

# Gospel of John

## Self-Study Workbook



Inductive Bible Study Courses



4onemore.com

## John 1:1-18

### Day 1. Introduction to John 1-12

**Optional Challenge:** Memorize John 1:1-18 (or a smaller portion of this chapter)– write it out on index cards

Read through John 1-12 (it will take approximately 71 minutes to listen to it on an app like Bible.is or if you read quickly, it will take less time). Don't stop to study anything or take notes, just read it in one sitting if possible.

You can use your Bible for this or print out John 1-12 for marking later. Here are the materials you'll need starting on Day 3:

- Copy of the book of John: [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com) or [www.4onemore.com/journal](http://www.4onemore.com/journal)
- Colored pens or pencils
- Bible or online Bible to look up cross references
- Print out this map of first century Israel (or keep a link on your computer to reference throughout the class): <https://www.bible.ca/maps/maps-palestine-33AD.htm>

## Day 2. Introductory Study

### Authorship

Who wrote the Gospel of John? Obviously, it was John – but who was he? What’s his story?

Here is a bit of his biography. Look up these verses and write what you learn about John.

Who is John?	
Matthew 10:2-4	
Mark 3:17	
John 1:14; 19:35; 21:24	
John 21:20, 24	
John 19:25-27	
Acts 12:2	
Galatians 2:9	
Acts 3:1; 4:13; 8:14	
I John, II John, III John	
Revelation 1:9	

Scholars believe the Gospel According to John was written in about 85 A.D. This would have been about 50 years after being an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry.

## Comparing & Contrasting the Gospels

There are three other Gospels in addition to John. They are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. These are called the Synoptic Gospels, which means "see together with common view." They cover the same events in the life of Christ, mostly in the same order. All the parables are found in the Synoptic Gospels.

Every Gospel writer had an audience in mind and a purpose.

Read through this chart to see how the Gospel of John is unique and different from the Synoptics.

The Gospel According to John	
No parables	The most theological of the Gospels – "spiritual Gospel"
Gives reasons behind events	Written in part to correct 1 <sup>st</sup> century false teaching
Seven "I AM" statements show Jesus is the God of the Old Testament	Seven signs & miracles to demonstrate Jesus' deity

Why did John need to write his Gospel? What was his purpose? Read these verses and write what you learn.

Purpose of John	
John 20:30-31	

In other words, John's purpose was to display the deity of Christ. When he calls Jesus the "Son of God," it means that Jesus was fully \_\_\_\_\_ and fully \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of the purpose of his writing, John starts at a different beginning point than the other Gospel writers. Let's compare the first chapter of each Gospel to see the contrast. Where does the story of Jesus start in each of these books?

The Beginning of Each Gospel Contrasted		
Read this...	What do you notice?	Because the audience is...
Matthew 1:1		primarily Jewish and he wants to show them that Christ is the King and Messiah of Israel
Mark 1:1-4		Roman believers, particularly Gentiles. This is why Mark omitted Jewish elements, like genealogies. He emphasizes the humanity of Christ (suffering servant).
Luke 1:1-17; 2:1-7		primarily a Gentile Christian audience. Luke, a physician, emphasized Jesus as the Great Physician who showed compassion to outcasts – Samaritans, women, children, Gentiles, sinners, and tax collectors.
John 1:1-5		is a mixed Jewish/Gentile audience that needs to know that Jesus was God Himself in the flesh. He was fully human and fully God. (John 1:14)

## How the Gospel of John is Unique

Remember, it's important to mark up the text! Check out the video at [www.4onemore.com/marking](http://www.4onemore.com/marking) to see how and why to do this.

You will need a 3x5 or 4x6 index card to keep track of key words and their markings during this study.

Here is a list of key words to mark in John. Write them each on your card and then create a distinctive marking for each. Suggested markings are below but not required. Additionally, you may find other important words during your study that you will want to mark in the text. When you mark a word, add it to your index card.

