

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

John – Jesus, the Word among Us

Sermon Series

01 Nov 2020	John 6:1-21 Jesus, the Deliverer Greater than Moses
08 Nov 2020	John 9:1-41 Jesus, the Absent Healer
15 Nov 2020	John 11:17-44 Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life
22 Nov 2020	John 13:1-17, 31-35 Jesus, our Lord and Teacher
29 Nov 2020	John 14:1-31 Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life

JOHN

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

AUTHOR: "THE PEOPLE JESUS LOVED"
(c. 10-25; 19:35-20:3)

JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE?

JOHN THE ELDER?

THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK:
"SO THAT YOU THAT COME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, AND THAT BY BELIEVING, YOU THAT HAVE BELIEVED IN HIS NAME" (20:31)

7 I AM^{LOG}

THE FRIEND OF LIFE	6:35
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD	6:12
THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP	10:7
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	10:11
THE RESURRECTION	10:25
THE LAST, TRUE & LIFE	14:6
THE TRUE VINE	15:1

7 I AM^{SO}

1:26	6:20
8:21	8:28
8:50	13:19
10:5	

7 I AM^{SO}

ch.2
ch.3
ch.4
ch.5
ch.6
ch.7
ch.11

7 SIGNS

WATER INTO WINE
HEALING A SICK BOY
HEALING A PARALYZED MAN
FEEDING THE 5,000
HEALING A BLIND MAN
RAISING LAZARUS

JESUS RESURRECTION!

1 INTRODUCTION

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

THE WORD CAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US.

GOD'S INDETERMINABLE GLORY (20:30-31)

THE ONE, TRUE GOD - FATHER & SON

THE LAMB OF GOD!
SON OF GOD!
THE SON OF MAN!
KING OF ISRAEL!
JESUS OF NAZARETH!
MESSIAH!
RABBI!

TITLES:
THE ONLY TRUE GOD, FROM NAZARETH IS THE MESSIAH, KING & LEADER OF ISRAEL, AND THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

2-10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS & CONTROVERSIES

2a A LADNING!

3 A CAROL!

4 A CAROL!

5-10 FOUR JEWISH FEASTS

5 SABBATH

6 TABERNACLES

7 TITLES

8 REDEMPTION OF THE TEMPLE

9 AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

10 REDEMPTION OF THE TEMPLE

11-12 RAISING LAZARUS

13-17 JESUS' FINAL WORDS

18-20 JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

21 EPILOGUE

created by Bible Project

01 Nov 2020

John 6:1-21

Jesus, the Deliverer Greater than Moses

Think back to before you became a Christian (if you are one now). What obstacles prevent(s/ed) you from placing your faith in him? In your head, what “hoops” did Jesus have to jump through before you were willing to follow him? And when you first decided to follow Jesus, why did you do so, and who did you think He is?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read John 6:1-3. Where was Jesus, who was with him, and why were they there?
 - (a) What is the Jewish Passover Feast? Why is it significant in Israel's history? (cf. Exod 12:1-30)
 - (b) What was the problem presented? How big was the scale of the problem?
 - (c) Re-read the disciples' responses in vv.7-8. What do these tell you about how the disciples saw Jesus at that point?

3. Read John 6:11-15.
 - (a) What did Jesus do with the food? What was the result?
 - (b) How does this event establish Jesus as a prophet, and specifically a prophet like Moses? (cf. Deut 18:15, 18; 2 Kgs 4:42-44)
 - (c) Read also John 6:26-33. Jesus says that the people wanted to make him king by force because he was able to provide food for them. How does Jesus correct their interpretation of his provision?

4. Read John 6:16-21. What did Jesus do, and what does that say about who he is? (cf. what Moses has done by God's power in Exod 14:21-31; Ps 77:16-20; Ps 107:23-32)

5. Who is Jesus being compared to in John 6:1-21? What is the apostle John saying about Jesus?

6. Why did the people follow Jesus (vv.2, 15, 26)? What would cause people today to respond in the same way?

APPLICATION

7. Take some time to reflect individually before sharing with your group. Why do we follow Jesus? Are we following Jesus, or are we trying to make Jesus into a “divine” figure who will give us all that we want?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Jesus is the promised prophet who is greater than Moses – he is able to provide true Bread that will satisfy forever; he has power over nature; he is the I AM.
- Jesus is the promised prophet who is greater than Moses – the salvation he brings is correspondingly greater.
- The bread that Jesus provides is better than what we would have asked for – we ask only for manna from heaven to sustain us for today, but he has given us himself, the bread of life that will sustain us forever
- Jesus is God, but this is not a cause for fear but for reassurance – he is God, he is in control, and he will bring us safely through.

