rules to explain how people could not work on the Sabbath day. Their rules said Jesus must not heal on the Sabbath day. Their rules said the man must not carry his mat on the Sabbath day.

**Verse 10.** Some Jewish people watched to make sure people followed all these rules and did not work on the Sabbath day. These Jewish people were the religious leaders. They saw this man walking with his mat. What did they say to him? They told him, “Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day.” Notice how they said, “It is against our law.” They did not say “God’s” law. They were not concerned about the man obeying God. They wanted the man to obey them. The healed man knew Jesus told him to do something against the Jews’ rules. The healed man chose to obey Jesus instead of the Jewish religious leaders.

**Verse 11.** The healed man gave a brave answer. He told the Jews, “The man who made me well told me to pick up my mat and walk.” He said he

was sick and now he was healed. Because Jesus had the power to heal him, the man told them he obeyed Jesus' command. Jesus' command had more authority to this man than the Jewish leaders' command. This must have shocked the Jewish leaders. They immediately wanted to know who this man was. Who had authority greater than their authority?

**Verse 12.** These religious leaders asked him who told him to pick up his mat and walk. It is odd to read they did not ask him who healed him. They did not admit the man was healed. They wanted to know who gave him a command and broke their rules. They wanted to know who had authority greater than their authority. John made it clear; these Jewish leaders were more interested in their authority than the man's change from being sick to being healed.

**Verse 13.** The man did not know Jesus was the man who had healed him. He had never met Jesus. Jesus did not heal the man to bring attention or praise to Himself. Jesus had compassion on the man and wanted to help the man. Jesus did not make a big drama about His power. Jesus healed the man, and then went on.

**JESUS' COMMAND HAD MORE AUTHORITY TO THIS MAN THAN THE JEWISH LEADERS' COMMAND.**

In this story, John explained how Jesus did not want people making a big fuss about Him. He healed the man, and then disappeared. He did not even tell the man His name.

### 3. Keeping On (5:14-17)

14 Later, Jesus found the man at the Temple and said to him, "See, you are well now. Stop sinning so that something worse does not happen to you."

15 Then the man left and told his people that Jesus was the one who had made him well.

16 Because Jesus was doing this on the Sabbath day, some evil people began to persecute him.

17 But Jesus said to them, "My Father never stops working, and so I keep working, too."

**Verse 14.** Jesus continues to heal today. One man, David, was very sick. He had to go to the hospital. David asked God to heal him. Later, David became well. David went to his church and thanked God for healing him. He thanked the people in his church for praying for him.

Perhaps the man in this story did the same thing. The man probably went back to the temple to thank God, because later, John wrote how Jesus found the man at the temple. Jesus reminded the man about his healing.

Jesus warned the man to stop sinning. Jesus said if the man continued to sin, something worse would happen to him. Basically, Jesus told the man he was sick because of some sin earlier in his life. That was very serious! People often do not realize today how sometimes God permits sickness to get our attention. Jesus warned the man not to sin anymore.

**Verse 15.** Now the man knew Jesus was the person who healed him. Did the man keep it a secret? No! The man told everyone how Jesus was the one who healed him. He was thankful to God because he was healed.

**Verse 16.** People began spreading the story about Jesus healing this man on the Sabbath day. Perhaps people spreading the story were happy and sharing good news. Some religious leaders heard the same story. They started to persecute Jesus. They did not like what Jesus was doing. They did not like for Jesus (or any other person) to break their rules. They did not like for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath day, so they started to persecute Jesus.

This story was an important event in Jesus' life. Why? From this time on, the religious leaders tried to hurt Jesus. They hated Jesus and did bad things to Him. They continued to persecute Jesus until they finally caused Him to become crucified on the cross.

**JESUS CONTINUED TO DO  
GOOD THINGS EVERY DAY  
OF THE WEEK, EVEN ON  
THE SABBATH DAY.**

Did Jesus stop healing people on the Sabbath day? No. Jesus continued to do good things every day of the week, even on the Sabbath day. Jesus wanted to help people all the time. He knew healing on the Sabbath day was not wrong. Healing and doing other good things honored God.

**Verse 17.** What did Jesus say to these religious leaders? Jesus said, "My Father never stops working, so I keep working, too." Jesus said He was not going to quit doing good things. Jesus said God the Father is always working to help people. Jesus wanted to do the same as His Father. Jesus was not going to quit helping people. Even though religious leaders wanted Jesus to stop doing good things, Jesus was not going to quit. This story is an example of how Jesus takes the initiative in our lives. Often, when we are in a bad situation and can't help ourselves, Jesus comes along and helps us. We should always be thankful to Jesus for what He does in our lives.

# What About You?

Are you waiting for something to happen in your life like this man? Or are you up and working for God? Working for God can be as simple as helping the people around you.

Are you focused on yourself and your problems or are you focused on the people around you and the suffering they are struggling with?

## Applying the Lesson

Make a list of some people around you who are having a difficult time. Each day, choose one person on your list and think of what you can do to help him or her. Go visit that person and do something kind for him or her.

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Many churches and Christian organizations need more volunteers to help them. Find something you can do to help your church and/or a Christian organization this week.

A verse to remember: Jesus said to them, "My Father never stops working, and so I keep working, too" (John 5:17).

# The Power to Meet Needs

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 6:1-71

**Lesson Material:**  
John 6:5-11,26-31,47-  
51

**Bible Truth**  
When we provide food  
for hungry people,  
we can often use the  
opportunity to share  
the gospel with them.



A couple, Jim and Elaine, were missionaries in a large country. Jim was Deaf and Elaine was hearing. They invited two friends to their apartment to eat. Jim and Elaine did not have a lot of money, but they prepared enough food for themselves and their two friends. Just before the meal, more friends showed up! Jim and Elaine did not have enough food for everyone, but they did not want to tell the other friends to leave. Jim remembered this story of Jesus feeding 5000 men. Jim asked God to multiply their food and make it enough for everyone to eat. Elaine searched and discovered some things she forgot she had bought a long time ago. Jim and Elaine were pleased to realize God had already given them enough food to give their friends. Everyone had plenty to eat! Jim and Elaine thanked God for providing all they needed.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **See the Need (John 6:5-7)** – Jesus knew the people needed food. The disciples tried to think of a way to feed them.
2. **Look for Resources (6:8-11)** – The disciples found only five loaves and two fish. Jesus fed all the people with what the disciples found.
3. **Share the Gospel (6:26-31)** – Jesus told them spiritual food was more important than physical food. Jesus told the people to believe on the One sent from God.
4. **Follow Through (6:47-51)** – Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” He gives eternal life. Jesus gave up His life, so people can have eternal life.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus talk about buying?
2. Why did the people follow Jesus?
3. What “work” did God want the people to do?
4. In this story, Jesus said, “I am the \_\_\_\_ of Life.”
5. Jesus said whoever ate this bread will \_\_\_\_.

## Today’s Lesson

### 1. See the Need (John 6:5-7)

- 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy enough bread for all these people to eat?”
- 6 (Jesus asked Philip this question to test him, because Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)
- 7 Philip answered, “Someone would have to work almost a year to buy enough bread for each person to have only a little piece.”

Read verses 1-4 to understand what happened in today’s lesson. This story is called “The Feeding of the Five Thousand.” But when you read the story you will learn Jesus fed 5000 men plus many women and children. This story is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. This means this story is very important. You can read the story in the other Gospels. Read Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, and Luke 9:10-17. Compare how each writer told the story a little bit differently from the others. John wrote more details than the others.

**Verse 5.** Jesus saw a crowd of people coming toward Him. The crowd came to Jesus because of the miracles they saw Him do. Jesus knew the people were hungry, so He asked Philip (one of the twelve disciples) where they could buy enough bread for everyone. Jesus was concerned for the people. Jesus did not want them to be hungry.

**Verse 6.** Why did Jesus ask Philip this question? Jesus was testing Philip. Jesus wanted to see what Philip would say. Jesus already knew what He was going to do. Jesus had a plan. Nothing caught Jesus by surprise.

**Verse 7.** Philip counted up how much food they would need. Philip said if someone worked for a year, they would barely have enough bread for everyone to get a little bit.

Of course, Jesus knew what He planned to do, but He wanted to teach His followers more about faith. As you study this lesson, you will be challenged to think about your own faith. How strong is your faith in God to meet all your needs?

## **2. Look for Resources (6:8-11)**

8 Another one of his followers, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said,  
9 "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish, but that is not enough for so many people."

10 Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down. " There was plenty of grass there, and about five thousand men sat down there.

11 Then Jesus took the loaves of bread, thanked God for them, and gave them to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, giving as much as the people wanted.

The word resources in the title of this section means something available to help us. This quarterly is a resource for you. Your Bible is a wonderful resource for you.

**Verses 8-9.** Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, talked with some people in the crowd. Andrew looked for someone with food. He found only one boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. John often included small details in his stories. John said these were barley loaves and the two fish were small. Andrew realized this was not enough food to feed everyone! But Andrew had enough faith to take this little lunch to Jesus. Perhaps he thought Jesus could do something with these five loaves of bread and two fish. Andrew often showed he had much faith in Jesus. How often do we feel like the boy with only five loaves of bread and two fish in our hands? We think it is not enough for God to use. We can see Jesus did not ignore the boy's bread and fish. Jesus took the bread and fish and blessed them. The boy gave everything he had and Jesus used it to feed thousands of people. If we give Jesus our all, He can use us to bless others. If we have only a small skill, Jesus can still use that to honor God.

**Verse 10.** Jesus took control of the situation. Jesus told the disciples to tell the people to sit down. John said there was plenty of grass for everyone to sit on. John said there were about 5000 men there. That did not include the wives and children. There could have been as many as 10,000 people there. Can you imagine how large that crowd was? Jesus organized the people into groups so it was easier for the disciples to take food to them.

**Verse 11.** Jesus took the bread and then gave thanks to God for the bread. After that, the disciples passed the bread around for the people to eat. Next, Jesus gave the fish to the disciples to share with the people. The people had as much to eat as they wanted. Many of these people were so poor they often probably did not have all they wanted to eat. But this time, there was plenty of food for everyone. Jesus did a miracle and multiplied the food. After all the people were full from eating, the disciples collected more “left-overs” than the five loaves of bread and two fish Jesus started

OFTEN WHEN CHRISTIANS  
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with. This is how Jesus meets our needs today: all we need and much more.

Often when Christians provide help for a physical need, people are open to learning how Jesus can meet their spiritual needs. In this story, John wrote about how Jesus met the people’s need for food. Later, Jesus followed up with spiritual food.

### 3. Share the Gospel (6:26-31)

26 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you aren’t looking for me because you saw me do miracles. You are looking for me because you ate the bread and were satisfied.

27 Don’t work for the food that spoils. Work for the food that stays good always and gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because on him God the Father has put his power.”

28 The people asked Jesus, “What are the things God wants us to do?”

29 Jesus answered, “The work God wants you to do is this: Believe the One he sent.”

30 So the people asked, “What miracle will you do? If we see a miracle, we will believe you. What will you do?”

31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the desert. This is written in the Scriptures: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

**Verse 26.** Jesus and the disciples left that area and went across the Sea of Galilee. People looked for Jesus and finally found Him in the town of Capernaum. Jesus told the people they wanted to stay with



Him because He fed them bread. The Jewish people knew their Bible (the Old Testament). They knew one of the Psalms said this about the coming Messiah, “I (the Messiah) will bless her (Jerusalem, the Jewish people) with plenty; I will fill her poor with food” (Psalm 132:15-17). They thought Jesus was the coming Messiah. They liked Jesus because He provided them with material things like food. They did not seek Jesus for Himself. They only wanted what He could give them. They only thought about bread and fish. Jesus knew this. Jesus used the opportunity to teach them about God and eternal life.

**Verse 27.** Jesus said don’t work only for physical food. It will not last forever. Work for spiritual food. It will continue and give eternal life. Jesus believed it was right to earn money for food. But Jesus said people must seek His kingdom more than physical food. Jesus wanted people to seek spiritual food. Jesus told them He could give them this spiritual food. It would satisfy their spiritual needs forever.

**JESUS SAID PEOPLE MUST  
SEEK HIS KINGDOM MORE  
THAN PHYSICAL FOOD.**

**Verse 28.** The people now asked Jesus what God wanted them to do. This is like Jesus’ visit with the woman at the well. The woman asked questions and Jesus patiently answered. Again, the people asked good questions and Jesus patiently answered every question.

**Verse 29.** Jesus said the work God wants is for people to believe on Him. Many people think you must work your way into God’s favor. God said people must only believe in Jesus. Faith is the “work” God is looking for. Only faith in Jesus Christ makes people right with God. That was true when Jesus taught the people. It is true today.

**Verse 30.** The people were still focused on seeing another miracle. They wanted Jesus to do more things like feeding the 5000. The people thought they could trap Jesus into doing another miracle for them. Often when people pray, they focus on what God can do for them. They don’t focus on what they can do for God.

**Verse 31.** The people talked about the manna the Israelites ate in the wilderness after they came out of Egypt. You can read that story in Exodus 16:1-36. They compared the bread Jesus gave them with the manna in the desert.

#### **4. Follow Through (6:47-51)**

47 I tell you the truth, whoever believes has eternal life.

48 I am the bread that gives life.

49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but still they died.

50 Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will never die.

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give up so that the world may have life.”

**Verse 47.** The people began to think about the manna in the desert. Jesus came back to the point. Jesus said God wanted them to believe. The person who believes will have eternal life. Jesus changed the focus from physical bread. It only lasts for a day. Jesus wanted the people to think about eternity and living forever.

**Verse 48.** Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life.” Jesus wanted the people to understand clearly. He was not talking about bread to eat. Jesus said He was the bread of eternal life. Immediately, the people knew Jesus was talking about something very different. Jesus was not talking about meeting physical needs, such as hunger. Jesus was talking about meeting spiritual hunger and the need to have eternal life. The people were lacking something very important. They were missing something to give them eternal life.

### JESUS CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO BE THEIR SPIRITUAL BREAD.

Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life.” This is the first “I am” statement Jesus made in John’s Gospel. Jesus said seven “I am” statements in the book of John. See if you can find all seven times Jesus said, “I am,” as you continue this

study of the Gospel of John.

**Verse 49.** Jesus used the people’s example of the manna in the wilderness. Jesus said those people who ate the manna were dead. The manna did not give them eternal life. Bread was not going to give them eternal life either. Jesus told the people they, too, would die one day. They needed spiritual bread, the bread of eternal life.

**Verse 50.** Jesus said the bread they needed came down from heaven, just as the manna came down from heaven long ago. The bread they needed now also came down from heaven. Jesus was talking about Himself. Jesus came down from heaven to be their spiritual bread. Jesus said anyone who ate this bread (believed in Him) would never die.

**Verse 51.** Jesus told them again He was the living bread. Jesus said this twice to emphasize this was the truth. He wanted them to understand clearly. Whoever ate this spiritual bread (meaning whoever believed in Him) would live forever. Jesus was going to give His life on the cross so people would have eternal life.

# What About You?

Are you like the Jewish people in John's Gospel? Are you focused only on your physical needs?

What is your priority - your physical needs or seeking spiritual bread which, leads to eternal life?

What is your purpose for attending church? Do you go so you will have a good time and feel better? Or do you go to church so you will get spiritual food, which will lead to eternal life?

## Applying the Lesson

For one week, keep a record of the time you spend eating or cooking or going out to a restaurant.

Make another record of the time you spend reading your Bible or going to church.

What do you spend the most time doing - getting your physical food or getting your spiritual food?

One way to get more spiritual food is to memorize Bible verses and learn Bible stories. Each week the lesson ends with "A verse to remember." Try to memorize that verse each week. That is good spiritual food.

A verse to remember: "I am the bread that gives life" (John 6:48).

# UNIT 3



**THE WORD FOR CHALLENGING SITUATIONS**

# John 7:1-11:57

This week we begin the final unit of this quarter. The theme for these last five lessons is “The Word for Challenging Situations.” Each of these lessons deals with hard questions people ask. Perhaps you have asked these questions, too.

The first lesson (October 27) is about asking Jesus questions. Jesus taught in the temple. People wondered if Jesus’ teaching was true.