You may also find other key words in certain chapters that aren't necessarily throughout the whole book. It's a good idea to mark those as you come across them! John also likes to use contrast words – so keep an eye out for them too.

Look for contrasts like:

- Life and death
- Light and darkness
- Love and hate
- From above and from below

Key Words in John 1-12	
Believe	Love
Life	sin
Sign	True/truth
Judge/judgment	Spirit
Witness	King/kingdom

The seven signs & miracles that show Jesus' deity all occur in the first eleven chapters. Come back to this chart when you find one.

[illegible]

The seven I AM statements of Christ appear throughout the book. The first five are in the first eleven chapters. The last two are in chapters 14 & 15. Come back to this chart and fill it in when you come across an I AM statement during your studies.

I AM Statements		
Scripture Reference	I AM	Notes

John also records how people respond to Jesus. We don't find this insight in the other Gospels. We'll be tracking those responses throughout the course.



## Day 3. John 1:1-5

Okay, we're now ready to use the three steps of the inductive method to start studying through John.

The Inductive Bible Study Method digs into the text of Scripture by using these three steps:

1. Observation: What does the text say?
2. Interpretation: What does the text mean?
3. Application: How should this change me?

### OBSERVATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Read chapter 1:1-18

Mark key words in this section

Additional key words to mark: *light, in the beginning*

You can certainly mark additional words or phrases that jump out at you in this section

### INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

There are essentially four small paragraphs in this section. So, let's study each one, then put them all together for a section summary.

Let's start with *in the beginning*. If you marked the phrase in the text, you can see that it appears twice in this paragraph.

Read Genesis 1:1 & 3 and explain the similarities you see with this passage.

It's important to understand the usage of "Word" in this chapter. "Word" here is a Greek term that John's readers would have been familiar with. It refers to word, speech, principle, or thought. When you see Word in this passage, it's referring to Jesus Christ.

What four things do you learn about Jesus Christ (the Word) from verses 1-3?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Read Colossians 2:9 and explain how it relates to John 1:1

Read Colossians 1:16-17 (you might need to see a few verses before for context of who it's referring to) and Hebrews 1:2-3. How do these verses shed light on John 1:3 about Jesus as the Creator of all things?

Let's look at John 1:4. John uses the word LIFE over 36 times in his book! We learn that Jesus is the Giver of Life. What kind of life comes through Jesus according to these verses?

John 1:3	Jesus creates _____ life
John 3:15; 17:3 Ephesians 2:5	Jesus creates _____ life

Verse 5 is the first time John uses contrasting words to illustrate a point. He uses the word darkness more than all the other New Testament writers! Read I John 1:5-7 and explain how it relates to John 1:5.

Wow! There is so much packed into these first five verses. But they set the stage for the whole book. John will use his book to further develop these themes about Jesus –

1. He is God
2. He is the Giver of Life

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means? Just a note since this is your first section summary – it's fine to use the key words! In fact, the key words do help you understand what it means.

#### **APPLICATION – HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?**

Answer these questions:

- What do I learn about God?
- What do I learn about myself?
- What should be my response? This might include changes in thought & heart attitudes in addition to behavior.

Write your response here:

## **Day 4. John 1:6-18**

#### **OBSERVATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Read chapter 1:1-18

Mark key words in this paragraph

Additional key words to mark: *light*

## INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Let's start studying in John 1:6. John the Baptist is introduced here. Read Matthew 3:1-6 and write what you learn about him.

Starting in verse 7, we see the key word *witness*. Read Deuteronomy 17:6 and John 8:17-18. What's the importance of a witness in a court of law?

John will highlight many witnesses in his book which give validation to Jesus' claim to be fully God. So, in John 1:7-8, we learn that John the Baptist was a witness of Jesus' deity. What else do you learn about John the Baptist from these verses?

