

Kiama Anglican Church
Christ Church Kiama with St. Paul's Minnamurra

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

JOHN

***... That By
Believing You May
Have Life in His
Name***

Studies in John 1:1-4:42

Bible Studies : Term 1 : 2012 :

JOHN: THAT BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME

JOHN: *That by believing you may have life in his name.*

Near the end of his book John, the disciple and apostle of Jesus tells us what he has written and why:

John 20:30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Merrill C. Tenny writes that *“this conclusion ties together the three persistent themes of the Gospel: the “signs” that demonstrate Christ’s nature and power; the response of “belief” that is exemplified in the crises and growth in the lives of the disciples; and the new “life” that is found in the relationship with Christ.* (Expositor’s Bible Commentary).

And it is this book that we begin to study in this 9 part series. This is a marvellous piece of literature, a different type of ‘story’ to the other Gospels and is packed with deep and well thought through theological meaning.

Writing after the other Gospel writers (possibly in the 90s AD) John has had time to reflect and ponder and watch the impact of the gospel on those around him. Paul Barnett writes: *“The challenge is clear. We must hear John’s book prayerfully, humbly and with a pure heart, otherwise we will not see God. Human intelligence, erudition or achievement alone will not open our eyes.”* (Reading the Bible Today)

We must pray that God will open our eyes to see the wondrous things in these first chapters of John’s Gospel and, having understood, we must see how this helps those who don’t know Jesus to understand in him and so have ‘life in His name.’

Greg Holmes - January 2012

JOHN: THAT BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME

THE STUDIES

Study Date*	Passage	Belief that:	Page No
1 Sun 29 Jan	JOHN 1:1-18 Jesus the Word	Jesus is God made man.	5
2 Sun 5 Feb	JOHN 1:19-34 John the Baptist	Jesus is the promised 'Lamb'	7
3 Sun 12 Feb	JOHN 1:35-51 The First Disciples	Jesus calls people to follow him.	9
4 Sun 19 Feb	JOHN 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana	Jesus rules creation and gives good gifts to his people	11
5 Sun 26 Feb	JOHN 2:12-25 Cleansing the Temple	Jesus stands for truth and right worship	13
6 Sun 4 Mar	JOHN 3:1-21 Jesus and Nicodemus	Jesus brings new birth	15
7 Sun 11 Mar	JOHN 3:22-36 John the Baptist and Jesus	Jesus is the 'greater one' who brings eternal life.	17
8 Sun 18 Mar	JOHN 4:1-26 The Samaritan Woman	Jesus brings 'living water'	19
9 Sun 25 Mar	JOHN 4:27-42 The Disciples and the Samaritans	Jesus brings the harvest.	21

**This is the Sunday the passage is first preached on (at 8:00 and 10:00). It is preached on the following Sunday at St. Pauls and Sunday@6.*

References:

Barnett, P. John: The Shepherd King (Reading the Bible Today Series) (Sydney South, Aquila, 2005)
 Carson, D.A. The Gospel According to John (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1991).
 Wright, T. John for Everyone Part 1, Chapters 1-10 (London, SPCK, 2004).
There is a DVD "JOHN" in the Visual Bible Series which uses the actual words of the Good News Bible – it is excellent and worth viewing with this series.

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Study 1: JOHN 1:1-18

Belief that: Jesus is God become Man

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 1:1-9		
2	JOHN 1:10-13		
3	JOHN 1:14-18		
4	Genesis 1		
5	John Chapters 1-4		

The first three (or two) of these readings break the passage into bite size chunks and the next one (or two) look at related passages.

The 5th reading takes you through John's Gospel in the 9 weeks.

The idea is to read through these readings in the week before your Bible Study Group meets.

Study 1: JOHN 1:1-18

Belief that: Jesus is God become Man
Before we Start

1. **Read John 20:31. What does John say he is trying to do in this 'story' of his?**

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **What do the first few words of John's Gospel remind you of? (Look also at Mark 1:1)**
2. **What did John the Baptist do? Where did he come from?**
3. **v9-13. Who rejects the 'light' and who receives it? What are the consequences for both?**
4. **Who or what is the 'Word'? Consider its relationship to these OT references: Genesis 1:3ff; Psalms 33:6; Jeremiah 1:4; Isaiah 9:8; Ezekiel 33:7; Amos 3:1, 8; Psalm 107:20; Isaiah 55:1).**

Deeper and Wider

2. **Consider the ideas of Light and Darkness in this passage. Discuss whether they relate to the creation or to morality (or both)?**
3. **Look at v14. Literally it says Jesus 'tabernacled' amongst us (pitched his tent). How does this relate to the story of the Exodus in the OT? (see Exodus 25:8,9; 29:46.)**
4. **Read v3-5 and Colossians 1:16-17 and Hebrews 1:2. In what way was Jesus involved in**

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the Creation?