The second lesson (November 3) is about **judgment**. Jesus said

people will be judged for their sins, but people who believe in Jesus will not die for their sins.

The third lesson (November 10) is about doubting Jesus’ power. Jesus healed a man blind from birth.

The fourth lesson (November 17) is about feeling **insecure**. Jesus taught about protecting and leading His people.

The fifth lesson (November 24) is about dealing with death. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

# Asking Questions About Jesus?



## **Background Study Verses:**

John 7:1-52

**Lesson Material:**  
John 7:14-18,25-31,33-36

## **Bible Truth**

We can use the Bible to find answers to questions we have about Jesus.

Jennifer, a Deaf woman, did not grow up in church. When she was an adult, Jennifer started asking questions about God. Jennifer went to the Deaf church. She asked the pastor questions. The pastor used the Bible to help answer her questions. Jennifer decided to follow Jesus. She was baptized. She wanted to learn more. Jennifer went to her Bible study teacher. Her Bible study teacher set up a Bible study with Jennifer. The teacher met with Jennifer every week. They studied the Bible together. Jennifer discussed more questions with her teacher. Jennifer found answers from the Bible for many of her questions.

Is it OK for a Christian to have questions about Jesus? Yes! Jesus welcomes sincere questions. He wants people to learn about Him. You can find answers to your questions in the Bible. Your pastor and Bible study teacher can help you find the answers you need.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Is Jesus' Teaching Valid? (John 7:14-18)** – Jesus taught in the temple. People wondered how Jesus learned everything. Jesus said His teaching came from God.
2. **Is Jesus Really from God? (7:25-31)** – Jesus said He was from God. Jesus said He knew God and God sent Him.
3. **How Can We Understand Jesus' Teaching? (7:33-36)** – Jesus made the people ask questions. God can help us understand Jesus' teachings. The best source is God's Word, the Bible.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was true about Jesus?
2. Why were the people amazed?
3. Who sent Jesus?
4. Who will know and understand Jesus' teachings?
5. Where was Jesus going soon?

## Today's Lesson

Today's lesson is about people who asked Jesus questions. The people were very puzzled. They did not understand many things Jesus said. Jesus told them if they chose to obey God, then they would understand God's teaching. Jesus said things and led the people to ask more questions. Only Jesus' followers can fully understand the things Jesus said.

### 1. Is Jesus' Teaching Valid? (John 7:14-18)

- 14 When the feast was about half over, Jesus went to the Temple and began to teach.
- 15 The people were amazed and said, "This man has never studied in school. How did he learn so much?"
- 16 Jesus answered, "The things I teach are not my own, but they come from him who sent me.
- 17 If people choose to do what God wants, they will know that my teaching comes from God and not from me.
- 18 Those who teach their own ideas are trying to get honor for themselves. But those who try to bring honor to the one who sent them speak the truth, and there is nothing false in them.

The word valid means something is real or has authority behind it. An example is a valid driver's license. That means the driver's license is real. It is not fake. Another example is a receipt for something you bought. Is the receipt real or false? The receipt is valid if it is signed by someone who has authority.

In this lesson, the people were amazed at Jesus' teaching, but they wanted to know if His teaching was valid. Where did Jesus' authority come from? They knew about the religious leaders called Pharisees. They knew the Pharisees said their authority was from the Old Testament Scriptures. They were confused about Jesus. Where did He come from? Where did He get His authority? These were important questions.

**Verse 14.** The feast named in this verse is the Feast of Shelters (see verse 2). In other translations this is called the Feast of Tabernacles. A tabernacle is a tent. The Law required all Jewish men to attend this feast.

**JESUS SAID HIS TEACHING  
CAME FROM THE PERSON  
WHO SENT HIM. JESUS  
SAID HIS TEACHING CAME  
FROM GOD.**

This feast celebrated the time God delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt and lived in tents (shelters) while they were in the wilderness. It was a joyous feast for the Jews. Jesus went to the temple and began to teach. Jesus did not need anyone to give Him permission to teach. Because He is God, Jesus had His own authority to teach in the temple.

**Verse 15.** Jesus taught the people. The people were surprised. The people wondered how Jesus knew so much. The people said Jesus had "never studied in school." All Jewish boys attended several years of school, or they were taught by their parents to read the Scriptures. So Jesus probably did that, too. In this verse, the people probably meant Jesus had never gone to school to learn to be a rabbi (teacher). How could Jesus teach so well?

**Verse 16.** Jesus said His teaching wasn't from Himself. Jesus said His teaching came from the person who sent Him. Jesus said His teaching came from God.

**Verse 17.** Jesus said people's attitudes are important. If people are willing to obey God, then they will understand His teaching. The people will know the teaching comes from God Himself. This is an important principle in the Bible. If people want to know the Bible and understand it, they must decide they will obey it. Then God will help them understand His truth. If people are not sure they will obey it, then they will not understand God's truth.

**Verse 18.** Jesus said the people who teach their own ideas want their own honor. They want people to praise them. Jesus said the people who teach and seek honor for God speak the truth. Why? They are honest and don't



want praise for themselves. They only want praise for God. Jesus said He was telling the truth. Jesus was not lying. Jesus' teaching was valid. A newspaper reporter, Lee Strobel, did not believe in God. Lee's wife, Leslie, became saved. Lee was upset. Lee thought Jesus was a fake. Lee thought Christianity was a fairy tale. Lee decided to investigate Jesus just like he would any news story. Lee wanted to see if Jesus was really God. Was Jesus valid? Lee did a lot of research. Lee studied for almost two years. Lee finally admitted, yes, Jesus' teaching is valid. Jesus Himself is God. Lee became a Christian. Lee wrote books to help other people understand Jesus' teaching was valid.

## 2. Is Jesus Really from God? (7:25-31)

- 25 Then some of the people who lived in Jerusalem said, "This is the man they are trying to kill.
- 26 But he is teaching where everyone can see and hear him, and no one is trying to stop him. Maybe the leaders have decided he really is the Christ.
- 27 But we know where this man is from. Yet when the real Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from."
- 28 Jesus, teaching in the Temple, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. But I have not come by my own authority. I was sent by the One who is true, whom you don't know.
- 29 But I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me."
- 30 When Jesus said this, they tried to seize him. But no one was able to touch him, because it was not yet the right time.
- 31 But many of the people believed in Jesus. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miracles than this man has done?"

**Verse 25.** Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem said Jesus is the man they were trying to kill. Notice these were the people who lived in Jerusalem. They knew what was happening in Jerusalem. It's like students at Gallaudet University know what is happening at Gallaudet. Alumni from the university might hear different rumors, but only the people living at Gallaudet know what is really happening. This is the same idea in this story. The people living in Jerusalem heard the plots about finding a way to kill Jesus. These people knew the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.

**Verse 26.** The people were puzzled. They knew Jesus was in Jerusalem. Jesus was teaching out in the open. Jesus wasn't hiding. The religious leaders did nothing to stop Jesus from teaching. The people did not understand this. They thought maybe the religious leaders changed their minds. Maybe the religious leaders also thought Jesus was the Messiah.

**Verse 27.** The people thought they knew where Jesus was from. They

knew He couldn't be the Messiah. They thought the real Messiah would be from an unknown place. They knew Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee.

**Verse 28.** Jesus told the people they knew Him and they knew where He was from. But He said they did not really know what was happening. The people thought Jesus was a person just like them. Jesus said He did not speak on His own authority. His authority was from the person who sent Him. Who sent Jesus? God the Father sent Jesus to earth.

Jon is a policeman. He has four children. When Jon is at home, he does not wear his police badge. He does not use his authority as a policeman while at home. When Jon goes to work in the mornings, he puts on his badge. When he is at work, he acts with the authority of a policeman. He got his authority when he was hired for the job. His badge shows his authority is real. Jesus told the people His authority was real. Jesus' authority is from God.

### JESUS SAID HE CAME FROM GOD. GOD SENT HIM TO EARTH.

How did Jesus describe God? Jesus said God is true. God does not lie. Jesus also told the people they did not know God. This statement angered the religious leaders. The Jewish people prided themselves on knowing God and

the Old Testament Scriptures. But Jesus told them they did not know God.

**Verses 29-30.** Jesus said He knew God. How did Jesus know God? Jesus said He came from God. God sent Him to earth.

The Jewish leaders were very mad. They tried to **capture** Jesus. They wanted Jesus to stop teaching. They were not able to capture Jesus. God did not permit the religious leaders to capture Jesus. It was not yet time for Jesus to die.

**Verse 31.** The people and the religious leaders had different opinions about Jesus. Many of the people believed Jesus. The people were happy with Jesus. The religious leaders were angry with Jesus. The religious leaders did not believe Jesus was from God. The people believed Jesus was from God. The people said Jesus did many miracles. The people thought no one could do more miracles than Jesus! Jesus Himself must be the Messiah!

### 3. How Can We Understand Jesus' Teaching? (7:33-36)

33 Jesus said, "I will be with you a little while longer. Then I will go back to the One who sent me.

34 You will look for me, but you will not find me. And you cannot come where I am."

35 Some people said to each other, "Where will this man go so we cannot find him? Will he go to the Greek cities where our people live and teach the Greek people there?"

36 What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘You cannot come where I am?’”

**Verse 33.** Jesus said He will stay with the people a little bit longer. After that, He will go back to the One who sent Him. What did this mean? This meant Jesus was going back to heaven soon.

**Verse 34.** Jesus told the people they will look for Him, but they will not be able to find Jesus. The people will not be able to follow Him. After Jesus died and rose again, the crowds of people did not see Him anymore. Jesus’ followers saw Jesus and were with Him after He was raised from the dead.

**Verse 35.** The people did not understand what Jesus meant. They were confused. They thought maybe Jesus would go to the Greek cities. Many Jewish people lived in cities in other areas like Greece and Rome. Maybe Jesus would stop traveling in Israel. They couldn’t imagine where Jesus would go and they couldn’t find Him.

Jesus Himself did not go to Greek cities. This verse, however, helps us understand Jesus’ message was not for the Jews only. Jesus’ message would later go out into the whole world. Jesus’ followers did go to the Greek cities.

THE BIBLE TEACHES US IF  
WE SEARCH FOR HIM WITH  
ALL OUR HEART, WE WILL  
FIND HIM

**Verse 36.** The people talked to each other. They tried to figure out what Jesus meant. They discussed two statements Jesus said. The first statement Jesus said, “You will look for me, but you will not find me.” The second statement was “You cannot come where I am.” These two statements really puzzled the people. They talked about what these statements meant.

One time, three Deaf people went to a workshop. Jose, Dan, and Kelly sat together. They were the only Deaf people there. Sometimes they did not understand something the speaker said. They were afraid to interrupt the presenter. Jose, Dan, and Kelly talked with each other. What did the speaker mean? They were afraid to ask questions, so they asked each other instead.

That is how it was with these people and Jesus. They did not understand what Jesus was saying. They talked among themselves, trying to figure out what Jesus meant.

The Bible teaches us if we search for Him with all our heart, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). If you have questions about God, then find someone to help you look in the Bible for answers. God gave us the Bible so we could learn about Him. At the end of chapter 7, the **challenge** was given, “Study the Scriptures” (John 7:52). We need to study the Bible carefully. The more we learn and obey, the more we will understand what the Bible teaches. That will lead us to know God.

# What About You?

Are you searching for Jesus? Do you have many questions? Are you trying to find the answers for your questions?

What are you doing about this? Have you talked to your pastor or Bible study teacher?

Do you know someone who is searching for answers? Have you reached out to that person to help?

## Applying the Lesson

Write down 2-3 questions you have about God or the Bible. Share with your Bible study class next week. See if others have similar questions. Search the Bible together for answers.

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Find someone at work or among your Deaf friends with questions about God or the Bible. Offer to meet with that person weekly to help them find answers to their questions.

A verse to remember: "If people choose to do what God wants, they will know that my teaching comes from God" (John 7:17).

# Wondering About Judgment?

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 7:53-8:59

**Lesson Material:**  
John 8:12,15-18,23-  
27,42-47

**Bible Truth**  
We need to be aware  
of God's judgment and  
obey Him because of  
His judgment.



**D**uring World War II, the Jewish people suffered the horrors of the Holocaust in Germany. After WWII ended, some of the top Germans responsible for the Holocaust managed to escape. Adolf Eichmann was one of the men responsible for killing the Jewish people. He escaped to Argentina. Jewish people who survived the Holocaust continued to look for him. Finally, they found he was hiding in Argentina. His identity was double checked. He was captured and brought to Israel. Eichmann was put on trial in Jerusalem. Many witnesses came forward to testify against Eichmann. Because of these witnesses, Eichmann was found guilty of crimes against humanity. He was executed in Israel because of his crimes. We will all face judgment for our sins if we don't accept Jesus as our Savior. Eichmann hid as long as he could, but he finally faced judgment. We cannot hide from God's coming judgment.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Identify the True Judge (John 8:12,15-18)** – Jesus said He is the Light of the world. Jesus said He was not judging anyone at that time, but when He does judge, He will judge truthfully.
2. **Identify the Importance of Judgment (8:23-27)** – People will face judgment for their sins. If people believe in Jesus as Savior, they will not die in their sin.
3. **Identify the Basis of Judgment (8:42-47)** – Judgment is for those who don't accept what Jesus teaches. Those who don't love Jesus have the devil as their father.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In this **passage**, Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_ of the world."
2. Who was with Jesus in these verses?
3. How many witnesses were required in the Law?
4. Jesus was one witness. Who was the other witness?
5. Who did Jesus tell the people their father was?

## Today's Lesson

### 1. Identify the True Judge (John 8:12,15-18)

- 12 Later, Jesus talked to the people again, saying, "I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life.
- 15 You judge by human standards. I am not judging anyone.
- 16 But when I do judge, I judge truthfully, because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me.
- 17 Your own law says that when two witnesses say the same thing, you must accept what they say.
- 18 I am one of the witnesses who speaks about myself, and the Father who sent me is the other witness."

**Verse 12.** Jesus opened this conversation with a powerful statement about Himself. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." What a statement! Jesus gives light to everyone in the world. What does this light mean? Jesus said this immediately after a woman was caught in the act of adultery. You can read that story in John 8:1-11. The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus. They knew the Law of Moses said people who commit adultery

should be stoned. How did Jesus respond? Jesus told them whoever was without sin could throw the first stone. All the Pharisees walked away. Jesus told the woman, “I also don’t judge you guilty. You may go now, but don’t sin anymore” (John 8:11). Next, Jesus turned to the people and said He was the light of the world.

The important part of this story is about the woman who sinned. Light exposes darkness. Jesus said He is light. His light exposes the darkness of sin in people’s lives. That is why all the Pharisees walked away. They knew they had sin in their lives. They were not holy enough to judge this woman. Jesus was the only person without sin. He was the only one who could judge this woman.

Jesus said whoever followed Him would not live in darkness, but would live in the light. His light gives life. How does light give life? This means the person who lives in the light does not live in sin. Whoever follows Jesus will not **habitually** sin. Jesus’ light in the person will give that person eternal life.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” This is another one of Jesus’ “I am” statements. This statement is important because Jesus explained more about the character of God. When Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world,” Jesus was not talking about light like we think of light from the sun, but light here means there is no darkness. God is holy and pure. God cannot stand darkness and sin. God is light and exposes darkness and sin. Jesus said we cannot hide our sins from God. If we bring our sins into the light and ask His forgiveness, then we will receive eternal life. If we love our sins and **refuse** to confess them, then we will walk in darkness and face God’s judgment.

JESUS SAID HE DID NOT  
JUDGE ALONE. GOD, THE  
FATHER, JUDGES WITH  
JESUS.

**Verse 15.** Jesus told the people they judged with human standards. People do not judge the same way God judges. Jesus said He was not here to judge anyone at that time. The situation with the woman caught in adultery was a perfect example. The Pharisees were quick to judge this woman. They were trying to trap Jesus. They did not bring the man to Jesus. It takes two people to commit adultery. Did Jesus judge this woman? No. Instead, Jesus showed kindness to her. He did not say she was innocent. He told her to go and stop sinning.

