



That You May
HAVE LIFE

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

women's
BIBLE STUDY



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LESSON *Two*

Come and See



As the story of John’s Gospel begins, the identity of an unsuspecting, lowly man from Nazareth was revealed: Jesus is the long-awaited Savior of the world. As Jesus came on the scene, He was immediately recognized by John the Baptist, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” This Savior, Jesus, quickly called His first disciples and performed His first miracle of the book, turning water into wine. Jesus’ ministry had officially begun.

BIBLE STUDY TIP

Underlining words in your Bible, such as the names of Jesus or repeated words, can be a helpful reminder when returning to study this passage later.

LEVITES AND PHARISEES

The Levites were descendants from the Tribe of Levi who assisted the priests in temple worship. The Pharisees were a branch of Judaism who were highly devoted men that held strictly to both the written and oral law.

ISAIAH 40:3

John the Baptist quotes the Old Testament passage, Isaiah 40:3. Any time you find a Scriptural reference like this, go back to the original book to read it. Most often, this provides more clues and context as to why the author included it.

Read John 1:19-2:11 before answering the following questions.

1. List the names used for Jesus in this passage. What do you discover about Jesus through these names?

2. Claims about Jesus and made by Jesus are important to watch for throughout the book of John. With this in mind, what do John the Baptist and the other disciples say about Jesus in John 1:19-2:11? Now, what does Jesus say about Himself?

Read John 1:19-34.

3. When the Levites asked John the Baptist if he was the Christ or Elijah, how did he respond? How did he explain his role?

4. Where in verses 29-34 do you see validation that Jesus is from God? (See also Isaiah 11:1-2 and Matthew 3:16-17)

Read John 1:35-51.

5. In this section, Jesus begins to call His closest circle of disciples. Look back at Andrew's first action after hearing Jesus teach and choosing to follow Him. Why is this significant? What implications do you see for believers still today?

6. Philip and Nathanael are the next disciples called to follow Jesus. What provoked Nathanael's faith? (See Appendix: Faith)

Nathanael was not unique. He was seen by Jesus and Jesus sees you too. He sees every bit of you and loves you even still. Where in your life do you not feel seen by God or others? Spend some time asking God to help you believe that you are fully seen by Him.

ELIJAH

While the question of whether or not John the Baptist was Elijah might be confusing, the Levite's thought was valid. First, they likely had the prophecy Malachi 4:5 in their minds. Second, from his unique dress to his message of repentance, John mirrored many qualities of this wise Old Testament prophet.⁸

JOHN THE BAPTIST

"Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey." Matthew 3:4

CEPHAS

Jesus gives Simon Peter a new name, "Cephas," which means "rock" in Aramaic. "Peter appears in all the Gospels as anything but a rock. He is impulsive, volatile, unreliable. But that was not God's last word for Peter. Jesus' words point to the change that would be wrought in him by the power of God."⁹

THE NEXT DAY

Notice the repetition of the phrase, “the next day.” (John 1:29, 35, 43). This suggests the author was present at the described events, as if he was remembering them in the order they occurred.

“Notice that Jesus initiates the relationship. And notice that Jesus doesn’t ask his disciples to meet certain qualifications. To enter into a relationship with Jesus, only one thing is required: faith.”

—Justin Buzzard¹⁰

Read John 2:1-11.

7. From verses 1-11, use the following prompts to help you visualize the scene in Cana:

Setting:

Characters:

Problem:

Solution:

Does this first sign of Jesus surprise you? Why or why not?

“SIGNS”

The Gospel of John is known for having seven “signs,” or miracles, that Jesus performed throughout His earthly ministry. Turning water into wine is the first sign. Each sign is purposeful and reveals something about who Jesus is.

8. A wedding is a place of joy. It’s a celebration of the union of two families that is full of dancing, music, and laughter. Take a minute to picture Jesus, God Himself, at this type of wedding in Cana. Does He fit in this scene? Explain. If not, why does it feel odd to place Him in such a setting?

9. Verse 11 says, “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.” Read the definition of “Glory” in the Appendix. What does this sign reveal about Jesus?

10. Jesus reveals Himself as the Savior, but not the one Israel expected. Israel likely expected their Savior to be a mighty King who would overthrow the current ruling nation of the day, Rome. From this week’s passage, how did Jesus fail to meet Israel’s expectations as His ministry began? Has Jesus ever failed to meet your expectations of Him? Explain. When have you had false expectations of who Jesus should be or what He should do?

11. Looking back over this week’s entire passage, what do you think compelled Jesus’ disciples to follow Him? What compels you to follow Jesus today?

12. Think about a difficult situation you are currently walking through. Look back to the first question of this lesson and consider the different names of Jesus in this passage. How do these names of God give you strength or encouragement as you face hard situations in your life?

NEW WINE

“This is the first of Jesus’ miracles which John, as often, calls ‘signs.’ It is characteristic of them not so much that they arouse wonder and are hard to explain, nor even that they are demonstrations of the divine power, but rather that they point us to something beyond themselves. They show us God at work.”¹¹

ISAIAH 53:2

Jesus did not look the way the people expected the Savior, the Messiah, to look. Isaiah 53:2 says “...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”

BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Reflection:

It is clear from the Scriptures that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. He did not stop being God when He came to earth as an infant or as He grew up into a man. From John 1:1-2:11, where do you see aspects of Jesus' humanity? How about aspects of His divine nature?

<i>Humanity</i>	
<i>Divine Nature</i>	

Notes