5. In healing the man blind from birth, what is Jesus saying about who he is? Why is that important?

6. Consider the reactions of the people (the blind man, the neighbours and the Pharisees) to the healing of the blind man. How closely do these reactions mirror reactions today to miracles done by an unseen hand of God?

APPLICATION

7. Reflect on the challenges you have faced in the past. Has it been easy to trust in the unseen hand of God to hold you safely through the storms? Why or why not?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Jesus is God – the God who is the Creator and has power over all Creation does not need to be physically present to enact healing.
- Jesus is the only one who can give true sight – turn to him in our blindness and ask him to heal us of our blindness, that we may see him and follow him as sheep recognise and follow their master

15 Nov 2020

John 11:17-44

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life

What do we hear and understand when we read the words “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26)?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read John 11:17-19.

(a) Where was Lazarus’ funeral held, who was there and where was Jesus when Lazarus died?

(b) What reasons did Jesus have to stay away from Lazarus before he died? (cf. 11:11-15) What did Jesus not consider as reasons to stay away from Lazarus? (cf. 11:8-10, 16)

2. Read John 11:20-32.

(a) What was common in the responses of both Mary and Martha when they met Jesus? What does this tell you about what they believed about Jesus?

(b) What did Jesus assert about who he is (11:25-26; cf. 5:21)? How is this different from what both Mary and Martha are saying?

3. Read John 11:33-37. How does Jesus react to the death of Lazarus? What causes these reactions?

4. Read John 11:38-44.

(a) Why does Martha object to the tomb being opened?

(b) What does Jesus say in vv.41-42, and why does he say it?

(c) Is it possible that Lazarus was not really dead? Why or why not?

5. What does this sign tell us about who Jesus is? How does this add on to what we have read about before this?

6. How does the resurrection of Lazarus prepare us for the truth of Jesus' resurrection?

APPLICATION

7. John 11:25-26 is commonly used at funerals to remind us that though someone dearly loved has left us, he/she still has eternal life. Jesus brings a present reality to our victory over death – but what does it look like for us, right now, to live with the conviction that we possess “eternal life” without also denying the present reality of death? Is this difficult for us? Why?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Jesus is the Author of Life and has power over life and death.
- The way to true life is through believing in Jesus – death has no hold on such a person.
- Often, our professed faith and our lived out faith don't correspond with each other, much like Martha's confession of faith (v.27) did not match her expectations of what Jesus could do – will we repent of this and commit to living lives that match our confession of faith?

5. What is the core of Jesus' teaching here, and how was it radical in that time? Does it sound as radical today? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

6. What opportunities do we have to serve each other in the same way that Jesus has served his disciples? In what ways do we struggle with this, and why?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Jesus, who is our Lord and Teacher, has set an example of love and humility for us to follow
- Sacrificial, humble love for each other is how the people of the good news of Christ are to be identified

29 Nov 2020

John 14:1-31

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Has there been a time in your life when someone you greatly loved said that he/she was about to leave you? How did you feel?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read John 14:1-7.

(a) Why are the disciples anxious? How does Jesus deal with their anxiety? What basis does he give for what he says to them?

(b) How is Jesus the way to where he is going? Where is he going, and what is he going to do there?

2. Read John 14:8-21.

(a) What does Jesus say about who he is? Why would this comfort the disciples? (vv.8-10)

(b) What basis do the disciples have for their faith in Jesus? (v.11)

(c) How is faith in Jesus to be expressed by the disciples? What will be the result of this? (vv.12-21.)

3. Read John 14:22-31.

(a) What answer does Jesus give to Judas' question? Why is this important? (vv.22-24)

(b) What role is the Holy Spirit to play in the lives of the disciples? (vv.25-26)

(c) What is this peace that has been given to the disciples? How are they to have peace while the crucifixion of Christ takes place? (vv.27-31)

4. Read through John 14:1-31 again. Why is it better for Jesus to go away? Why should the disciples not be troubled?

5. Why would Jesus' teachings here be difficult for his disciples? Do we have the same difficulties?

APPLICATION

6. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. What difficulties does this pose for us in our daily life and our relationships with others, particularly those who have not placed their faith in Christ? What does this say about other faiths?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life – in his person, he is both the way and the end-point; he is God himself. There is no other way to God except through Christ.
- Our faith in Jesus remains strong because we know Jesus, and we know what he has done.
- The Triune God remains with us still in the Person of the Holy Spirit, though Jesus is physically absent.
- Those who love Jesus will keep his commandments – these will be loved by God and will have his presence with them