**Verse 16.** Jesus said there are times when He has to judge people. When He judges, He does it in truth. He does not lie or make up false judgments. Jesus said He did not judge alone. God, the Father, judges with Jesus. They both judge together. Why is that important? Jesus explained in the next verse.

**Verse 17.** The Law of Moses said people must believe the words spoken by two witnesses. Why two witnesses? Two witnesses prevent a person from lying about someone else. Two witnesses **guarantee** the story is true. When a newspaper publishes something as a fact, they must first check to see if they have dependable witnesses to the story. If two different people say the same thing, then the newspaper knows the story is true. Then the newspaper will publish it as fact. If not, they will not say the story is true.

**Verse 18.** Jesus said He witnessed about Himself. God the Father was the other witness who confirmed what Jesus said was true. God the Father supported everything Jesus said.

Because God is the true judge, we must live the kind of life He wants us to live. When God judges us, we need to realize God knows everything we do and say.

## **2. Identify the Importance of Judgment (8:23-27)**

23 Jesus said, “You people are from here below, but I am from above.

You belong to this world, but I don’t belong to this world.

24 So I told you that you would die in your sins. Yes, you will die in your sins if you don’t believe that I am he.”

25 They asked, “Then who are you?” Jesus answered, “I am what I have told you from the beginning.

26 I have many things to say and decide about you. But I tell people only the things I have heard from the One who sent me, and he speaks the truth.”

27 The people did not understand that he was talking to them about the Father.

**Verse 23.** Jesus told the people they were from the earth. Jesus said He was from above, in heaven. Jesus said He came from a different place. Jesus emphasized this because He told them twice. Jesus told them they belonged to this world. Jesus said He did not belong to this world. What did this mean? Jesus had the authority to judge the world because He was not from this world.

**Verse 24.** Jesus told them they would die in their sins. Jesus warned the woman caught sinning, and told her not to sin anymore. Now Jesus was warning the people they would die for their sins. Jesus gave them a way out. Jesus said if they believed in Him, they would not die in their sins.

**Verse 25.** The people wanted to know who Jesus was. They asked Jesus, “Who are you?” Jesus told them He was from heaven. Jesus said He told them many times in the past who He was. This was not the first time Jesus told them.

**Verse 26.** Jesus said He had many more things to tell them. Jesus also needed to make a decision about them. What kind of decision did Jesus



need to make? Maybe it was how Jesus would later judge them. Jesus said He did not lie to them. Everything Jesus told the people was from the Father who sent Him. Everything Jesus shared from God was true.

**Verse 27.** The people did not understand Jesus was talking about God His Father. The people did not understand Jesus was the Father's representative. People who don't believe cannot understand God's truths. Unsaved people are blind people. They cannot understand spiritual truths. We must let the truth of God's coming judgment guide our lives every day.

### 3. Identify the Basis of Judgment (8:42-47)

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were really your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come by my own authority; God sent me.

43 You don't understand what I say, because you cannot accept my teaching.

44 You belong to your father the devil, and you want to do what he wants. He was a murderer from the beginning and was against the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he shows what he is really like, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 But because I speak the truth, you don't believe me.

46 Can any of you prove that I am guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

47 The person who belongs to God accepts what God says. But you don't accept what God says, because you don't belong to God."

**Verse 42.** The Jewish people prided themselves on being God's chosen people. They had the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus told them God was not really their Father. How did Jesus know that? If God was really their Father, then they would love Jesus. Why would they love Jesus? Because Jesus came from God the Father.

I have a sister. Because we both have the same parents, I love my sister. This is what Jesus was telling the Jewish people. If they were God's children, then they would love Jesus. They didn't love Jesus. Therefore, God is not their Father.

**WE MUST LET THE TRUTH  
OF GOD'S COMING  
JUDGMENT GUIDE OUR  
LIVES EVERY DAY.**

Jesus said He did not come on His own. God the Father sent Jesus. Jesus came in the authority of God the Father.

America has **ambassadors** who go to other countries. An American ambassador officially represents America in another country. That person carries the authority of the American government. A person can't decide

to become an ambassador. The president appoints the ambassador. The ambassador represents the United States. Jesus was God's ambassador from heaven to earth. Paul said we Christians are Christ's ambassadors to the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

**Verse 43.** Jesus told the people they did not accept what He taught them. Because they did not accept His teachings, they could not understand. The same is true for people today. If people are willing to obey God's Word, then the Holy Spirit will help people understand the Word. If people don't understand the Bible, it's because they are not willing to obey it.

**Verse 44.** Jesus told the people Satan was their father. Jesus told the people they wanted to follow Satan. Jesus said Satan did not have the truth in him. Satan did not want people to live. Jesus said Satan always lies and is the father of all lies. Satan is the enemy of God.

**Verse 45.** Jesus said He was not like Satan. Jesus said He always told the truth, but the people did not believe Him.

**Verse 46.** Jesus challenged the people and asked if anyone of them could prove He was wrong? Could they prove He was guilty of sin? If He was telling the truth, why did the people not believe Him?

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF  
GOD'S JUDGMENT MEANS  
OUR BEHAVIOR MUST  
SHOW WE BELIEVE, LOVE,  
AND LISTEN TO JESUS.

**Verse 47.** Jesus said the people did not believe Him and that proved they did not belong to God. Jesus said if people belong to God they will accept what God says. Jesus was very blunt with the people. Jesus said they were not God's children. God was not their father. If the people believed Jesus and followed His teaching, then they were the children of God.

Jesus wanted His message to be very clear. The people either believed and obeyed Him, or they did not believe and obey Him. There was no middle ground.

The people were either God's children or they were Satan's children. The people could not say one thing and do something different. Jesus said if God was their father, then they would love Jesus.

If people are not the children of God, then they will face God's judgment. If we believe in Jesus, we will escape God's judgment. For the Christian, Jesus already suffered God's judgment for our sins. Living in the light of God's judgment means our behavior must show we believe, love, and listen to Jesus.

# What About You?

What is your attitude about Jesus today? Do you love Jesus or not? Do you obey what Jesus taught in the Bible? Or do you say one thing, but act differently? There is no middle ground. You cannot love God and follow the world. If you don't obey the Bible, then you are not God's child.

## Applying the Lesson

Look in the verses we have studied from the Gospel of John and list some of Jesus' commands.

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Read this list of commands. How many commands are you obeying? How many commands have you broken?

Pick one or two commands to focus on this week.

A verse to remember: "I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life" (John 8:12).

# Doubting Jesus' Power?



## **Background Study Verses:**

John 9:1-41

## **Lesson Material:**

John 9:8-11,13-17,35-41

## **Bible Truth**

God wants us to find answers to any doubts we have about what Jesus can do.

**W**endy became a Christian at a young age. Wendy asked her mother why God made her Deaf. Her mom wondered the same thing when she found out Wendy was Deaf. Her mom read this story about the man born blind. Jesus said the man was born blind so God would be honored in his life. Wendy's mom realized this applies to Deaf people, too. She told Wendy the story about Jesus and the blind man. Wendy was happy to learn about this story. Wendy was glad to know God had a special reason for her to be Deaf. God was not angry with her or her parents.

God has a purpose for all people. Deaf people can share the gospel with other Deaf people. Jesus showed His power by healing this blind man. Jesus also showed the Pharisees they were spiritually blind. Deaf people can be spiritually blind, too.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Feeling Uncertain (John 9:8-11)** – Jesus healed a man blind from birth. His neighbors were not sure if he was the same man. He told them how Jesus healed him.
2. **Resisting the Truth (9:13-17)** – The Pharisees argued about Jesus healing the blind man. Was Jesus from God, or not?
3. **Refusing to See (9:35-41)** – Jesus told the blind man who He was. Jesus told the Pharisees they were blind spiritually.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus put on the blind man's eyes?
2. Who did the blind man share his testimony with first?
3. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus?
4. What did the blind man first call Jesus?
5. After the blind man believed in Jesus, what did he do next?

## Today's Lesson

The Bible truth for this lesson states, "God wants us to find answers to any doubts we have about what Jesus can do." You can read that story in verses 1-7.

### 1. Feeling Uncertain (John 9:8-11)

- 8 The neighbors and some people who had earlier seen this man begging said, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"
- 9 Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No, he only looks like him." The man himself said, "I am the man."
- 10 They asked, "How did you get your sight?"
- 11 He answered, "The man named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

In the title of this section, the word uncertain means not sure about something. In this story, people who knew the blind man were not sure if he was the same man. They thought he was someone else. They were confused. He was blind all his life. Now he could see. What happened?

**Verse 8.** This lesson starts after Jesus healed the blind man (verses 1-7). In the past, the blind man sat and begged. His neighbors and other people came along and saw the blind man, but he wasn't blind anymore. The people were confused. They were not sure if this was the same man or not.

One Deaf man, Chris, often went to parties. He always joked a lot, used bad language, and teased people to cover up his pain because he felt his deafness kept him from having good friends. After he graduated from high school, Chris became a Christian. At church he met friends who accepted and loved him. Later, at a high school homecoming, his old classmates met him. He did not go to parties anymore. Chris did not use bad language or pick on people. His classmates could not believe it was the same Chris they knew in high school.

**Verse 9.** The people argued about the blind man. Some people said it was the same man. Other people said no, he just looked like the blind man. The man heard the people arguing about who he was. The man spoke up and said, yes, he was blind but now he could see.

**Verse 10.** The people asked him how he started to see. They had never heard of someone born blind become able to see later. So they asked him what happened.

**WE MAY BE UNCERTAIN  
ABOUT THE POWER  
OF JESUS, BUT OTHER  
CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE  
EXPERIENCED HIS POWER  
CAN HELP US KNOW HIS  
POWER IS TRUE.**

**Verse 11.** The blind man told his story. He said Jesus came and put mud on his eyes. Then Jesus told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He did what Jesus told him to do. After he washed his eyes, he was able to see! He witnessed about what Jesus did for him. We may be uncertain about the power of Jesus, but other Christians who have experienced His power can help us know His power is true.

## **2. Resisting the Truth (9:13-17)**

13 Then the people took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

14 The day Jesus had made mud and healed his eyes was a Sabbath day.

15 So now the Pharisees asked the man, “How did you get your sight?”

He answered, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see.”

16 So some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man does not keep the Sabbath day, so he is not from God.” But others said, “A man who is a sinner can’t do miracles like these.” So they could not agree with each other.

17 They asked the man again, “What do you say about him, since it was your eyes he opened?”

The Pharisees knew the truth about Jesus, but they did not accept it. They resisted the truth. The word **resist** means to refuse to accept. They did not believe the truth. They fought against the truth.

**Verse 13.** The people could not believe the blind man could now see. They took the blind man to the Pharisees. Maybe the people thought the Pharisees could explain how this miracle happened.

Sometimes today a person is healed of some sickness. People are quick to explain how the doctor cured the disease. Or people might say the disease went away by itself. People are usually slow to say God healed the person.

**Verse 14.** John said it was the Sabbath day when Jesus healed this blind man. Oh no! Do you remember another story when Jesus healed on the Sabbath? Yes. It was the story of the paralyzed man. The religious leaders started persecuting Jesus and tried to hurt Him. Jesus was not afraid of people. Jesus kept healing people on the Sabbath.

**Verse 15.** The Pharisees acted like a lawyer cross-examining a man on the witness stand. They asked the blind man how he started to see. The blind man said, “He put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I see.”

**Verse 16.** Earlier the neighbors and other people were arguing. Now the Pharisees started arguing among themselves. Some Pharisees said this happened on the Sabbath day, therefore, the person who healed the blind man could not be from God.

Other Pharisees said a regular person (meaning a sinner) could not do a miracle like this. They meant God had to be with that person. They continued to argue with each other. They were not able to agree.

**THE PHARISEES WERE  
NOT OPEN-MINDED. THEY  
REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THE  
BLIND MAN'S TESTIMONY.**

**Verse 17.** They could not decide, so now they turned back to the blind man. These Pharisees were the religious leaders. They knew the Old Testament Scriptures. Now these Pharisees asked the blind man for his opinion! The Pharisees asked the blind man what he thought about Jesus! This showed how blind the Pharisees were. They did not know the answer to this situation.

What did the blind man answer? The blind man said Jesus was a prophet. The blind man now realized Jesus was more than just a man. The blind man realized Jesus had power with God.

The Pharisees were not open-minded. They refused to listen to the blind man's testimony. They were not happy the blind man could now see. Instead, they asked him many questions.

When we feel it is difficult to accept the truth, we must be willing to examine our hearts and listen to what God's Word tells us.

### **3. Refusing to See (9:35-41)**

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

- 36 He asked, "Who is the Son of Man, sir, so that I can believe in him?"  
37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him. The Son of Man is the one talking with you."  
38 He said, "Lord, I believe!" Then the man worshiped Jesus.  
39 Jesus said, "I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that the blind would see and so that those who see will become blind."  
40 Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard Jesus say this and asked, "Are you saying we are blind, too?"  
41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you keep saying you see, your guilt remains."

**Verse 35.** The Pharisees threw the blind man out of the temple. They were mad about his testimony. They refused to believe what he said about Jesus. The blind man witnessed boldly about what Jesus did for him.

Jesus knew what happened to this blind man. Jesus knows everything. Jesus found this man again. Whenever we face a difficult situation in our lives because of our testimony for Jesus, we can know Jesus is there with us. Jesus found the man. Jesus wanted to teach him more about Himself.

Jesus asked the blind man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Why did Jesus ask him this question? Jesus healed this man's physical eyes, but Jesus wanted to heal his spiritual eyes. This man did not yet have enough knowledge to be saved.

We are familiar with Jesus as the Son of God, but we don't often see the words, Son of Man. The words Son of God referred to Jesus' deity. It meant Jesus is God. Son of Man referred to Jesus as a Man. The emphasis is on Jesus' humanity. Jesus was God come to earth to live as a human. Jesus is the God-Man.

**Verse 36.** The blind man asked Jesus, "Who is the Son of Man, sir, that I can believe in Him?" The blind man wanted to know this God-Man. He showed respect to Jesus by calling Him "sir." The blind man wanted to believe. This is very important. If we are willing to believe, God will always reveal more truth to us. If we obey what God has shown us, God will always show us more truth. The disciple named James wrote, "Come near to God, and God will come near to you" (James 4:8).

**Verse 37.** Jesus told the blind man He, Jesus, was the God-Man. Jesus said, "The Son of Man is the one talking with you." Jesus did not say, "talking to you." Jesus said, "talking with you." Jesus talked with people. Jesus had conversations with people. Jesus let people talk to Him and He listened to them. This is important to remember when we witness to people about Jesus. Often people need someone to listen to them and not just preach to them.

One older Deaf woman, Becky, was lonely. Two women offered to have



a Bible study at Becky's home. They had false beliefs. Becky was lonely so she told them to come to her house. The women came and talked about the Bible with Becky. They tried to change Becky's beliefs. Becky realized the women did not care about her. They only cared about their religion. Becky told them not to come back to her house. These two women were like the Pharisees. Jesus was different from the Pharisees. Jesus cared about the blind man both physically and spiritually.

**Verse 38.** The blind man called Jesus "sir" in verse 37. Now he called Jesus "Lord." The blind man believed Jesus was God. He would now follow Jesus and do whatever Jesus wanted him to do. The blind man said, "Lord, I believe!" The man felt this strongly. This was the moment of the blind man's conversion.

What did the blind man do next? He worshiped Jesus. We are saved to worship Jesus Christ. We are not saved to focus on ourselves. We are His servants.

**Verse 39.** Jesus said He came to judge the earth. How would He judge the earth? In the last lesson Jesus said He was light and His light would expose the darkness (sins) of the people. Jesus said the people were blind, meaning they were in spiritual darkness. They did not see their sins.

JESUS SAID THE PEOPLE  
WERE BLIND, MEANING  
THEY WERE IN SPIRITUAL  
DARKNESS. THEY DID NOT  
SEE THEIR SINS.

Jesus healed this blind man so he could see. Jesus used this to teach a lesson. Jesus wanted to show He can make spiritually blind people see. A person who is saved starts to "see" and understand Bible truths.

Also, Jesus said people who "see" will become blind. What did Jesus mean by people who "see"? Jesus meant people who thought they were right with God. Jesus was talking about the religious leaders. They thought they knew God. They did not see their sins. They were in spiritual darkness. Jesus came to help people who knew their sins. Jesus also wanted to expose those people who thought they could see, but they were spiritually blind.