It's important to remember that after the Old Testament was written, there was silence from God for 400 years to His people. In other words, no new revelation was given until John the Baptist arrived on the scene! You can imagine how exciting this would have been for God's people who had not had any prophets or any new revelation for so long. But not everyone would recognize Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. The Gospel of John emphasizes the different responses of people. Do you see the contrast between these two groups in verses 9-13? Study this paragraph by completing the chart below.

John 1:9-13 – two groups of people	
<p>Verses 9-11</p> <p>Those who did NOT receive Him</p>	<p>The phrase “was coming into the world” speaks of the <b>incarnation</b>. This means that God took flesh and human form in the person of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>_____ did not know him</p> <p>_____ did not receive him</p>
<p>Circle the connecting word <b>BUT</b> in verse 12</p> <p>Notice words like this as you read and note the contrast of something <i>before</i> and <i>after</i></p>	
<p>Verses 12-13</p> <p>Those who DID receive Him</p>	<p>What do you learn about those who do receive Him as Messiah?</p> <p>How do we become children of God? Read Titus 3:5-6 and use that text plus John 1:13 to explain.</p>

Verse 12 provides a prelude to the entire book. Here is how the book is structured. Be on the lookout for these two groups in this book.

<p><b>John 1-12</b></p> <p>Rejection of the Messiah by the whole world, and especially the Jewish nation</p>	<p><b>John 13-21</b></p> <p>The believing remnant</p>
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There's a lot of depth in verse 14. Let's dig in.

Which words and/or phrases in John 1:14 speak to the incarnation?

When John uses the word “dwelt” he is reminding his readers of God’s presence with his people in the Old Testament in the Tabernacle. The word *dwelt* literally means “to pitch a tabernacle” or “to live in a tent.” Read Exodus 40:34 and notice which word is used there that is also in John 1:14.

So, John is saying that the same God of the Old Testament whose glory came down into the Tabernacle is now dwelling with them in the person of Jesus. Hebrews 1:3 also makes this point. Fill in the blanks:

“He (Jesus) is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ imprint of his \_\_\_\_\_....” Hebrews 1:3

John the Baptist is bearing witness in verse 15 that what John is writing is true. Look over the birth accounts of John the Baptist and Jesus in Luke 1:57-80 and Luke 2:1-7. Answer these questions:

Who was born first?	
Why would John the Baptist say “he was before me” (remember John 1:2)	
What does this tell you about Jesus?	

Verses 16-17 give us a contrast between the law and the grace that comes through Christ. Read these verses and write what you learn.

The Law	Grace
Was given through _____ John 1:17	Grace and truth came through _____ John 1:17
What was the purpose of the law? Romans 3:20  _____	
Galatians 3:10-14 says that “all who rely on works of the law are under a _____”	Galatians 3:13 says that “Christ _____ us from the _____ of the law by becoming a _____ for us.”
Galatians 3:23-26 tells us that “the law was our _____ until Christ came.”	Galatians 3:26: “for in Christ Jesus you are all _____ of _____, through _____.”

Verse 18 summarizes the whole point of Jesus coming in human flesh to live among humanity. Christ shows us who God is. Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and John 14:8-10 and explain what you learn about this.

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

#### APPLICATION – HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

Answer these questions:

- What do I learn about God?
- What do I learn about myself?
- What should be my response? This might include changes in thought & heart attitudes in addition to behavior.

Write your response here:

*In tomorrow's lesson there will be a multiple-choice quiz (optional) based on the questions in this workbook. If you will be taking the quiz for a grade, you can study the workbook questions from this week to prepare.*

*Your parent may also want you to write out (or quote) the verses you have been memorizing.*

## Day 5. Video lesson

Watch the video lesson.

Work on your Memory Challenge passage (optional)

Take quiz (optional) – this is in the Teachable class portal

Record quiz or memory challenge grades on Student Grade Sheet



## CHAPTER 1:1-18 SUMMARY

Read through the whole first chapter of John again now that we've studied through part of it. See if you have a better understanding of what's being said.

Write some of the big ideas from John 1:1-18 below:

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Choose your favorite verse(s) from this section and write it out here: