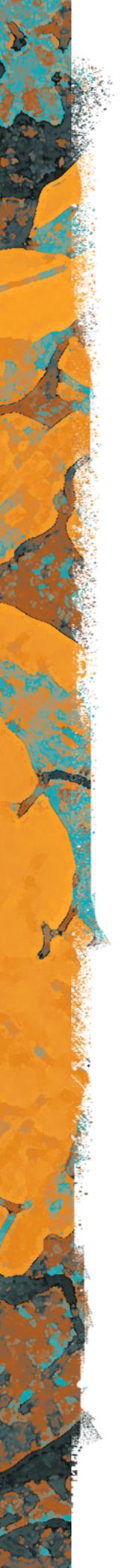


JOHN

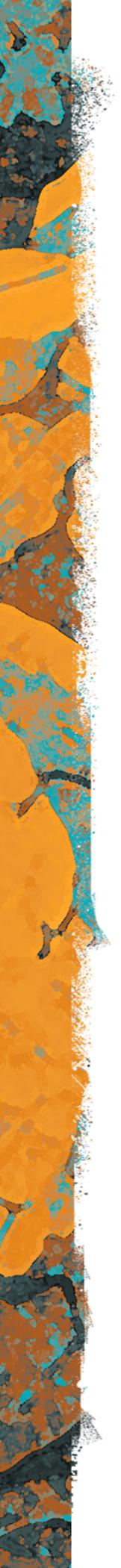
COME &

Holy Week

BELIEVE



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Introduction

The Gospel of John is more than a record of events—it's an inspired invitation. From its opening lines, John calls us to behold Jesus, the eternal Word made flesh, and to believe in Him for eternal life.

John organizes his account around seven miraculous signs from Jesus:

1. Water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)
2. Cleansing the temple (John 2:13-22)
3. Healing the royal official's son (4:46-54)
4. Healing the man at Bethesda (5:1-15)
5. Feeding the five thousand (6:1-15)
6. Healing the man born blind (9:1-41)
7. Raising Lazarus (11:1-44)

Together, the signs form a spiritual roadmap, guiding us step by step to behold Jesus in His fullness, culminating in the ultimate signpost: Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead.

Will you stand on the sidelines of life, wandering according to your own compass, or will you respond to the signposts John provides, and come and see for yourself who Jesus is, what He's accomplished, and how to enjoy Him forever?

Helpful Details

Author: The Apostle John, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20, 24). He was part of Jesus’ inner circle along with Peter and James.

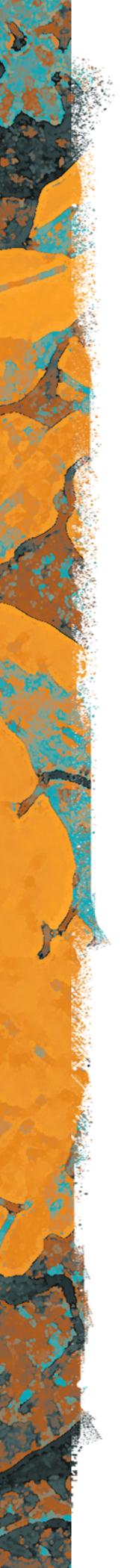
Date Written: Between A.D. 80 - 95.

Purpose: As he clearly states in John 20:31: *“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”*

Distinctiveness: Roughly 90% of John’s material is unique compared to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It emphasizes *theology over chronology*, focusing on meaning rather than merely recording events.

The Seven “I Am” Statements: Jesus reveals His divine identity through metaphors like “I am the Bread of Life” and “I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

Key Themes: Jesus as the eternal Son of God. Light vs. darkness. New birth and eternal life. Belief and unbelief. God’s sovereignty in salvation.



Recommended Reading

[Free Commentary \(TGC\)](#)

[Articles on John \(Ligonier\)](#)

[Sermons + Studies \(Monergism\)](#)

Beginner Commentary: [Let's Study John](#) by Mark Johnston

Advanced Commentary: [The Gospel According to John](#) by D.A. Carson

John 18:12-27

MAIN POINT

Jesus stands firm to save sinners. The faithful Son drinks the cup of God's judgment and heads toward the cross while His disciple falls. But because of Christ's obedience, restoration is possible for all who repent and believe.

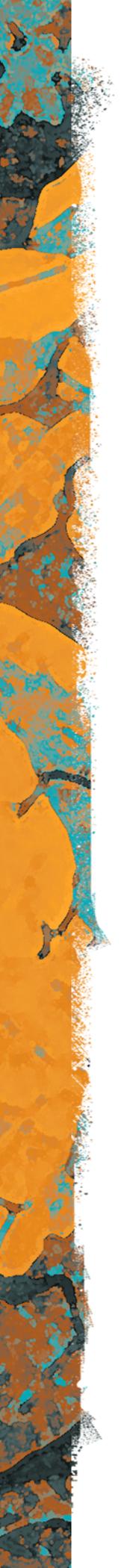
GROUP INTRO

If Jesus entered our city today, what kind of vehicle would be bringing Him?