**Verses 40-41.** Some of the Pharisees were near Jesus when He said this. The Pharisees realized Jesus was talking about them. The Pharisees asked Jesus bluntly, "Are you saying we are blind?" Jesus did not answer the Pharisees. Jesus was clever. Jesus knew the Pharisees wanted to trap Him in what He said. Jesus said people were blind if they did not see their sins.

When we have an honest doubt or question, God is ready to help us understand. But when we refuse to see the truth, the Bible says we are spiritually blind.

# What About You?

What is your attitude to Jesus? Is Jesus your Lord? Do you spend time everyday worshipping Him?

Do you think you are right with God? Are you aware of the sins you do every day?

Do you witness boldly for Jesus like this blind man did? Do you speak out for Jesus in the crowd?

Maybe you wonder why God made you Deaf. Do you realize you are Deaf for His purpose? God made each of us just as we are for His purpose.

## Applying the Lesson

Write out or practice signing your testimony. Can you share your testimony in three minutes or less?

Share your short testimony with three people from your church. Ask for suggestions about how to make your testimony more clear.

Ask three people in your church to share their testimony with you.

A verse to remember: "Jesus said, 'I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that the blind would see and so that those who see will become blind'" (John 9:39).

# Feeling Insecure?

**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 10:1-42

**Lesson Material:**  
John 10:1-5,7-10,14-  
18,25-30

**Bible Truth**  
We can depend on the  
security Jesus provides  
for those who belong  
to Him.



**W**hen we read the story of Abraham in the Old Testament, we don't think of him as an insecure person. An insecure person is afraid or anxious about things. We think of Abraham as a man of faith. God told Abraham to leave his country and his father's house to go to a strange land. Abraham knew God's voice was speaking to him. Abraham obeyed and left. Abraham had a nephew, Lot. Later, some kings came and captured Lot. Abraham defeated several kings and their armies to save Lot.

God said to Abraham, "Don't be afraid. I will defend you, and I will give you a great reward" (Genesis 15:1). God was aware Abraham was afraid. He had battled kings and their armies. Maybe they would seek to get even.

God promised Abraham protection and enjoyment. Jesus promised the same in this lesson to the people He called His "sheep."

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Jesus Guides Us (John 10:1-5)** – Jesus used the story of a shepherd and his sheep. The shepherd leads his sheep.
2. **Jesus Gives Us Life (10:7-10)** – Jesus is the door for the sheep. Jesus gives His sheep wonderful life.
3. **Jesus Gave His Life for Us (10:14-18)** – Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus will die for His sheep
4. **Jesus Gives Us a Guarantee (10:25-30)** – Jesus gives His sheep eternal life. No one can steal His sheep.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who guards the door of the sheep pen?
2. Why do the sheep follow the shepherd?
3. What did Jesus promise His sheep would find?
4. What two things did Jesus say, “I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_?”
5. What will happen to Jesus’ sheep?

## Today’s Lesson

This lesson is about sheep and their shepherds, a picture the Jewish people understood. Sheep ate grass out in an open area. At night, they went inside a sheep pen. This pen was usually a stone wall with an opening for a “door” in it. In this passage, the sheep pen is called a sheepfold.

### 1. Jesus Guides Us (John 10:1-5)

- 1 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, the person who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.
- 2 The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The one who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he brings all his sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don’t know his voice.”

**Verse 1.** The shepherd led his sheep into a sheep pen at night. How did they enter the sheep pen? They went in through the door or opening.

Who did not go through the door? Thieves and robbers would climb over the wall to steal the sheep.

**Verse 2.** The sheep pen had an opening but it did not have a door. The shepherd slept in the opening and guarded his sheep. The shepherd was the door. The shepherd did not want anything bad to come in and hurt his sheep. The shepherd watched at the door to protect his sheep. He did not let any wild animal or bad person hurt the sheep.

**Verse 3.** The shepherd opened the door for the sheep. The sheep knew their shepherd. The sheep listened to the voice of the shepherd. Does this mean we have to be hearing if we want to listen to Jesus, our Shepherd? No. We can hear the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus, in our hearts. We can also hear His voice as we read the Bible. If we spend time with Jesus, we will recognize His voice in our hearts.

The shepherd called the sheep by name. When we see a flock of sheep, they all look exactly alike. But the shepherd knows each one. Jesus knows each of our names. Jesus knows everything about each of us. Jesus loves us deeply just like a shepherd loved his sheep. If we listen with our heart, we can know the voice of Jesus.

The shepherd led the sheep out of the sheep pen. The shepherd always walked in front of the sheep when he led them. Jesus does the same for us. Jesus always leads us where He wants us to go.

**Verse 4.** The sheep knew they were safe when they were with their shepherd. When we are close to Jesus, we feel safe and comfortable. One time, Moses told God His presence must go with the Israelites or Moses wasn't going anywhere. Moses couldn't stand the thought of going somewhere without God's presence leading him. You can read this story in Exodus 33:12-17.

The sheep always followed their shepherd. Why? Because the sheep knew their shepherd's voice. It was common for several shepherds to share the same sheep pen. That meant the different flocks were all mixed together. When one shepherd wanted to take his sheep somewhere, that shepherd called his sheep and they followed him.

**Verse 5.** The sheep would not follow a strange shepherd. They would not recognize a strange voice. In fact, sheep would run away from a stranger. The sheep only want to stay with their own shepherd. Their shepherd would lead them.

Jesus described Himself as the perfect shepherd. He cares for you. He wants to help you. But you need to be obedient, like the sheep, and do what Jesus asks you to do.

THE SHEEP ONLY WANT  
TO STAY WITH THEIR  
OWN SHEPHERD. THEIR  
SHEPHERD WOULD LEAD  
THEM.

## 2. Jesus Gives Us Life (10:7-10)

- 7 So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the door for the sheep.  
8 All the people who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them.  
9 I am the door, and the person who enters through me will be saved and will be able to come in and go out and find **pasture**.  
10 A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life - life in all its fullness.

**Verse 7.** Jesus said, “I am the door for the sheep.” This is another one of Jesus’ “I am” statements. The only way we can get into God’s sheepfold is through the door. Who is the door? Jesus. Jesus is the only way we can enter into God’s flock.

**Verse 8.** Jesus said the people who came before Him were thieves and robbers. Jesus said the sheep would not listen to those people. He meant the false teachers and Jewish leaders who did not obey God.

**Verse 9.** Jesus said again He was the door. Through Jesus, the people could go in and out safely. The people (or sheep) would not be hurt. Jesus, as the Door, would protect the people. Jesus would not allow anything bad into the sheep pen to hurt His sheep.

Jesus also promised His sheep would find pasture. What is pasture? Pasture is the green grass the sheep eat. Jesus said we will be satisfied. We will not want or need anything. David said the same thing in Psalm 23:1-2, “The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green pastures.” Jesus knew the Jewish people would know Psalm 23. They would realize the Lord (shepherd) David wrote about was Jesus.

**Verse 10.** Jesus said the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus contrasted the thief with Himself. What did Jesus come to do? Jesus came to give life, a full and wonderful life. Our enemy wants to destroy us. What does Jesus want? Jesus wants to give us life. Jesus came to give us the best life possible here on earth and eternal life in heaven.

## 3. Jesus Gave His Life for Us (10:14-18)

- 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. I give my life for the sheep.  
16 I have other sheep that are not in this flock, and I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd.  
17 The Father loves me because I give my life so that I can take it back again.

18 No one takes it away from me; I give my own life freely. I have the right to give my life, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father commanded me to do.”

**Verse 14.** Here is another “I am” statement. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd.” Jesus was not just a shepherd. Jesus was the good Shepherd. Many people have wrong ideas about God. Many people think God wants to hurt them and punish them. God is not like this. God is good and only wants the best for us. Jesus said He is good. There is no bad in Jesus.

What else did Jesus say? Jesus said, “I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.” Jesus said He knows each of us very well. We also know Him.

**Verse 15.** Jesus said this relationship between Him and His sheep was the same relationship as He had with His Father. Wow! Jesus has a deep relationship with us. How do we know this? Jesus said next, “I give my life for the sheep.” This relationship between Jesus and His sheep meant so much to Jesus. He was going to die for us, His sheep. This tells us much about the love Jesus has for all people.

**Verse 16.** Jesus said He had more sheep. They were not in this flock. What did Jesus mean? This flock meant the Jewish people who followed Jesus. Other sheep, not in that flock were people who were not Jews. You can read about the early disciples in the book of Acts. The early disciples first went to Jewish people. Then they went to non-Jewish people, or Gentiles. The Jewish people thought God would only save Jewish people. Jesus was telling them how Gentiles would be saved, too. Jesus said there would be one flock and one shepherd. There are many churches in the world, but there is only one flock. We all have the same Shepherd, Jesus.

JESUS SAID HIS FATHER  
LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE  
WAS WILLING TO DIE FOR  
THE SHEEP.

**Verse 17.** Jesus said His Father loved Him because He was willing to die for the sheep. Jesus also said, “I can take it back again.” What did it mean? It meant Jesus’ life. Jesus said He will also rise again. Jesus wanted them to know He would not stay dead in the grave. And we know He did rise up from the dead!

**Verse 18.** Jesus said no one will force Him to die. Jesus will give His life for His sheep. Jesus has the right to die and to rise again from the dead. Jesus said this is what God the Father commanded Him to do.

Jesus gave His life to make it possible for us to have eternal life. Have you trusted Jesus, and asked Him to become your Savior? If not, today is a good day to do that.

#### 4. Jesus Gives Us a Guarantee (10:25-30)

25 Jesus answered, “I told you already, but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name show who I am.  
26 But you don’t 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 will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand.  
29 My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand.  
30 The Father and I are one.”

**Verse 25.** Jesus said His miracles prove He is God. Jesus did His miracles in His Father’s name. Because Jesus has power to do miracles, we can believe what Jesus said about Himself.

**Verses 26-27.** Jesus told the people they didn’t believe because they are not His sheep. If people were His sheep, then they would believe Jesus. Jesus’ sheep listen to His voice. They will obey what Jesus said to do.

**YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE  
ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS  
JESUS’ PROMISE TO HIS  
FOLLOWERS.**

**Verse 28.** Jesus said He gives His sheep eternal life. Jesus’ followers will never die. Jesus also promised no one can steal His people out of His hand. That means if you have been saved and follow Jesus, then you can’t become un-saved. That means you cannot lose

your salvation. You will always have eternal life. This is Jesus’ promise to His followers. We often see the words, “Once saved, always saved.” This is what Jesus is talking about in this verse.

**Verse 29.** Jesus said His Father gave His sheep to Him. Jesus said the Father is greater than everyone. Jesus said His sheep are in His Father’s hand. Christians are safe in the Father’s hand. Jesus said no one can steal us out of the Father’s hand. Think about that. We are in the hands of Jesus. And then we are also in the hands of the Father. Nothing is strong enough to take us out of God’s hands!

**Verse 30.** Jesus said He and the Father are one. They are both God. They both agreed about everything. God the Father and God the Son (Jesus) planned our salvation together.

For Deaf people, hands are important. In both verses 28 and 29, the hand speaks of action. Jesus and the Father are both actively involved in watching us and protecting us. In John’s Gospel, Jesus said we are held in the hand of God.



# What About You?

What is your relationship to Jesus? Is Jesus like a Good Shepherd to you? Do you know His voice when He speaks to you? How often do you talk to Him every day?

How often do you let Jesus speak to you through His Word? A successful relationship requires both people involved to spend time with each other every day. Jesus did His part. What did you do for your part?

## Applying the Lesson

From these verses in today's lesson, write down what it means when you say Jesus is your Good Shepherd.

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Share this with someone in your Bible class this week.

Think about what might cause your unsaved friends to feel insecure about their future and what happens when they die. How can you share Jesus with your friends?

A verse to remember: "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me" (John 10:14).

# Dealing with Death?



**Background  
Study Verses:**  
John 11:1-57

**Lesson Material:**  
John 11:21-27,33-44

**Bible Truth**  
Christians can deal  
with death because  
of the truth of the  
resurrection of Jesus.

**D**aniel Johnson was a Deaf pastor. Many Deaf and hearing people loved and respected him. When he died of cancer, we did not understand why. Daniel had a lot of influence in many different areas. Many people, both Deaf and hearing, attended his funeral. Everyone was sad because Daniel was gone.

Because of today's story, we know Jesus is our resurrection and our life. When Daniel died, our sorrow was mixed with joy. We knew we would see our dear brother, Daniel, again in heaven. We know Daniel is alive today.

Every time a Christian dies, that person's family and friends have that experience of joy mixed with sorrow. We are sad because we will miss that person. We have joy because we know that person is with Jesus and we will see that person in heaven in the future. We have that hope because we know Jesus has power over death – His death and ours.

## What These Verses Tell Us

1. **The Savior's Promise (John 11:21-27)** – Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Jesus promised people who believe in Him will never die.
2. **The Savior's Personal Concern (11:33-37)** – Mary and her friends were crying. Jesus was sad. He cried with them and shares our sorrow.
3. **The Savior's Power (11:38-44)** – Jesus told them to move the stone away from Lazarus' grave. Jesus cried out, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus was alive!

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who did Jesus tell, "Your brother will live again?"
2. In this story, Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_ and the life."
3. When did Martha expect Lazarus to rise from the dead?
4. What did Jesus do when He saw Mary and her friends crying?
5. What did Jesus cry out in a loud voice?

## Today's Lesson

This lesson is about Jesus' power over death. Jesus' friend, Lazarus, became very sick. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus. The sisters told Jesus Lazarus was very sick. Jesus did not go immediately to heal Lazarus. Jesus waited until Lazarus died, and then Jesus went to visit the two sisters. Lazarus was dead for four days before Jesus arrived at their home. This lesson today is one of the most powerful stories in the Bible. This was the last story of Jesus' public ministry. This was the last miracle Jesus did in public. This was Jesus' last appearance to the people before His death. This story of Lazarus was very important because Jesus used it to teach how He had power over death. The rest of John's Gospel tells about what happened in the last few days of Jesus life.

### 1. The Savior's Promise (John 11:21-27)

- 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- 22 But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask."
- 23 Jesus said, "Your brother will rise and live again."
- 24 Martha answered, "I know that he will rise and live again in the resurrection on the last day."
- 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die.

26 And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?"

27 Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the One coming to the world."

**Verse 21.** The Gospels tell us how Jesus often visited in the town of Bethany with Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. When Martha heard Jesus was coming near her home, she ran to meet Him. Martha immediately reminded Jesus if He came earlier, He could have healed Lazarus' sickness. Martha's faith was limited. Martha did not have faith Jesus could raise her brother from the dead. She thought it was too late for Jesus to do a miracle.

**Verse 22.** Martha knew God would listen to Jesus. She truly prayed for her brother. What happened? Her brother died. Maybe Martha thought God did not hear her prayer.

**Verse 23.** Jesus knew Martha's heart. Jesus knew Martha was upset because Lazarus died. Jesus knew Martha wished her brother was still living. Jesus said, "Your brother will rise and live again." Jesus did not tell her this would happen now. Jesus used this as an opportunity to teach Martha. This is one of the most powerful conversations in the Bible. Jesus chose to explain death and resurrection to one of His closest friends. Jesus was very concerned for Martha and He loved her. Jesus wanted to comfort her.

**Verse 24.** Martha said what she had been taught. Martha knew believers would be resurrected on the last day. Martha's heart was crying because of Lazarus' death, but she answered Jesus with what she knew was true.

**Verses 25-26.** Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life." This was another one of the seven "I am" statements Jesus said in the book of John. Jesus is our resurrection. Jesus is our life. Anyone who is dead becomes alive when brought into contact with Jesus.

Life comes from knowing Jesus. Often we focus on the words resurrection and life in this verse and forget about "I." Who is "I?" It is Jesus. Jesus is the source of life. We think, wow, we can live forever. That is not the point of this verse. The point is not about people who will live longer. The point is Jesus and His life expressed in my life. So many people think they are the important person. But Jesus is the important one.