5. Read Philippians 2:5-11 and Colossians 1:15-20. In what ways are these 'hymns' like John 1:1-14.

Apply

1. How can you get to know God better (see v18)?

2. What does it mean for you personally that the Creator God has become 'flesh'?

For Next Week: Read John 1:19-34

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Study 2: JOHN 1:19-34

Belief that: Jesus is the promised 'Lamb'.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 1:19-23		
2	JOHN 1:24-28		
3	JOHN 1:29-34		
4	Isaiah 40		
5	John Chapters 5-8		

Study 2: JOHN 1:19-34

Belief that: Jesus is the promised 'Lamb'.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **What have we been told so far about John the Baptist? (see 1:6-8,15)**
2. **How does John answer those who are questioning him? Who are those questioners?**
3. **What is John the Baptist's baptism all about? What does it point to?**
4. **List the things said about Jesus in this passage? Who says them?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **Have a look at what the Synoptic Gospels say about John the Baptist? (Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:3-8; Luke 3:2-17)**
2. **Look at Isaiah 40:1-3 and Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5. What do these passages tell us about the ministry of John the Baptist?**
3. **Look at vs 25, 26-27, 30-31. What is the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus?**
4. **Read and consider v29. What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God? What does John say he has come to do?**

Apply

1. **What do we learn about being God's messenger from John the Baptist?**
2. **How can we speak about Jesus as the**

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‘Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’ to our society today and to our friends and family?

For Next Week: Read John 1:35-51

Study 3: JOHN 1:35-51

Belief that: Jesus calls people to follow Him

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 1:35-39		
2	JOHN 1:40-44		
3	JOHN 1:45-51		
4	Colossians 1:15-23		
5	John Chapters 9-10		

Study 3: JOHN 1:35-51

Belief that: Jesus calls people to follow Him

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **Who does Jesus call in this passage??**
2. **What does Andrew say to Simon (Peter)? Why is this significant?**
3. **How does Phillip describe Jesus? What is Nathanael's reaction?**
4. **What does Jesus promise in v50? In what way is this a promise to us?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **Jesus is called the Messiah again here v41. What is the significance of this? Note the other names given for Jesus in this passage.**
2. **In v48 Jesus displays supernatural knowledge (see also 2:4; 4:17-18; 6:70; 9:3; 11:4, 11; 13:10-11, 38). What does this tell us about Jesus?**
3. **In v51 Jesus says 'I tell you the truth ...' (literally 'amen, amen (or truly, truly)). Why would Jesus use such an expression?**
4. **What is the reference in v51 about angels ascending and descending all about?**

Apply

1. **What 'names' do you use for Jesus when you speak about Him?**
2. **Share how you came to be a 'disciple' – a follower of Jesus?**

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For Next Week: Read John 2:1-11

Study 4: JOHN 2:1-11

Belief that: Jesus rules creation and gives good gifts to his people.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 2:1-5		
2	JOHN 2:6-11		
3	Philippians 2:5-11		
4	Hebrews 1:1-6		
5	John Chapters 11-12		

Study 4: JOHN 2:1-11

Belief that: Jesus rules creation and gives good gifts to his people.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **When and where does this remarkable story take place?**
2. **What becomes the problem?**
3. **What is the 'solution'?**
4. **What does v11 say about what has happened?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **Read v3-5. What do you make of this exchange between Jesus and Mary? What is the importance of Mary's response?**
2. **What is the significance of this miraculous supply of wine? Jeremiah 31:12; Hosea 14:7; Amos. 9:13-14**
3. **What were the Jars there for? Why might this be significant?**
4. **Look at the other signs in John's Gospel briefly. What do each of them show?**

Apply

1. **Where do you put your trust for the provisions you need?**
2. **What example does Mary provide here?**

For Next Week: Read John 2:12-25

Study 5: JOHN 2:12-25

Belief that: Jesus stands for truth and right worship.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 2:12-17		
2	JOHN 2:18-22		
3	JOHN 2:23-25		
4	Malachi 1:1-5		
5	John Chapters 13-14		

Study 5: JOHN 2:12-25

Belief that: Jesus stands for truth and right worship.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. Where does Jesus go now and then where? Why?**
- 2. Describe the events in Jerusalem.**
- 3. What is the response of the ‘powers that be’?**
- 4. Read v23-24. What is the significance of this comment by John?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. What reason does Jesus give for his actions in the Temple?**
- 2. Why is the market in the temple a problem?**
- 3. What is Jesus talking about in v19? Note John’s comment in v22?**

- 4. Look at Malachi 3:1,3; Psalm 69:9. How do these verses help us to understand Jesus’ actions?**

