



John

Lesson 1 Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Each of the gospel writers had a specific purpose to what they wrote. The Holy Spirit used each with their individual perspectives to write a unified and complete narrative that would give an accurate depiction of the God-Man, Jesus. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell of similar events and details of Jesus life and ministry. They are called the Synoptic gospels because in putting their writings together, they all have a related sequence of those events. Matthew's gospel focuses on the identification of Jesus as King of the Jews and King of the world. From his genealogical record of Jesus' heritage to the authority with which He spoke and ministered, Matthew wanted to reveal Jesus as the Messiah in the line of David who would usher in God's Kingdom and rule all the earth. Mark shows Jesus as the Messiah that came to teach, heal, and be a true representation of the power of God lived out in human flesh. Luke was an historian and desired to document the life of Jesus as the suffering servant for His people. He wanted an accurate, historical biography so the miraculous truth of Jesus life could be declared to others. John's gospel is different in that it records John's personal story of what he saw as a close friend and disciple of Jesus; and he focuses on many different aspects of Jesus life than the other gospels. John's experiences with Jesus led him to describe Him with some unique expressions such as the "Son of God" and the "true light that has come into the world." He testified that Jesus was the "Word that became flesh and dwelt among us." In his account John identifies 7 specific miraculous signs that reveal Jesus' power over nature, the physical body, and over death. These convinced John that Jesus was not just a man; He was truly Divine. It is always with this in mind that John writes.

THE AUTHOR

Though the author doesn't identify himself, tradition as well as internal and external evidence names the Apostle John as the author of this Gospel. John was the younger son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James. They were both fishermen and partners with Peter, Luke 5:5-10. Traditionally, John is believed to be "the disciple that Jesus loved" that is mentioned in John 21:20. He is also believed to be the author of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and sometime after writing this Gospel he was exiled to the island of Patmos where he received his vision and penned the book of Revelation, Revelation 1:9

DATE OF WRITING

Most historians agree that the Gospel of John was written between 89-94 A.D., although it is possible that John wrote it in Ephesus in or before the 70's, but it wasn't actually circulated until the later date.

READ CHAPTER 1

Look up and record other passages where the word or its base are used. You can shorten the passage to get the main phrase.

Word study 1

Logos – to speak intelligently; word as in an expression of intelligence; identifies the preincarnate Christ who is the eternal expression of the divine intelligence and the disclosure of the divine essence. This self-revealing characteristic of God was directed toward and utterly achieved for mankind in the incarnation. Note: (A synonym for logos is rhema. Rhema has a slightly different connotation, but many times the words are used interchangeably.)

Matthew 8:8

Hebrews 12:19

Acts 15:15

John 1:14

1 John 1:1

Revelation 19:13

Word study 2

Life - zoe- to live; to have life; to exist

John 5:26

Romans 5:10

Philippians 2:16

Hebrews 7:3

James 4:14

Word study 3

Light - phos- used in various forms, to make manifest; used of light itself, daylight, a lamp, or a torch. Used to identify Jesus who brought light and immortality to light in the gospel.

Matthew 10:27

Mark 14:54

Luke 8:16

Luke 16:8

Romans 2:19

Word study 4

Darkness- scotia-dimness; obscurity; absence of light; moral darkness

Matthew 10:27

Luke 12:3

1 John 2:8-11

Word study 5

World - kosmos- orderly arrangement; adornment; the abode of man

Matthew 13:35

Romans 1:20

John 3:17

Ephesians 2:2

1. What six things do verses 1-4 state about the "Word?"

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

2. *What does verse 3 tell you about the act of creation?
(for extra study use your cross references to see how other N.T. authors restated this truth.)*

3. *Read Genesis 1. Who created all things according to this chapter?*

4. *How did He create them? Verses 3,6,9,14,20,24,26,29.*

5. *According to John 1:6-8, why did John the Baptist come and preach?*

6. *Give six things from verses 9-13 that John says is true of the Light.*
 - a) b)

 - c) d)

 - e) f)

7. *From verse 14, what did the “Word” or the “light” do?*

8. *Read John 1:15 and 1:27-30 again. Who does John identify as the “Word”?*

9. *Look back at questions 1-4 & 7-8 with their corresponding verses. In your own words what conclusion do you come to about the identity of Jesus?*

10. *What has come to us through Jesus in contrast to what came through the Law of Moses, and what does that mean to you?*

11. *The Pharisees and religious leaders of Jesus’ day thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah they had been waiting for. How does John identify himself in verses 23-27?*

12. *How did John identify Jesus as the true Messiah? verses 32-34*

13. *From verses 40-49, who were Jesus’ first followers?*

14. *Who does Nathaniel declare Jesus to be?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