Jesus said anyone who believed in Him would never die. Jesus asked, "Martha, do you believe this?" Jesus forced Martha to respond.

**Verse 27.** How did Martha respond? Did she answer Jesus' question about eternal life. No. Martha responded with faith, but not about eternal life. Martha responded, "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God." Martha changed the subject. How many of us do the same thing? If we are forced to answer a question and we don't want to lie, we change

the subject. The Savior's promise to you is if you have accepted Him as your Savior, you will rise up at the final resurrection, and be with Him forever.

## 2. The Savior's Personal Concern (11:33-37)

33 When Jesus saw Mary crying and the Jews who came with her also crying, he was upset and was deeply troubled.

34 He asked, "Where did you bury him?" "Come and see, Lord," they said.

35 Jesus cried.

36 So the Jews said, "See how much he loved him."

37 But some of them said, "If Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man, why couldn't he keep Lazarus from dying?"

**Verses 33-34.** Jesus saw Mary and others crying. Jesus became very upset, too. Jesus felt their pain and sorrow. We rarely see an artist's picture of Jesus with any expression. That is not a true picture. Jesus feels all our emotions. Jesus was happy at the first miracle at the wedding. Here Jesus was very sad with Mary and her friends. Even today in heaven, Jesus feels our emotions.

Jesus was very sad for Mary and Martha. Jesus asked, "Where did you bury him?" Jesus wanted them to take Him there. Jesus was God. Jesus knew exactly where Lazarus' body was, but He knew Lazarus' friends were hurting. Jesus let them show Him where Lazarus' body was buried.

When we have friends who are dead spiritually, we need to pray for them. We need to bring Jesus to them. We can witness about Jesus to them. Only Jesus can give them spiritual life. No one else can do it.

**Verse 35.** This verse is famous as the shortest verse in the Bible. "Jesus cried." Jesus was very emotional. Jesus cried with them in their time of sorrow. Jesus knows exactly how we feel. We may be tempted to think no one understands what we are going through, but that is not true. Jesus understands everything about us. Jesus hurts when we hurt.

**Verse 36.** Some Jewish people saw what was happening and came to see Jesus. They saw Jesus crying hard. They said Jesus really loved Lazarus. Jesus wasn't crying for Lazarus. Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead soon. Jesus was crying for Martha, Mary, and their friends. Jesus knew how death hurts all of us.

THE SAVIOR'S PROMISE  
TO YOU IS IF YOU HAVE  
ACCEPTED HIM AS  
YOUR SAVIOR, YOU WILL  
RISE UP AT THE FINAL  
RESURRECTION, AND BE  
WITH HIM FOREVER.

**Verse 37.** Other Jewish people asked why Jesus let Lazarus die. They knew Jesus healed the man born blind. These people compared Lazarus' sickness with Jesus healing the blind man. They asked why couldn't Jesus heal Lazarus. Lazarus did not need to die. They did not believe Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus healed people near death and some who had just died. This situation with Lazarus was different. Lazarus was dead for four days. There was no question Lazarus was dead and his soul had already departed from this world.

**JESUS UNDERSTANDS**

**EVERYTHING ABOUT US.**

**JESUS HURTS WHEN WE**

**HURT.**

The Jewish people did not think it was possible for Jesus to raise someone who was dead for four days.

Jesus showed His grief for the sorrow of Mary and Martha. He is personally concerned about everyone.

### **3. The Savior's Power (11:38-44)**

38 Again feeling very upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance.

39 Jesus said, "Move the stone away." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "But, Lord, it has been four days since he died. There will be a bad smell."

40 Then Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me.

42 I know that you always hear me, but I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me."

43 After Jesus said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with pieces of cloth, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take the cloth off of him and let him go."

**Verses 38.** John wrote again how Jesus was very upset. John wanted us to know Jesus felt the pain everyone else felt at Lazarus' death. This was not a temporary emotion Jesus had. It was a very deep emotion.

Another time Jesus showed emotion about death was the story of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17). This woman's husband was dead. Now her only son died. The boy's body was being carried to the cemetery when Jesus met them. Jesus felt sorry for the mother and told her, "Don't cry." Jesus had compassion on this mother. Jesus is full of compassion for everyone.

**Verse 39.** John described Lazarus' tomb. Like most burial places at that time, and like the place Jesus was buried, this was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance to the cave. Lazarus was definitely dead.

Jesus said, "Move the stone away." What? No one expected Jesus to say this! Martha, the woman of action, spoke up, "but, Lord, it has been four days since he died. There will be a bad smell." John wanted us to know Lazarus was really dead. This was not a magician's trick. No one can say maybe Lazarus was only unconscious. He was dead and buried and in the grave four days.

**Verse 40.** Jesus reminded Martha of the promise He made to her. Jesus promised Martha anyone who believed in Him would never die, but would live. If Martha believed Jesus' promise, she would see the glory of God. What is the glory of God? It means God's power. Jesus was going to do something only God could do.

**Verses 41-42.** The people obeyed and moved the stone away. Next, Jesus prayed. Jesus looked up to His Father. Jesus thanked God for hearing His prayer, before He prayed! Jesus knew God always heard His prayers. Jesus wanted the people to hear Him say this. Jesus wanted the Jewish people to know Jesus came from God the Father. Jesus was the "sent one," the Messiah. Jesus wanted people to believe Him.

**JESUS HAS POWER OVER  
DEATH.**

**Verse 43.** After Jesus finished His prayer, He yelled with a loud voice. What did He yell? "Lazarus, come out!" Why did Jesus yell? Jesus shouted with the authority of God. What a moment! Everyone must have been frozen, unable to move a muscle, every eye looking at that open tomb.

**Verse 44.** What happened? The dead man came out. Why did John say the dead man and not Lazarus? Notice how many ways John wrote this story so everyone who read it would know Lazarus was truly dead. Lazarus was still wrapped in cloths. They couldn't see Lazarus yet, but they knew it was him. Jesus said to take the cloths off Lazarus and let him go.

Jesus brought a man to life. The man was dead for four days! Jesus has power over death. We can be happy Christians don't continue dead. Anyone who believes in Jesus will not experience the second death. Christians may die once, but Jesus will raise all believers to live eternally with Him (John 11:25-26). We do not need to fear death. As Christians, we are not separated forever at death. We will be reunited again in heaven with all our loved ones who are believers. Jesus is truly the resurrection and the life. The person who believes this will never die. Do you believe this? Do you tell your friends about your faith?

# What About You?

When someone you love dies, do you tell Jesus about your sorrows? Jesus is there with you in your difficult situations. Jesus hurts with you. Jesus is sad, too, when people hurt.

Do you have friends and family members who do not know Jesus? Have you prayed for them? Have you witnessed to them?

Where will you be after death? Where will your family and friends be?

## Applying the Lesson

Make a list of people close to you who are dead spiritually. Pray every day for those people.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What seems impossible in your life today? Maybe someone in your family is not saved. Maybe someone is very sick. Maybe you want to serve God. It looks impossible. If it is for His glory, He can do the impossible. Write down what you have faith Jesus can do for you.

_____
_____

A verse to remember: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die" (John 11:25).



# Unit 1

## Session 1

1. Jesus.
2. Truth.
3. Moses.
4. Jesus is both God and man.
5. Created the world.

## Session 2

1. John the apostle.
2. The Lamb of God.
3. Simon Peter.
4. They were brothers.
5. Nathanael.

## Session 3

1. A wedding.
2. Changed water to wine.
3. 6.
4. Got rid of the animals and money.
5. Jesus did not want the temple to become a place for buying and selling things.

## Session 4

1. Nicodemus.
2. He was a Pharisee, He was a Jewish leader, He had questions about God.
3. Be born again.
4. To get into God's kingdom.
5. Jesus would die on the cross.

# Unit 2

## Session 1

1. Jesus did not want any problems with the Pharisees.
2. Samaritans.
3. A well.
4. Living water.
5. Be thirsty.

## Session 2

1. Woman at the well.
2. She was honest and said Jesus knew everything about her.
3. Jesus is the Savior of the world.
4. Heal his son.
5. Jesus told the father, "Go. Your son will live."

## Session 3

1. Sheep.
2. 38.
3. Impossible.
4. The Sabbath.
5. Continued working to heal people.

## Session 4

1. Bread.
2. They wanted more bread to eat.
3. Believe in Jesus.
4. Bread.
5. Live forever.

## Session 4

1. He never went to school to become a teacher.
2. Jesus taught so well.
3. God the Father.
4. People who do what God wants.
5. Back to heaven.

# Unit 3

## Session 1

1. He never went to school to become a teacher.
2. Jesus taught so well.
3. God the Father.
4. People who do what God wants.
5. Back to heaven.

## Session 2

1. Light.
2. God the Father.
3. Two.
4. God the Father.
5. The devil (Satan).

## Session 3

1. Mud.
2. His neighbors and some other people.
3. Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath day.
4. A prophet.
5. Worshiped Jesus.

## Session 4

1. The shepherd.
2. The sheep know their shepherd's voice.
3. Pasture.
4. The door and the good Shepherd.
5. They will never die.

## Session 5

1. Martha.
2. Resurrection.
3. On the last day.
4. He cried.
5. Lazarus, come out!

## A

Acknowledge – Recognize, accept someone or an idea.  
Ambassador; Ambassadors – Someone who is sent to another country or place as a representative.  
Authority – Power to do something.

## B

Barrier – Something blocking the way  
Basis – Reason for doing or believing something.  
Beg; Begged – To ask again and again.

## C

Capture – Take someone by force.  
Challenge – Difficult responsibility or situation.  
Clarify - Help a person understand or to make something clear.  
Compliment – Something nice said about a person.  
Concern – To care for someone.  
Cult – Any religion that does not believe Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior.

## D

Dealing – Having any relationship with.  
Deceiver – A person who lies to or tricks other people.  
Desperate – Without hope, in a very bad situation.

## E

Engage - Get a person involved or interested (as used in the lesson).

## F

Follow Through – Continue to the end, finish a job.  
Foretell – Predict something will happen before it happens.

## G

Genuine – Real, not false.  
Gospel – Good news about Jesus  
Grace – Kindness and love towards someone.  
Guarantee – Promise.

## **H**

Habitually – Do something over and over.

## **I**

Identify – Tell who someone is.

Initiative – To do something without waiting for someone else to help.

Insecure - Feel afraid or anxious about things.

## **J**

Judgment – Decide the truth about someone.

## **L**

Logos – Greek word meaning The Word.

## **M**

Messiah – The Savior of the Jews sent by God.

## **O**

Offer – Present to someone, promise.

Omniscience; Omniscient - Know everything, only God knows everything.

## **P**

Passage – A group of Bible verses.

Pasture - The green grass the sheep eat or the area where they eat grass.

Pharisee – A person who studied the Old Testament and tried to obey all the Old Testament laws.

## **R**

Recognize – See and know.

Refuse – Not accept.

Resist – Not accept an idea or a person.

Resistance – Not allowing a person to do something.

Resources – Something available to help us. This Word List is a resource for you as you study the lesson.

Reveal - To make something hidden become visible.

Revelation – Showing something, making something clear.

## **S**

Sabbath Day – The seventh day of the week. The Jewish day for worship, like our Sunday.

Stimulate; Stimulated – Say something that helps people to think differently.

Synoptic – Greek word meaning the same. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are the synoptic Gospels because they tell the story of Jesus in much the same way.

## **T**

Temporary – For a short time; Not for a long time.

The Beginning – Time before the Creation.

The Word – Translation of the Greek word logos. A title for Jesus as the living word.

Truth – Often used to mean the Gospel or God's message.

## **U**

Uncertain – Not sure about something.

## **V**

Valid - Something is true or has authority behind it.

Note: These definitions show the meaning of the word as it is used in this lesson. The word may have other meanings.

# MONTH 1

- ☐ 1. John 1:1-5
- ☐ 2. John 1:6-10
- ☐ 3. John 1:11-18
- ☐ 4. John 1:19-23
- ☐ 5. John 1:24-28
- ☐ 6. John 1:29-34
- ☐ 7. John 1:35-39
- ☐ 8. John 1:40-46
- ☐ 9. John 1:47-51
- ☐ 10. John 2:1-5
- ☐ 11. John 2:6-12
- ☐ 12. John 2:13-16
- ☐ 13. John 2:17-20
- ☐ 14. John 2:21-25
- ☐ 15. John 3:1-8
- ☐ 16. John 3:9-15
- ☐ 17. John 3:16-21
- ☐ 18. John 3:22-26
- ☐ 19. John 3:27-30
- ☐ 20. John 3:31-36
- ☐ 21. John 4:1-6
- ☐ 22. John 4:7-14
- ☐ 23. John 4:15-20
- ☐ 24. John 4:21-26
- ☐ 25. John 4:27-33
- ☐ 26. John 4:34-38
- ☐ 27. John 4:39-42
- ☐ 28. John 4:43-45
- ☐ 29. John 4:46-50
- ☐ 30. John 4:51-54

# MONTH 2

- ☐ 1. John 5:1-6
- ☐ 2. John 5:7-13
- ☐ 3. John 5:14-18
- ☐ 4. John 5:19-23
- ☐ 5. John 5:24-30
- ☐ 6. John 5:31-40
- ☐ 7. John 5:41-47
- ☐ 8. John 6:1-8
- ☐ 9. John 6:9-15
- ☐ 10. John 6:16-21
- ☐ 11. John 6:22-28
- ☐ 12. John 6:29-34
- ☐ 13. John 6:35-42
- ☐ 14. John 6:43-51
- ☐ 15. John 6:52-59
- ☐ 16. John 6:60-65
- ☐ 17. John 6:66-71
- ☐ 18. John 7:1-5
- ☐ 19. John 7:6-9
- ☐ 20. John 7:10-15
- ☐ 21. John 7:16-24
- ☐ 22. John 7:25-30
- ☐ 23. John 7:31-36
- ☐ 24. John 7:37-44
- ☐ 25. John 7:45-8:1
- ☐ 26. John 8:2-6
- ☐ 27. John 8:7-11
- ☐ 28. John 8:12-16
- ☐ 29. John 8:17-20
- ☐ 30. John 8:21-24
- ☐ 31. John 8:25-29



# MONTH 3

- ☐ 1. John 8:30-35
- ☐ 2. John 8:36-41
- ☐ 3. John 8:42-47
- ☐ 4. John 8:48-53
- ☐ 5. John 8:54-59
- ☐ 6. John 9:1-5
- ☐ 7. John 9:6-12
- ☐ 8. John 9:13-16
- ☐ 9. John 9:17-23
- ☐ 10. John 9:24-27
- ☐ 11. John 9:28-34
- ☐ 12. John 9:35-41
- ☐ 13. John 10:1-6
- ☐ 14. John 10:7-13
- ☐ 15. John 10:14-18
- ☐ 16. John 10:19-24
- ☐ 17. John 10:25-30
- ☐ 18. John 10:31-36
- ☐ 19. John 10:37-42
- ☐ 20. John 11:1-7
- ☐ 21. John 11:8-16
- ☐ 22. John 11:17-22
- ☐ 23. John 11:23-27
- ☐ 24. John 11:28-32
- ☐ 25. John 11:33-37
- ☐ 26. John 11:38-42
- ☐ 27. John 11:43-46
- ☐ 28. John 11:47-50
- ☐ 29. John 11:51-54
- ☐ 30. John 11:55-57

EXPLORE  
THE BIBLE

BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF  
**LEADER**

*John*



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE DEAF

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\* Easter Evangelistic Lesson

# Introduction

**John**

## **One Word, One Life, One Way**

In this quarter we will look at chapters 1-11 of the Gospel of John. Next quarter we will complete the gospel and study chapters 12-17.

Most Bible scholars agree that John the apostle was the author of this Gospel. He was a son of the fisherman named Zebedee and the brother of James (Mark 1:19-20). The author never uses his name, but often refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, and 21:20).

The author said he was an eyewitness of the ministry of Jesus (John 19:35 and 21:24-25). He told what he learned after spending three years with Jesus. He said the same thing in 1 John 1:1, “We write you now about what has always existed, which we have heard, we have seen with our own eyes, we have looked at, and we have touched with our hands.”