TEXT

1. Why does John "interweave" Jesus' trial with Peter's denials?

Leader help: This interweaving sets Jesus' courage and faithfulness against Peter's fear and faithlessness, creating a moral and spiritual contrast for the reader. The Savior remains steady as the "rock" cracks, which helps us see that our hope shouldn't be in anyone or anything other than Jesus Himself. Even the most devoted leaders and examples will fail, but the Lord Jesus, even under the most severe pressure in all of human history, will not fail in securing redemption for us.



2. What is the significance of Jesus saying He taught “openly to the world...in synagogues and in the temple”?

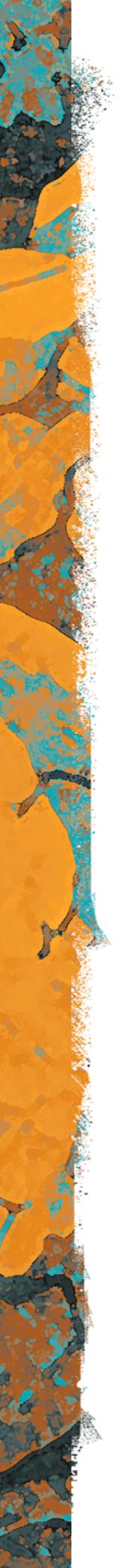
Leader help: Jesus is asserting that His mission has been public, accountable, and witness-supported, and that the real “secret” or covert ministry is being carried out by the leaders who were supposed to uphold righteousness but instead are participating in a sham trial. God’s salvation is not a hidden or esoteric path for the religious elite but a promised plan that’s been proclaimed and now publicly embodied in Jesus.

3. Why is Peter’s denial of Jesus such a serious sin?

Leader help: Because he’s refusing to confess that he belongs to Jesus, which is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. He’s essentially separating himself from the Lord out of fear or shame. This is Peter choosing the fear of man over fear of God, and is parallel to Adam and Eve hiding in the Garden of Eden out of fear and shame. Despite this abandonment by His close disciple, Jesus remains faithful to the covenant and will eventually restore Peter in a very similar scenario (near a charcoal fire, see John 21:9).

APPLICATION

1. What are some practical ways we can help each other grow in confidence in Jesus and in our belonging to Him, and why is this important?

- 
2. Peter fell big after making bold promises and proclamations about his own faithfulness. How does similar spiritual pride show up in your life (i.e., talking big about God but rarely praying or evangelizing)?
 3. Jesus endured injustice and answered with truth and a calm trust in the Father. How do you respond when you're misunderstood, misrepresented, or treated unfairly? How can the love of Christ help you endure hostility from others?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus for His faithfulness, and ask Him to embolden you in your own witness.

Passage to guide your prayers: Psalm 118:6

John 18:28 - 19

MAIN POINT

The King of kings, though innocent, accepts unjust condemnation and death to accomplish redemption for His people. This is the paradox of the cross: God's wisdom and righteousness revealed in the "foolishness" of suffering.

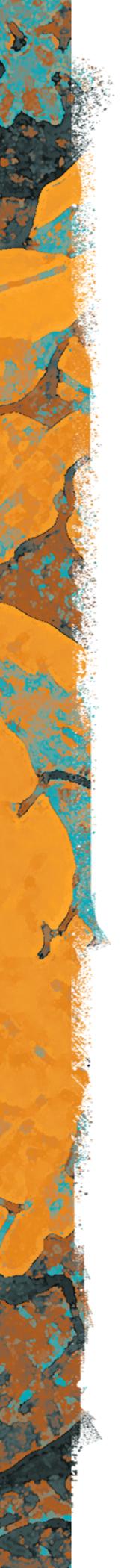
GROUP INTRO

If you had to explain Good Friday to someone who'd never heard of it, how would you describe it?

TEXT

1. Why does Pilate repeatedly affirm Jesus's innocence yet still condemn Him?

Leader help: Though claiming to find no fault in Jesus, Pilate bows to pressure from the crowd. This reveals the depth of human sin: fear of others and self-preservation often triumph over justice. This is why sin must be put to death by the power of the Spirit: it corrupts judgments at every level. Yet even this injustice plays a part in God's redemptive plan as the righteous King is rejected and killed so that sinners who trust Christ can be saved (see Acts 2:23).



2. How does Jesus redefine kingship in Pilate's court?

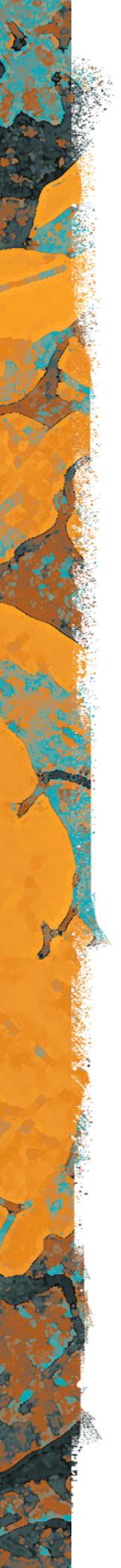
Leader help: When Pilate asks Jesus if He's a king, Jesus answers that His kingdom is not of this world, revealing that His reign is rooted in God's truth and obedience to the Father, not human political power. God's kingdom is advanced not by force but by the faithful obedience of the crucified King, whose death and resurrection inaugurated salvation.