Apply

- 1. Consider how we might pollute our right worship of God?**
- 2. Do we stand up for the truth the way Jesus did?**

For Next Week: Read John 3:1-21

Study 6: JOHN 3:1-21

Belief that: Jesus brings new birth.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 3:1-8		
2	JOHN 3:9-15		
3	JOHN 3:16-21		
4	Jeremiah 31:31-34		
5	John Chapters 15-16		

Study 6: JOHN 3:1-21

Belief that: Jesus brings new birth.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **Which representative of ‘men’ (see 2:24-25) now comes to Jesus?**
2. **Where does Jesus reply direct Nicodemus? How does the conversation flow?**
3. **Who is condemned and who is not condemned (v10ff)?**
4. **John 3:16 is very very familiar to us? How does the context of the verse affect our understanding of it?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **Discuss what is the nature of being ‘born again’.**
2. **In v3 what does Jesus mean by the ‘kingdom of God?’**
3. **Consider v14. What will it mean for Jesus to be ‘lifted up’? (see Numbers 21:4-9)**
4. **What is the significance of the reference to light and darkness in v19-21? (note John 1:4-5;8-9)**

Apply

1. **How is Nicodemus an example to us (both positively and negatively)?**
2. **How do we show and teach John 3:16 to our community?**

For Next Week: Read John 3:22-36

Study 7: JOHN 3:22-36

Belief that: Jesus is the greater one who brings eternal life.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 3:22-26		
2	JOHN 3:27-30		
3	JOHN 3:31-36		
4	1 Peter 4:7-11		
5	John Chapter 17		

Study 7: JOHN 3:22-36

Belief that: Jesus is the greater one who brings eternal life.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. What 'problem' gives rise to this discussion?**
- 2. In his reply what does John the Baptist say about himself and Jesus?**
- 3. What does John say he must become?**
- 4. What do v31-36 tell us about Jesus and about our response to Him?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Why are John the Baptist's disciples reacting this way?**
- 2. Discuss the everyday truth of v27. How show that affect our lives?**
- 3. What image does John use to describe his position? Read Isaiah 62:4-5; Jeremiah 2:2; Hosea 2:16-20? What is the background to John's metaphor?**
- 4. How should we 'preach' the balance expressed in v36.**

Apply

- 1. John talks about being the 'friend of the bridegroom'. How do you cope with pride about being a Christian?**
- 2. How hard (or easy) is it to put John 3:27 into practice in our post-modern, self-centred world?**

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For Next Week: Read John 4:1-26.

Study 8: JOHN 4:1-26

Belief that: Jesus brings 'living water'.

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 4:1-9		
2	JOHN 4:10-15		
3	JOHN 4:16-26		
4	Revelation 21:1-6		
5	John Chapters 18-19		

Study 8: JOHN 4:1-26

Belief that: Jesus brings 'living water'.

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **Who does Jesus meet at 'Jacob's Well'?**

What is unusual about this encounter?

2. **How does the dialogue flow? What is Jesus' point? What is the basis of the woman's misunderstanding?**

3. **Why does Jesus turn the conversation to her domestic 'arrangements'?**

4. **What is Jesus claiming in v26?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **Trace Jesus' movements at the start of the chapter (v1-6). Why is he moving, where is he going? Where does he pass through? (Where have the disciples gone?)**

2. **What is the point of the water symbolism in this passage? Consider Jeremiah 2:13 and Zechariah 14:8.**

3. **What does the passage tell us about 'worship? Note v20-26?**

4. **Compare and contrast Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus and with this Woman.**

Apply

1. **What 'waters' do we turn to rather than the living waters of Jesus?**

2. **How do we get the 'living water' message across to our neighbour and our world?**

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For Next Week: Read John 4:27-42.

Study 9: JOHN 4:27-42

Belief that: Jesus brings in the harvest of the Kingdom

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	JOHN 4:27-33		
2	JOHN 4:34-34		
3	JOHN 4:39-42		
4	Deuteronomy 8:1-10		
5	John Chapters 20-21		

Study 9: JOHN 4:27-42

Belief that: Jesus brings in the harvest of the Kingdom

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **Who now rejoins Jesus? What is their first reaction to what they see Jesus doing?**
2. **What is the woman's 'witness'?**
3. **Why the discussion about food? What is the point Jesus makes to the disciples?**
4. **What do the Samaritans conclude about Jesus?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **The woman goes 'leaving her water jar'. What is the possible symbolism in this?**
2. **Read Deuteronomy 8:3? How does this relate to Jesus words here?**
3. **What is the harvest Jesus is talking about?**
4. **Look back at John 1:1-4:42. What have we learned about Jesus?**

Apply

1. **Note what the woman does and says in this passage. How is this an example to us?**
2. **How do we view the 'crop' in Kiama?**

For Next Week: Read John 4:43 on.

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