John wrote his Gospel at some time between A.D. 85 and 100, or about sixty years after the resurrection. This was several years after Matthew, Mark, and Luke wrote their Gospels. John was a very old man by that time. During the sixty years after the resurrection, John preached and taught in Ephesus, except for about two years when the Roman emperor banished him to the Isle of Patmos.

And yet, John admits he has not told everything about who Jesus was and what He did. He said if everything was written, there would not be enough room in all the world to hold the books!

During this same period of time, during his last ten to fifteen years of his life, John also wrote the three brief letters and the Book of Revelation, possibly in that order.

The Gospel of John varies from the other three Gospels in many ways, including how he presents the style and content of Jesus’ teaching. More than 90% of the writing in John’s Gospel is not found in either of the other three Gospels. John often gave the chronological order of events, such as “the next day,” (John 1:29, 35, 43). He also gave more attention to places and cities than the other Gospel writers, such as “Bethany on the other side of the river” (John 1:28) or “Cana in Galilee” (John 2:1). He gave specific numbers of things, such as “six stone water jars” (John 2:6), “100 yards” (John 21:8), and “153 fish” (John 21:11).

By the style of their writings, scholars believe Matthew wrote primarily for Jewish readers, while Mark and Luke wrote for Gentile readers. John seems to have written for both Jews and Gentiles. He gave detailed explanations of Jewish custom for Gentile readers, but presented Jesus as the Jewish Messiah, the Son of God.

# Unit 1

## The Word From Eternity

### John 1:1-3:36

- » As you start this new unit, help the class get an overview of the quarter. Use the material in the introduction to the quarter, above, and from the pupil's material. Write on the board the theme for the quarter: "John's Gospel: One Word, One Life, One Way." You may want to make a poster with a large "1" and the words "WORD," "LIFE" and "WAY."
- » Point out the three units for this quarter. Then focus on the title for this first unit, "The Word from Eternity." This was John's purpose in the early part of his Gospel, to show how Jesus was the eternal Son of God.
- » As you prepare to teach, read the Scripture text several times. Look for special verses that can be applied to your Bible class. Look for opportunities to make assignments for class members to prepare and present to the class. Make use of online resources listed in Helps for the Teacher at the beginning of this Leader Guide. Consider what method will help you teach this lesson best. See the discussion of methods in Helps for the Teacher.
- » At the beginning of each lesson, give a brief summary of the lesson to be studied that week. Encourage your class to read all the Background Study Verses and not just the verses listed in the lesson material. From time to time it may be helpful to present the Scripture using the The Bible: ASL Version – The New Testament, available from Let's Sign ([www.letssignllc.com](http://www.letssignllc.com))
- » The four lessons lead up to John 3:16. This is the evangelistic lesson for this quarter. Be prepared to have some class members give their testimony of their salvation experience. Offer to talk privately with any unsaved person in the class, or go with them to talk with the pastor. Ask your most mature Christians to join you in prayer during these four weeks, that the lost persons will be ready to trust Jesus.

### Meet the Writer

George Joslin became involved in ministry with Deaf people in California in 1957. He served as a missionary to the Deaf with the Baptist Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) for seventeen years in California, Texas, and Virginia. George is now retired and lives in Springfield, Missouri. After retirement, he and his wife, Lorene, served eighteen months with the International Mission Board helping to start a Deaf church in Ecuador, South America. George is currently active in the Missouri Baptist Conference of the Deaf. He has been writing for LifeWay since 2001.

# God Revealed

## Background Study Outline

1. Recognize the Word (John 1:1-5)
2. Welcome the Light (1:6-15)
3. Experience the Revelation (1:16-18)

## Lesson Material

1. Recognize the Word (John 1:1-5)
2. Welcome the Light (1:9-14)
3. Experience the Revelation (1:16-18)

## Bible Truth

**Jesus Christ is the Word of God. He is God. And He is the One who reveals God.**

## The Word John 1:1

John wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. His readers were both Jews and Gentiles. Most of the Jews understood Greek. The Gentiles understood Greek. Greek was the language used in business in New Testament times. The Greek word **logos** is translated **word** in these verses. The word **logos** has a history that reaches back 500 years before John's Gospel. Philosophers used that word to represent the Hebrew word **Yahweh**. It was not a new idea to the people reading John's Gospel. The Hebrew word was **dabar**. In the Old Testament the words, "God spoke," or "God said" refer to God in action in creation and deliverance of His people.

With the use of the word **Logos**, John revealed Christ's deity to both Jews and Greeks. John presented Jesus as the **Logos**, "**The Word**." John used the **logos** when he wrote about the person of Christ and His message. The word **the** makes it very specific, not just a word but the word.

The book of Hebrews begins with words similar to the beginning of John's Gospel. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets many times and in many different ways. But now in these last days God has spoken to us through His Son. God has chosen His Son to own all things, and through Him He made the world." (Heb. 1:1-2).

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- You have so much information to present to your class this week, you will probably want to use the lecture method. After you present each section, encourage discussion, but watch your time so you can cover all of this material. It is the foundation for all the lessons to come this quarter.
- Review the Unit Introduction above, re: introducing the lessons for the quarter. We will study the Gospel of John for the next two quarters (six months).
- The title and theme of today's lesson is "God Revealed." Discuss the meaning of revealed and appropriate signs for this concept. Note the connection with *revelation* and the *Book of Revelation* John wrote a short time later. John wanted his readers to know who Jesus was.

## STEP TWO – RECOGNIZE THE WORD (JOHN 1:1-5)

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss The Word from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library. The use of that title for Jesus was very important to John.
- It is important for us to know more about Jesus, our Savior. We honor Him by learning more about Him as The Word. He is the eternal God.

## STEP THREE – WELCOME THE LIGHT (1:9-14)

- Note the difference between "light to all" in verse 9, and "all who did accept Him" in verse 12. The light is available to all, but only those who accept Jesus have eternal life.
- Use the light switch in your room as an object lesson. It is available to all (verse 9), but only those who use it receive its light (verse 12).

## STEP FOUR – EXPERIENCE THE REVELATION (1:16-18)

- Ask someone to sign verses 17 and 18. Note the difference between Moses and Jesus and the reference to God the Son and God the Father. John identifies Jesus as God.

## STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION

- Review the lesson using "What About You?" in the pupil material. Ask each one to think seriously about each of these questions. Ask the class to sign together the "verse to remember (John 1:18)." Or, ask someone ahead of time to sign the hymn, "More About Jesus."
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? Encourage discussion. Offer to talk with anyone later to help them understand these great truths from John's Gospel.



# Jesus Identified

## Background Study Outline

- 1. I Can Testify about Jesus (John 1:19-28)**
- 2. I Can Be Forgiveness (1:29-36)**
- 3. I Can Trust God's Promises (1:37-46)**
- 4. I Can See God Working (1:47-51)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. I Can Be Forgiveness (John 1:29-36)**
- 2. I Can Trust God's Promises (1:40-42a, 45-46)**
- 3. I Can See God Working (1:47-51)**

## Bible Truth

**We have wonderful news: Jesus is the Lamb of God, Messiah, and Son of Man!**

## Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36)

The term **Lamb of God** was not used by the other Gospel writers. The Jewish people knew much about the sacrifice of lambs as a part of their worship. They had many feasts and celebrations as well as the daily offering of lambs and other animals on the altar at the temple.

The lamb was the symbol of patience, meekness, and gentleness. Jesus demonstrated all of these characteristics.

When John the Baptist said this, it was near the time for the Passover celebration. A lamb was killed and eaten at the Passover to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews in Egypt (Exodus 12:1-11). A lamb was offered in the tabernacle, and afterward in the temple, every morning and evening, as a part of the daily worship (Exodus 29:38-46).

Isaiah the prophet wrote about the coming Messiah as a lamb to be sacrificed (Isaiah 53:7). This is the passage the Ethiopian eunuch was reading when Philip joined him and told him about Jesus (Acts 8:26-39). Peter wrote about Christ as the lamb without blemish or defect (1 Peter 1:18-21). In John's vision, he saw the lamb who was killed, now worthy to be praised (Revelation 5:6-14).

As "the lamb," Jesus was the final sacrifice for sin. The daily sacrifice of lambs on the altar was for the Jews only. Jesus' death on the cross was the sacrifice for the sin of all the people of the world.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- Today's lesson is "Jesus Identified." John identified Jesus as the Lamb of God to a multitude of people near the Jordan River, and then to two of his followers. In last week's lesson John identified Jesus as The Word and as the light.

## **STEP TWO – I CAN BE FORGIVEN (JOHN 1:29-36)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jesus as the Lamb of God from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- If you have some class members who like to do skits, ask them a week ahead to make up a skit. The first part of the skit would cover verses 29-34. The second part of the skit would cover verses 35-36, to show John the Baptist introducing his followers to Jesus. They can use a cardboard sign hanging from their neck to show the character's name.
- The title of this section is based on verse 29. After discussing the story, refer back to this verse as the key to John's writing in the following verses.

## **STEP THREE – I CAN TRUST GOD'S PROMISES (1:40-42A,45-46)**

- Have the same class members do a brief skit for these verses. First as Andrew and Peter, then as Philip and Nathaniel.
- Emphasize the statement about Jesus as the Messiah. God promised a Messiah (Savior) and Jesus is that Messiah. Help your class to understand the word Messiah is Hebrew for Savior. Christ is the Greek word for Savior. All three words mean the same thing. When we say "Jesus Christ," we are saying Jesus is the promised Messiah. Some people identify themselves as "Messianic Jews," meaning they are Jewish by birth but they have accepted Jesus as Savior.

## **STEP FOUR – I CAN SEE GOD WORKING (1:47-51)**

- Let your drama team sign the conversation between Jesus and Nathaniel.
- Discuss briefly the term Son of Man (showing the humanity of Jesus) and Son of God (showing His deity).

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson using the Study Questions. Use this opportunity to encourage the class to prepare these at home and bring them to class. Briefly review these each week.
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# Authority Acknowledged

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Obey Jesus (John 2:1-5)**
- 2. Grow in Faith (2:6-11)**
- 3. Make Worship Genuine (2:12-17)**
- 4. Recognize Jesus' Authority (2:18-25)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Obey Jesus (John 2:1-5)**
- 2. Grow in Faith (2:6-11)**
- 3. Make Worship Genuine (2:12-16)**

## Bible Truth

**Christian obedience means we will submit to Jesus' authority.**

## Jesus' Travels (John 1:28; 2:1, 12, 13)

John wrote about the towns Jesus visited. In 1:28, Jesus was in Bethany. In 2:1, He went to the wedding in Cana. In 2:12, He was at Capernaum. And in 2:13, He went to Jerusalem. Use a map to locate these towns. Keep in mind how Jesus traveled – by walking. People in that area, in New Testament times, probably walked about 10-15 miles per day.

Two towns named Bethany are named in the gospels. Lazarus lived in Bethany, about two miles east of Jerusalem. Since John was baptizing in the Jordan, it was probably "Bethany beyond the Jordan." The exact location is unknown, but it may have been about five miles north of the Dead Sea. From there, Jesus went to Cana, about 50-60 miles north of Jerusalem.

Then, Jesus went to Capernaum, about 40-50 miles from Cana. The Bible tells us Peter and Andrew lived in Bethsaida. This is a little fishing village on the edge of the large city of Capernaum. Some Bible teachers think John 2:12 suggests Jesus' mother and family may have moved from Nazareth to Capernaum. Then Jesus went to Jerusalem. The usual route was around Samaria, 120 miles. The direct route through Samaria was 90 miles. Jesus probably went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover. Use a map to show these cities and the route Jesus may have traveled.

## STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Authority Acknowledged." Discuss the meaning of "acknowledge" and appropriate sign(s) for the concept. (Accepted, or recognized.) Note how Jesus' authority was acknowledged by His mother and the servants in Cana, and by His actions in the temple in Jerusalem.
- You may want to use the group study method for teaching this lesson.

## STEP TWO – OBEY JESUS (JOHN 2:1-5)

- Make the lesson come alive! Use a Bible map to show Cana, Capernaum, Galilee, and Jerusalem. Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jesus' travels from "Dig Deeper," above. Wealthy Jews may have traveled in wagons. Merchants often traveled on camels. But Jesus and His followers walked, like most common people of that time. In these few verses, Jesus walked over 200 miles, possibly requiring fifteen days.
- John begins this story by telling about Jesus and His mother. She said, "Obey Him!"

## STEP THREE – GROW IN FAITH (2:6-11)

- This does not teach Jesus approved of drinking alcohol. Most people drank a little wine (possibly very weak) with meals. The Bible is clear about the sin of drunkenness. John said this is the first miracle done by Jesus. Some stories are told about Jesus doing miracles as a child. This verse shows that is not true.
- Note the value of Jesus' miracles was not in what He did, but what it taught about His power and His purpose in coming to earth. Discuss how this experience let His followers see Jesus' "glory" and their faith grew. John spoke of the glory of Jesus in 1:14, also. The word glory refers to Jesus' divine power. Emphasize how our experience with Christ will make our faith grow.

## STEP FOUR – MAKE WORSHIP GENUINE (2:12-16)

- Ask three class members to be prepared to read Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, and Luke 19:45-46. These are parallel passages to these verses from John 2.
- Background: People were required to use Jewish money in the temple. At that time most businesses used Roman money. So the money changers traded Jewish coins for coins from other governments. The people used the money to buy animals to sacrifice. Our bodies serve as His temple today. Jesus still expects clean temples. (See 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19, and 2 Corinthians 6:16.) This story is not complete without verse 17. John wrote to tell how this caused Jesus' followers to remember what was written in the Scriptures.

## STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION

- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# Salvation Offered

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Being Saved (John 3:1-16)**
- 2. Being Condemned (3:17-21)**
- 3. Being of Service (3:22-36)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Are You Interested? (John 3:1-3)**
- 2. Do You Have Questions? (3:4-9)**
- 3. Do You Know the Truth? (3:10-12)**
- 4. Will You Believe? (3:13-16)**

## Bible Truth

**When we respond to God's Son with faith, He gives us eternal life.**

## Pharisees (John 3:1)

The Pharisees were the most important of the Jewish religious parties. They controlled the synagogues where the Law was taught. Their name means "the separated ones." They separated from others in order to study the Scriptures. They led the Jewish people to change from an emphasis on sacrifices to an emphasis on the Law. They developed complicated systems of laws in addition to the Law of Moses. They believed the Law, as they interpreted it, must be obeyed. They often served as lawyers and teachers.

They opposed Jesus because they said He did not accept their interpretation of the Law. Jesus interpreted the Law in terms of God's love. The Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy (speaking against God) several times (Matthew 26:65; Mark 2:7, 14:63-64). Jesus called them hypocrites (Matthew 23:27).

Nicodemus represented the strongest of Jewish religious leaders, but he was willing to listen to Jesus. Jesus carefully answered all his questions. Many Bible teachers agree Nicodemus became a believer, but perhaps secretly until Jesus was crucified. He and Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and buried it in Joseph's new tomb. John introduced Nicodemus in 3:1-21, and named him again at the end of his Gospel, John 19:38-40.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Salvation Offered." Jesus offered salvation to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The emphasis in this lesson is the need to respond with faith to Jesus' offer of salvation.
- The four parts of the lesson represent four questions. Together, they present the plan of salvation. This is the evangelistic lesson for this quarter. Ask two of your class members to sign the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. You can be the "narrator" and sign the parts other than the conversation.

## **STEP TWO – ARE YOU INTERESTED? (JOHN 3:1-3)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Pharisees from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- Ask the class if they feel Nicodemus was sincere when he first began to talk with Jesus. His first statement (verse 2) can be seen as sincere or rude. If rude, then Jesus' answer was strong enough to keep Nicodemus ready to talk.

## **STEP THREE – DO YOU HAVE QUESTION? (3:4-9)**

- Have your two people sign the conversation, with you giving the narration.
- Nicodemus asked three questions. Perhaps he asked many more and these are all John recorded. We don't know if John was there, or if he heard about this from someone else. Jesus' answers are more important than Nicodemus' questions.
- Ask, "Look at verse 9. If you were witnessing to someone and talked about Jesus' power to save and they asked this question, how would you answer?"