3. What's the theological significance of John telling us that the inscription (Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews) was written in three languages?

Leader help: This anticipates the universal scope of Christ's reign as King. The promise to Abraham was that all nations would be blessed (see Gen. 12:3). The Messiah was to be a light to the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6). Here at the cross, the kingship of Jesus is publicly announced to the world's representative spheres. Ironically, the cross becomes the throne from which the true King is declared to the nations.

APPLICATION

1. When in your day-to-day routine are you tempted to "bow" to pressure from those who don't trust Christ? In other words, when do fear, reputation, or self-preservation start to shape your choices and emotions?

- 
2. Sometimes Christ working in power actually looks like weakness or humiliation. What experiences cause you to question Christ's Lordship, and how does the cross challenge your doubts?
 3. Jesus declared that "It is finished," meaning that your debt is paid, Scripture is fulfilled, and the way to the Father is secured. What helps you trust that this is true?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus for finishing all that was necessary for you to be fully and finally reconciled to the Father, and ask Him to help you be a bold proclaimer of this news.

Passage to guide your prayers: 1 Peter 2:24

John 20 - 21

MAIN POINT

John 20-21 brings the Gospel to its climax and epilogue. Chapter 20 proclaims the historical, bodily resurrection of Jesus and calls readers to faith in the risen Lord. Chapter 21 shows the risen Lord restoring His failed disciples and preparing and recommissioning them.

GROUP INTRO

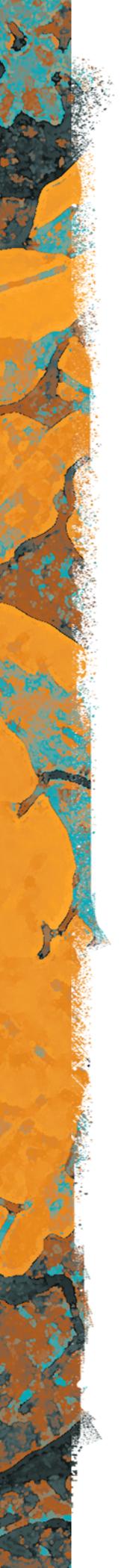
What's one area of your life where you've experienced God's restorative and redemptive power?

TEXT

1. Why does John emphasize eyewitness details when narrating the resurrection of Jesus (linen cloths, folded face cloth, personal encounters)?

Leader help: John grounds Christian faith in historical reality, not myth. The careful mention of the grave clothes signals not grave robbery but instead an almost polite departure on Jesus' behalf. Christian faith isn't a leap into irrationality but a response to evidence interpreted through Scripture.

John's whole point is to present Jesus and call the reader to faith, so he's trying to show that the resurrection actually happened and demonstrates the reliability of Jesus and all His claims.



2. What's Jesus' reason for telling Mary not cling to Him, and what does this mean?

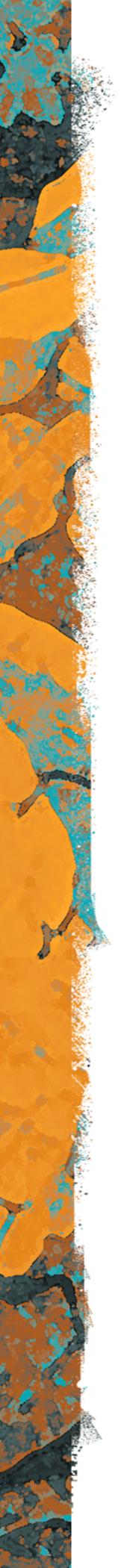
Leader help: Jesus is indicating that a transition is coming: His resurrection presence is real but no longer confined to earthly categories. He is ascending to the Father. The relationship He has with His disciples will continue, but through the work and presence of the Spirit. This marks the shift from Jesus' earthly ministry to the era of Spirit-empowered mission. Resurrection life is not a return to the old order; it inaugurates a new creation, which is marked by the presence and power of the Spirit.

3. What is the significance of Thomas's confession ("My Lord and my God")?

Leader help: This is the climactic Christological confession of the Gospel. The One crucified is fully divine. This confession is a clear affirmation of Christ's deity. John's purpose statement immediately follows, indicating that Thomas represents the reader. Once we encounter the risen Christ through faith, our confession will be the same: Jesus is our Lord and our God.

APPLICATION

1. What are some ways we can know whether our faith is rooted in the testimony of Scripture or in fleeting emotional experiences?

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2. How would you help someone who needs to spiritually mature from confusion (like Mary) or doubt (like Thomas) to confession and worship? What would you do for them or counsel them to do?

 3. Compare and contrast a life lived in resurrection joy vs. a life lived as if death still reigns undefeated. What differences would exist between the two?

PRAYER

Celebrate the Lord and His power over death, sin, and the devil, and ask Him to help you live with confident hope.

Passage to guide your prayers: 1 Corinthians 15:20