## **STEP FOUR – DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH? (3:10-12)**

- Ask someone to sign these verses – all spoken by Jesus.
- Emphasize how Jesus is speaking to a man who knows the Old Testament. He challenged Nicodemus to think about the truth he already knew.

## **STEP FIVE - WILL YOU BELIEVE? (3:13-16)**

- Ask your signer to continue with verses 13-15 (all spoken by Jesus).
- Then ask everyone to sign John 3:16 together. Ask how many have memorized this very special verse.

## **STEP SIX - CONCLUSION**

- Plan ahead to have two or three class members give their testimony. If you have lost persons in your class, encourage them to talk with you privately. So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# Unit 2

## The Word with Power

### John 4:1-6:71

- » As you start this new unit, help the class to get an overview of the quarter. Use the material in the Introduction to the Quarter in this Leader Guide and from the pupil's material. Write on the board the theme for the quarter: "John's Gospel: One Word, One Life, One Way." Display again your poster with the big "1."
- » Point out the three units for this quarter. Then focus on the title for this unit, "The Word with Power."
- » As you prepare to teach, look for opportunities to make assignments for class members to prepare and present to the class.
- » This unit focuses on some of the supernatural power of Jesus Christ and how people responded to Him. He spoke of living water, He healed a government official's son and a man beside the pool, and then He fed several thousand people.
- » The emphasis in the lessons includes witnessing to people who need to hear the gospel, influencing people to greater faith, and meeting the physical needs of individuals and a large group.
- » Encourage your class to read all the verses in the Background Study verses so they get the full story as told by John. Remind them that John was one of the first disciples and one of the four closest to Jesus. John identified himself many times as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." None of the other gospel writers was as close to Jesus as John was. His Gospel includes very little material told by the other three. They have a lot in common with each other, but little in common with John. So, we get a very personal insight into the life of Jesus. We need to keep that in mind as we read what John wrote for us.

# The Power to Give Life

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Going Out of Our Way (John 4:1-9)**
- 2. Talking Specifics (4:10-15)**
- 3. Clarifying the Truth (4:16-26)**
- 4. Spreading the News (4:27-38)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Go (John 4:1-5)**
- 2. Engage (4:6-9)**
- 3. Clarify (4:10-15, 25-26)**

## Bible Truth

**We can plan to witness to people who need to hear the good news about a new life in Christ.**

## The Samaritans (John 4:4)

At the time Jesus was on earth, Samaria was an area located between Galilee in the north and Judea in the south. It reached from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. Samaritans and Jews did not get along together. After the death of Solomon, the capital of Israel was in Samaria (1 Kings 16:23-29). After the kingdoms were destroyed and many Israelites taken captive, those who remained married Gentiles and worshiped idols. During the return from exile, Nehemiah refused to let the Samaritans help rebuild the temple. In Jesus' times, Jews would not travel through the area where the Samaritans lived.

The Samaritans were equally critical of the Jews. Although they worshiped Yahweh as did the Jews, they accepted only the first five books of the Bible and their temple was on Mount Gerazim instead of on Mount Zion in Jerusalem (John 4:20). The Samaritans of Jesus' day were possibly more strict than Jews about the commands of the Mosaic Law.

Jesus used Samaritans in His parables and showed them as being good neighbors and serving God (Luke 10:30-37). In Acts 1:8, Jesus told the disciples to preach the gospel in Samaria and other places.



## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "The Power to Give Life." Relate this lesson to the previous lessons to keep it in context.
- This lesson may be a good one to use the group study method. Assign one topic to each of the three groups. Prepare some questions or an outline to help them study. After they study together, one person reports on what they learned. Add comments if necessary. Encourage discussion from others.

## **STEP TWO – GO (JOHN 4:1-5)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss The Samaritans from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- Use a map to show the relation between Jerusalem, Samaria, and Galilee. Show how far a person went out of the way to go around Samaria rather than through it.
- Emphasize the point of this section: Christians need to plan opportunities to witness.

## **STEP THREE – ENGAGE (4:6-9)**

- After the group makes its presentation, emphasize the point of this section: We need to find some way to start a conversation and lead into an opportunity to witness.
- Encourage discussion about witnessing to people we do not really like. Perhaps there is a Deaf person in the community who is not friendly, or who is openly sinful. Discuss how the class can find a way to witness to that person. Perhaps begin by doing something kind for that person.

## **STEP FOUR – CLARIFY (4:10-15,25-26)**

- After the group presentation, emphasize the point of this section: answer their questions clearly. Help them understand the truth about God's plan of salvation.
- Discuss how to present the plan of salvation. Introduce them to such plans as "The Roman Road." Ask someone to give a testimony about how he or she became saved. Encourage discussion of how to present the gospel clearly in ASL.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson using "What About You?" Encourage discussion of class members' experience trying to witness.
- Ask if anyone needs help with Study Questions. Remind them to do these each week.
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# The Power to Save

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Tell Others You Believe (John 4:39-42)**
- 2. Challenge Others to Believe (4:43-48)**
- 3. Guide Others to Believe (4:49-54)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Tell Others You Believe (John 4:39-42)**
- 2. Challenge Others to Believe (4:43-48)**
- 3. Guide Others to Believe (4:49-54)**

## Bible Truth

**When people are open to faith in Jesus, Christians can influence them to believe.**

## Galilee (John 4:43)

The Gospels tell the story of the places Jesus visited. He spent most of His time in Galilee rather than Judea. He said, "A prophet is not respected in his own country" (John 4:44). Bible teachers believe Jesus referred to Nazareth where He grew up. This is why He went to Capernaum rather than Nazareth. Galilee was the northern area and Judea was the southern area of Israel. Galilee had a mixed population with many Gentiles living among the Jews. The people in Galilee had a different accent from the Jews in Judea (Matthew 26:73).

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, but He was raised in the Galilean town of Nazareth. By the time He began His ministry He had made His "headquarters" in the town of Capernaum, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Many important events took place in Jerusalem, but Jesus spent most of the three years of His ministry in Galilee. He spoke more than half of His parables and He did most of His miracles in Galilee. Peter, Andrew, and Philip came from Bethsaida, a small town on the edge of Capernaum. Jesus went to Peter's home several times.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "The Power to Save." Relate this lesson to last week's lesson, "The Power to Give Life," and the unit theme, "The Word with Power."
- Use a map to show the location of Cana, Capernaum, Galilee, and Jerusalem. Call attention again to how many miles Jesus walked. Someone calculated from the Gospels, Jesus walked more than 3,000 miles in three years.

## **STEP TWO–TELL OTHERS YOU BELIEVE (JOHN 4:39-42)**

- Note this follows the lesson for last week when Jesus stopped in the town of Sychar in Samaria. Note the progress from believing because of the woman who witnessed to them, and then to believing because they saw Jesus. Discuss how our faith grows as we learn more about Jesus through our study of the Bible.
- Follow up on last week's discussion about giving their testimony to witness to others. Encourage discussion of opportunities pupils have had to share their testimony.

## **STEP THREE–CHALLENGE OTHERS TO BELIEVE (4:43-48)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Galilee from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- Discuss why Jesus went on to Galilee. (The religious leaders made it difficult for Him in Judea and the people in Nazareth had trouble accepting Him as the Messiah because He was "one of them." That was His hometown.)
- Encourage discussion of the faith of the Roman official. He heard about Jesus and had faith to believe Jesus could heal his son.

## **STEP FOUR – GUIDE OTHERS TO BELIEVE (4:49-54)**

- Emphasize verse 53 as the important verse of this section. The Roman official believed and then all the people in his house believed and were saved. This included servants and family members.
- We read nothing more about this Roman official. Another Roman soldier saw Jesus die and said Jesus was truly the Son of God (Matthew 27:54). Many Gentiles became followers of Jesus along with the Jewish people who believed.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson using the questions under "What About You?" These are thought questions, not fact questions. Encourage class members to review those questions when they have a "quiet time" of Bible study and prayer.
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# The Power to Heal

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Helping People with Physical Needs (John 5:1-18)**
- 2. Proclaiming truth (5:19-30)**
- 3. Identifying Witnesses (5:31-47)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Taking the Initiative (John 5:2-3a, 5-9a)**
- 2. Dealing with Resistance (5:9b-13)**
- 3. Keeping On (5:14-17)**

## Bible Truth

**Believers demonstrate Christlike concern when they boldly take actions to help people with physical needs.**

## The Pool at Bethesda (John 5:2)

This pool was near the gate leading into Jerusalem called the Sheep Gate. Nehemiah 3 refers to ten gates including the Sheep Gate (Nehemiah 3:1). The Jewish people brought their lambs through this gate for their sacrifice. The word Bethesda (some translations have Bethsaida) means house of mercy. The pool was built to collect rain water for drinking and laundry. This pool is mentioned in Isaiah 7:3 and 36:2 and 2 Kings 18:17.

Some old manuscripts do not include about the moving of the water. In 1888, archaeologists discovered this site. The statement about the healing power of the waters means only that people thought this was true, not that it was really true. John's point has nothing to do with the miraculous power of the water. John wrote about Jesus' ability to do miracles, which demonstrated He was the Messiah, the Son of God. The rest of this story shows how the news about Jesus spread among the people because of the story told by the man Jesus healed.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "The Power to Heal." Note the themes of the other lessons in this unit, about Jesus' power to give life, to save, to heal, and to meet needs. Ask, "Do you believe Jesus has the power to heal in our world today?" Ask if any have had an experience when they felt healing came more from God's power than from medical science. Encourage discussion of the importance of faith in all healing.
- Try using "pupil teachers" for this lesson. Ask three people (two weeks in advance) to take one of the three parts of the lesson. Give them information from this Leader Guide and other helps. Ask them to discuss the verses and apply them to the Bible class. Give them a time limit of ten minutes. After they make their presentation, be prepared to lead the discussion. Always, when you ask someone to do something, tell them to use ASL, not English!

## **STEP TWO – TAKING THE INITIATIVE (JOHN 5:2-3A,5-9A)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask the pupil teacher to discuss The Pool at Bethesda from "Dig Deeper," above, and then discuss this section of the lesson.
- After the pupil's presentation, ask, "Do you think the people in our church reach out to people with health needs? Is our church truly accessible to all people with disabilities? Does the church have adequate handicapped parking spaces available?" Ask two persons to go to the parking area between Bible study and worship and see if the handicap spaces are adequate.

## **STEP THREE – DEALING WITH RESISTANCE (5:9B-13)**

- After the pupil presentation, ask, "What kinds of resistance do we face when we try to help people with physical needs?" (Possibly from family members who do not understand why the church wants to help.)
- Look for an example of a church mission team taking medical supplies to another country and facing resistance from the city and the religious organization in that country.
- Step Four – Keeping On (5:14-17)
- After the pupil presentation, emphasize the need to continue to do good things, even when it becomes difficult or takes up much time.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson using "What These Verses Tell Us." Encourage discussion of how your class can find ways to help people who are sick or disabled. Discuss "Applying the Lesson" and encourage class members to do this.
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# The Power to Meet Needs

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Feeding Hungry People (John 6:1-15)**
- 2. Calming Fearful People (6:16-21)**
- 3. Offering “Bread” to Lost People (6:22-59)**
- 4. Deciding About Jesus (6:60-71)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. See the Need (John 6:5-7)**
- 2. Look for Resources (6:8-11)**
- 3. Share the Gospel (6:26-31)**
- 4. Follow Through (6:47-51)**

## Bible Truth

**When we provide food for hungry people, we can often use the opportunity to share the gospel with them.**

## Bread (John 6:9)

Bread was the principal food in the diet of common people in Jesus’ time. In the Bible the words eating bread usually meant eating a meal. Everything about bread from the sowing of the seed to the baking of the loaves was done in the name of God. Because men were paid at the end of each day, they bought food each day. This helps us understand the words of the prayer many of us memorized, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11 KJV).

John said the bread was made from barley. Wheat was three times as expensive as barley, so the common people usually ate barley bread rather than wheat bread. Bread from barley was not as tasty as bread from wheat. Many people said barley was fit only for the animals, not for people!

The grain was ground by hand, using rocks or special tools, so it was rough, not smooth as our finely ground flour today.

The little loaves from the boy were about seven inches in diameter and less than an inch thick. It was cooked in several ways. Many poor people did not have an oven, so bread was baked on the walls of a clay vessel, heated with grass or other material burned inside the vessel.

The custom was to break bread into pieces rather than to cut it with a knife.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "The Power to Meet Needs." Review again the titles of the lessons in this unit about the power of Jesus.
- This is the only miracle of Jesus reported in all four Gospels. A week before you teach this lesson, ask class members to compare the story as told also in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, and Luke 9:10-17. Ask them to note anything listed by one Gospel but not by the others. Or, you may want to put all four versions in parallel columns on a sheet and let the class members mark what is the same or different.

## **STEP TWO – SEE THE NEED (JOHN 6:5-7)**

- Verse 5 shows Jesus was already aware of the needs of the people and He caused His disciples to become aware also. Note Philip's answer in verse 7 was not realistic. Even if they had the money, they were out into the country. Even in a large city it would not be easy to find enough food for all those people. Contrast this with the attitude of Andrew in verse 8. He found a little bit. He knew it was not enough, but he gave it to Jesus.

## **STEP THREE – LOOK FOR RESOURCES (6:8-11)**

- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Bread from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- Make the lesson come alive! Bring five small loaves of bread, about the size described in "Dig Deeper." You may want to bring paper fish! Make them about three inches long. Some people describe this as the boy's lunch, but others think he may have brought extra to sell. That would be a big lunch for a small boy.

## **STEP FOUR – SHARE THE GOSPEL (6:26-31)**

- Summarize the story between verses 11 and 26.
- Ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to explain the story of manna for those who are not familiar with it, from Exodus 16:1-31. The statement in verse 31 is a reference to Psalm 78:24-25.

## **STEP FIVE - FOLLOW THROUGH (6:47-51)**

- This is further discussion of Jesus' statement, "I am the Bread of Life."
- The pupil material discusses briefly the seven times Jesus said, "I am." Ask your class to find these seven verses and bring their answer to class next week. The verses are: Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48, 51), Light of the World (John 8:12), Door (John 10:7, 9), Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14), Resurrection and Life (John 11:25), Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6), and Vine (John 15:1, 5).

## **STEP SIX - CONCLUSION**

- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# Unit 3

## The Word for Challenging Situations

### John 7:1-11:57

- » As you start this new unit, help the class get an overview of the quarter. Review the material in the Introduction to the Quarter, above, and from the pupil's material. Summarize any of it that will be good background of one of the lessons.
- » Write on the board the theme for the quarter: "John's Gospel: One Word, One Life, One Way." Or, use the "1" poster you made earlier.
- » Relate this quarter to the first two: "The Word from Eternity" and "The Word with Power." This unit is "The Word for Challenging Situations."
- » Look ahead and find opportunities to involve your class members in a lesson – signing the Scripture, presenting material from "Dig Deeper," or other assignments. Determine the method you want to use for each lesson.
- » Encourage your class to read all the Scriptures in the Background Study Verses so they keep the stories in context. Each week, summarize the verses that are not included in the lesson material.
- » These lessons present an opportunity to deal with some issues your Deaf class members may be facing. Help them find answers in God's Word.
- » Do your class members use the Word List at the end of the pupil material? The writer tries to list words that may be difficult for some of your readers. Encourage them to look in that list for words they do not understand. When they find a difficult word, perhaps it will help if you show them the sign for that concept. Some will understand ASL much better than English words.
- » Do your class members use the Daily Bible Readings at the end of the pupil material? If they do not have a plan for reading the Bible every day, perhaps this will help them.



# Asking Questions About Jesus?

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Is Jesus' Teaching Valid? (John 7:1-24)**
- 2. Is Jesus Really from God? (7:25-31)**
- 3. How Can We Understand Jesus' Teaching? (7:32-36)**
- 4. Is Jesus the Fulfillment of Scripture? (7:37-52)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Is Jesus' Teaching Valid? (John 7:14-18)**
- 2. Is Jesus Really from God? (7:25-31)**
- 3. How Can We Understand Jesus' Teaching? (7:33-36)**

## Bible Truth

**We can use the Bible to find answers to questions we have about Jesus.**

## Jesus' Education (John 7:15)

For all Jews, the Torah was the source of all learning – religion, history, and ethics. The Torah includes the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). The synagogue was the Jewish place of both worship and education. Young Jewish boys started formal education at the age of five, learning to read and write. At age ten boys started to learn the Jewish law. Formal education was complete by age eighteen. Young men were educated by a Rabbi from the local synagogue. If a young Jewish man wanted to become a teacher (Rabbi) he went to a well-known teacher and became a disciple of that person. Paul studied with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

When the people claimed Jesus had never studied (verse 15) they meant He did not study with a teacher after He completed the synagogue school. Jesus' education probably focused on His trade as a carpenter. The Hebrew goal was to educate the whole person, including mind and character.

Jesus was recognized and acknowledged as a teacher by His disciples, by the general public, and by other religious leaders including Nicodemus (John 3:2). Jesus even referred to himself as teacher (Mark 14:14; John 13:13).

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The title and theme of today's lesson is "Asking Questions About Jesus?" The idea is more like, "Are you asking questions about Jesus?" You may want to begin the class by asking, "What would you like to know about Jesus?" Be prepared to suggest some questions they may have.
- This is a good lesson to use a guest teacher. Invite your pastor or another good Bible teacher. The week before, give the guest teacher a copy of this quarterly and a copy of the adult teacher (hearing) for this quarter. On October 20, encourage your class to list some of their questions about Jesus. What would they like to know about Jesus, His teachings, or His life? Give all this to the guest teacher by Monday.
- When the guest teacher arrives, begin with questions from the class, but be sure to include the four questions from this lesson material and the questions suggested below. Save until the end of the class. Let the guest speaker respond to questions for thirty minutes, then have your usual time for praying for sick class members, announcements, etc. Have a "thank you" card prepared for class members to sign and give it to the guest speaker before or after the worship service.

## **STEP TWO – IS JESUS' TEACHING VALID? (JOHN 7:14-18)**

- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jesus' Education from "Dig Deeper," above. Ask, "Can you imagine the challenge His rabbi had?" Remember the experience at the temple when Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:42-47)?
- Ask, "Do you think the twelve disciples understood Jesus' teaching came from God?" (Probably not until near the end. They continued to show how little they understood.)

## **STEP THREE – IS JESUS REALLY FROM GOD? (7:25-31)**

- This question is one most people struggle with because it requires faith plus knowledge to know Jesus is really from God. He is God. Refer back to John 1 and John's introduction to Jesus as The Word.
- Ask, "Is it a sin to ask this question?" (Not if the question is sincere. God wants to answer our questions and doubts.)

## **STEP FOUR – HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND JESUS' TEACHING? (7:33-36)**

- Emphasize we have the Holy Spirit to help us understand the teachings of Jesus. When we sincerely want to know, the Holy Spirit will guide us to find the answers.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson using the ideas in "What About You?" Encourage students to talk with a mature Christian, or their pastor, or you, or someone who can help them understand.

# Wondering About Judgment?

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Facing the True Judge (John 7:53-8:20)**
- 2. Identifying the Importance of Judgment (8:21-29)**
- 3. Knowing the Basis of Judgment (8:30-47)**
- 4. Responding to the True Judge (8:48-59)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Identify the True Judge (John 8:12, 15-18)**
- 2. Identify the Importance of Judgment (8:23-27)**
- 3. Identify the Basis of Judgment (8:42-47)**

## Bible Truth

**We need to be aware of God's judgment and obey Him because of His judgment.**

## God's Judgment (John 8:16)

Jesus made it clear that He has a place in God's judgment. "The Father judges no one, but He has given the Son power to do all the judging" (John 5:22). Paul wrote about the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9-10). John presents the idea of judgment as the "day of judgment" at the end of time. John said, "God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:17). Jesus said He did not come to judge the world but to save the world (John 12:47). We will have more about Jesus as judge in future lessons.

John also made it clear that a person's faith in Jesus will determine if he or she will be condemned in the Day of Judgment (John 3:18). Those who reject Jesus will be judged for loving darkness rather than the light of Christ (John 3:19). At the same time, however, Jesus' judgment is not His alone but also the judgment of the Father who sent Him (John 8:16). God's judgment will be according to the truth.

John presents the Holy Spirit as the one who "will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment" (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit will prove that the ruler of this world (Satan) was judged (John 16:11) and thrown down (John 12:31).

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- Today's lesson is "Wondering About God's Judgment?" Again, the question really is, "Are you wondering about the judgment?" Begin discussion by asking what class members know about God's judgment. They will surely have more questions than answers.

## **STEP TWO – IDENTIFY THE TRUE JUDGE (JOHN 8:12,15-18)**

- Make the lesson come alive! As an object lesson, find or make a judge's gavel. Keep it hidden until you are ready to start the lesson. Use it to hit the table and announce, "Court is now in session!" You can be more creative and put on a black robe just before you do this! Tell them God's judgment will come as quickly and as surprising as your use of the gavel.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss God's Judgment from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library.
- Review John 8:1-11 about the woman taken in adultery. This is the background for today's lesson on judgment.

## **STEP THREE – IDENTIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF JUDGMENT (8:23-27)**

- Ask, "How many have had the experience of being in a courtroom?" Most people have been there for a traffic ticket or something small. Ask, "If you knew you must be in court tomorrow, how would you prepare?" (Get all papers together, witnesses, etc.) If a traffic court is important, think of how important God's judgment will be!
- Because we know about God's judgment, we must live according to His law.

## **STEP FOUR – IDENTIFY THE BASIS OF JUDGMENT (8:42-47)**

- Ask, "What is the first question God will ask when you stand in judgment?" (Did you accept Jesus as your Savior?) That is the basis of God's judgment. Because we believe Him, we will obey Him, listen to Him, and love Him.
- Ask, "When you stand before God, will your name be in the Book of Life because you accepted Jesus as Savior?" "Are you sure?" "Do you need help to know for sure you are saved?" Follow up on any who seem to be uncertain. Help them have assurance of their salvation.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- Review the lesson by asking someone to read the statements under "How These Verses Can Help Me Today" at the end of each section. Each one begins with "I can."
- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?

# Doubting Jesus' Power?

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Feeling Uncertain  
(John 9:1-12)**
- 2. Resisting the Truth  
(9:13-34)**
- 3. Refusing to See  
(9:35-41)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Feeling Uncertain  
(John 9:8-11)**
- 2. Resisting the Truth  
(9:13-17)**
- 3. Refusing to See  
(9:35-41)**

## Bible Truth

**God wants us to find answers to any doubts we have about what Jesus can do.**

## Blindness in the New Testament (John 9)

The New Testament has several stories about blind people. In John 9 we have the story of a man born blind and Jesus healed him.

John said this blind man was begging. Many blind people, and others who were not able to work, had no other way to survive but to beg. Blind people were not considered "unclean" like the lepers.

The altar was very sacred to the Jews. The priests serving at the altar must also be "whole." The law about this is interesting. Read Leviticus 21:17-21. We who are Deaf may be amused that almost every other physical problem is listed except deafness! But, of course, that would be included. People in Jesus' time, including the religious leaders, believed blindness and other physical problems or illnesses came because of sin. It is true that some sins can cause health problems. Look at the problems caused by alcohol and tobacco. But Jesus made it clear that illness is not always the direct result of sin. All of the miracles of Jesus were done with the primary purpose of showing Jesus is the Son of God. This miracle, healing the blind man, is no different. The blind man benefitted from it, of course, but the verses in our lesson today show the reason Jesus healed him.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- Today's lesson asks the question, "(Are You) Doubting Jesus' Power?" Note the contrast between the blind man's faith and the doubt from the religious leaders.
- Make the lesson come alive! A week or two before this lesson, select some class members to make a drama of the Scripture for this week. Start with John 9:1 to give the background for today's lesson. Print the text in large print so they can see it. Use words that help them use the correct signs. Mark the words each one is to sign. Make name posters to pin on their shirt.

## **STEP TWO – FEELING UNCERTAIN (JOHN 9:8-11)**

- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Blindness in the New Testament from "Dig Deeper," above. Emphasize the difference Jesus made in the attitude of people toward women, Deaf people, and disabled people. The Christian influence in a nation will lead to better treatment of all people.
- Ask the drama team to sign verses 1-12. (Blind man, Jesus, 2 or 3 neighbors.) You or another class member can be the narrator.
- Ask if anyone has had an experience when they truly felt the power of God. Encourage discussion of the idea that God's power is with us always, but often we do not see it. When we are aware of His hand in our life, we need to remember to be thankful.

## **STEP THREE – RESISTING THE TRUTH (9:13-17)**

- Ask the drama team to sign verses 13-34. This includes verses not printed in our lesson, but they are necessary for understanding the full story.
- Ask if anyone has a friend or family member who continues to doubt the reality of Christ and His power. Discuss how to witness to someone like that.
- Note that the religious leaders may have realized the truth about Jesus but they felt He was able to take their power away from them. Today, when we accept the truth about Jesus it can change how we live and how we relate to others.

## **STEP FOUR – REFUSING TO SEE (9:35-41)**

- Ask the drama team to sign verses 35-41.
- Note the contrast between the blind man's faith and the religious leaders' doubt. Their doubt was because they were spiritually blind. We can make the same analogy of spiritual deafness, when someone refuses to hear God's call.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?
- Review the lesson using some of the "thought questions" in "What About You?"

# Feeling Insecure?

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Jesus Guides Us (John 10:1-6)**
- 2. Jesus Gives Us Life (10:7-21)**
- 3. Jesus Gives Us a Guarantee (10:22-30)**
- 4. Jesus Gives Us a Choice (10:31-42)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. Jesus Guides Us (John 10:1-5)**
- 2. Jesus Gives Us Life (10:7-10)**
- 3. Jesus Gave His Life for Us (10:14-18)**
- 4. Jesus Gives Us a Guarantee (10:25-30)**

## Bible Truth

**We can depend on the security Jesus provides for those who belong to Him.**

## The Sheepfold (John 10:1)

In Bible times, shepherds traveled from place to place, looking for fresh grass for their sheep. It looked for places where their sheep had enough water. David wrote about green pastures and calm water (Psalm 23). In the evening, the shepherd led his flock to the sheepfold (pen). The shepherd counted his sheep as they went into the sheepfold. Sometimes, in a large sheepfold, several shepherds put their flocks together. In the morning, the shepherd called his sheep and they followed him out. All night the shepherd watched the entrance to the fold to ensure that none of his flock was in danger. Many times he slept in the opening so he would know if a sheep tried to wander away or an animal or a thief came near. Sometimes the shepherd made a temporary sheepfold. He built a fence from limbs cut from a thorn bush. Some sheepfolds were permanent, made of rocks or whatever materials the shepherd might find. They may be round or square, with an opening. They did not have a door. Often the shepherds put limbs from thorn bushes on top of the wall for additional protection. During the cold winters the shepherds used a cave.

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- The question in today's lesson is "(Are You) Feeling Insecure?" Discuss how to sign this concept. (Not safe, afraid, not sure about salvation.)
- Ask if any class members have had someone break into their house and steal things. That can make a person feel more insecure and unsafe in his own home. This lesson is about spiritual security. This concept is often called "security of the believer." We express it as "once saved, always saved." (Sign this as "save finish, save eternal.")

## **STEP TWO – JESUS GUIDES US (JOHN 10:1-5)**

- It is possible Jesus said these words while they walked near a sheepfold.
- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss the Sheepfold from "Dig Deeper," above.
- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone to be prepared to sign Psalm 23 in ASL. Review the book, A Shepherd Looks at the Twenty-Third Psalm, and share some of it with the class.

## **STEP THREE – JESUS GIVES US LIFE (10:7-10)**

- Sign verse 6 to give the background for these verses.
- In this chapter, Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd. The people who heard Him knew the difference between a good shepherd and a bad one.
- Ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to sign one or two verses of the hymn, "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us."
- Ask someone to sign verse 9. Note this is another of the "I am" statements of Jesus. Encourage discussion of this picture. What does a door do? (Lets people in, keeps people out, provides safety and comfort from bad weather.)

## **STEP FOUR – JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US (10:14-18)**

- Review verses 11-13 to provide the full story in these verses.
- The work of a shepherd was dangerous. He was willing to risk his life for his sheep. Emphasize we are secure because Jesus died for us. Our sins were "paid in full."

## **STEP FIVE - JESUS GIVES US A GUARANTEE (10:25-30)**

- Review verses 19-24. Note how Jesus' words caused disagreement among the leaders.
- Demonstrate verses 28-29. Put a coin or other small object in the hand of a class member and tell him to make a fist. Explain, "This shows me in the hands of Jesus." Ask another person to put his hands around the first person's hands. Explain, "This shows the hands of the Father around Christ's hands. To get me out of this someone must break the power of God the Father and God the Son! No one has that kind of power."

## **STEP SIX - CONCLUSION**

- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?



# Dealing with Death?

## Background Study Outline

- 1. Death's Reality (John 11:1-20)**
- 2. The Savior's Promise (11:21-27)**
- 3. The Savior's Personal Concern (11:28-37)**
- 4. The Savior's Power (11:38-44)**
- 5. Some Reject the Savior (11:45-57)**

## Lesson Material

- 1. The Savior's Promise (John 11:21-27)**
- 2. The Savior's Personal Concern (11:33-37)**
- 3. The Savior's Power (11:38-44)**

## Bible Truth

**Christians can deal with death because of the truth of the resurrection of Jesus.**

## Jewish Burial (John 11:34)

It helps us with this story to understand the way people were buried at that time. Usually the body was buried on the day of death, or at least early the next day. The body was washed and wrapped in strips of cloth. Within the strips of cloth they placed sweet smelling spices. The Jews did not embalm. Poor people buried their dead in the ground. People with some money, like the family of Lazarus, placed the body in a cave or a hole cut into a limestone hill. These tombs are also called sepulchers. The tomb had several small "rooms" for the bodies. A round rock was placed in front of the opening. It was not easy to open, but two or three men could move the stone from in front of the tomb. A year after death, the bones were put into a box, to make room for other bodies to be placed in the tomb. Jewish people at that time believed the soul stayed near the body for three days. This makes the "fourth day" significant in the story of Lazarus. Family and friends usually mourned for a week.

It is not clear in John's story how Lazarus could walk with all the grave cloths around him. It is possible they wrapped his arms and legs separately, rather than all in one "package."

## **STEP ONE – OVERVIEW**

- Today's question is "(Are You) Dealing with Death?" Perhaps some of your class members have recently suffered the loss of a family member. Be sensitive to their feelings as you talk about death.
- Ask the class to have their Bibles open to John 11. As you discuss each section, let them find the verses you want to emphasize, and let several persons sign one of the verses.
- Emphasize how we, as Christians, have assurance of our resurrection because of Christ's death and resurrection. (See 1 Corinthians 15:14 and 20.)

## **STEP TWO – THE SAVIOR'S PROMISE (JOHN 11:21-27)**

- Review verses 1-21 for the full story of Lazarus' death.
- Emphasize how Martha's comment in verses 21-22 expressed her faith in Jesus, rather than criticizing Him.
- Ask, "Do you have a problem dealing with the death of someone in your family?" Encourage discussion and lead it to reassurance of the truth of the resurrection.

## **STEP THREE – THE SAVIOR'S PERSONAL CONCERN (11:33-37)**

- Review verses 28-32, showing the reaction of Mary and the evidence of her faith.
- Make the lesson come alive! Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jewish Burial from "Dig Deeper," above, and other resources from the church library. Understanding the burial practices of that day helps us to understand the message of these verses.
- Emphasize how these verses show the humanity of Jesus in His concern, and weeping, but also His divinity in the next section.

## **STEP FOUR – THE SAVIOR'S POWER (11:38-44)**

- Ask, "Do you think some of the people reacted strongly to Jesus' order for the tomb to be opened?" (Probably. A group like that would have some who rejected Jesus.)
- We can have faith when we deal with death because we know He has power over death and the grave.

## **STEP FIVE - CONCLUSION**

- So What? Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today?
- Announce that we will continue this study of the Gospel of John with the new quarterlies. Encourage your class to study at home so they will learn more in class. Note the next thirteen lessons are about the last few days of Jesus' life on earth.