

## Teaching Notes: Introduction to the Gospel of John

**Length:** 5–7 minutes

**Text:** John 20:30–31

**Main Idea:** John wrote his Gospel so that people would believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and receive life in His name.

### Introduction

The Gospel of John is one of the clearest books in the Bible about who Jesus is and why He came. John does not simply tell us what Jesus did; he explains what Jesus' works mean.

John 20:30–31 gives us the purpose of the book: “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

So, as we study John, we should keep one question in front of us: **What does this passage reveal about Jesus, and how should I respond to Him?**

### I. John Presents Jesus as the Son of God

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often called the **Synoptic Gospels**, meaning they “see together.” They give a similar overview of Jesus' life and ministry, though each has a distinct emphasis.

Matthew presents Jesus as **King of the Jews**.

Mark presents Jesus as the **Servant**.

Luke presents Jesus as the **Son of Man**.

John presents Jesus as the **Son of God**.

John's Gospel goes deeper into the meaning behind the events. For example, all four Gospels record the feeding of the 5,000, but John gives us Jesus' sermon on the **Bread of Life**. John wants us to see that the miracle is more than an act of power. It is a sign pointing to the identity of Christ.

That is why John often uses the word **sign** instead of miracle. A sign is a miracle with a message. It points beyond itself to Jesus.

### Application:

When we read John, we are not merely studying history. We are being confronted

with the identity of Christ. John wants us to see Jesus clearly and believe in Him personally.

## II. John Reveals Jesus Through the “I AM” Statements

One of the strongest ways John presents the deity of Christ is through the seven “I AM” statements of Jesus.

Jesus said:

- “I AM the Bread of Life.”
- “I AM the Light of the World.”
- “I AM the Door.”
- “I AM the Good Shepherd.”
- “I AM the Resurrection and the Life.”
- “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”
- “I AM the True Vine.”

These statements are not just beautiful descriptions. They are claims of divine identity.

In Exodus 3:14, God revealed His name to Moses as **I AM**. So when Jesus uses this language, He is declaring more than moral authority or religious wisdom. He is revealing Himself as God in the flesh.

John’s message is clear: Jesus is not merely a teacher, prophet, miracle-worker, or religious example. He is the eternal Son of God.

### **Application:**

The question is not simply, “Do I admire Jesus?” The real question is, “Do I believe He is who He claimed to be?”

## III. John Uses Signs to Call People to Faith

John selected seven major signs from the ministry of Jesus to prove His deity and point people to salvation.

The first three signs show how salvation comes to the sinner:

1. **Water into wine** — salvation comes by the Word.

2. **Healing the nobleman's son** — salvation comes by faith.
3. **Healing the paralytic** — salvation comes by grace.

The last four signs show the results of salvation in the believer:

4. **Feeding the 5,000** — salvation brings satisfaction.
5. **Stilling the storm** — salvation brings peace.
6. **Healing the blind man** — salvation brings light.
7. **Raising Lazarus** — salvation brings life.

Each sign points to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God. But each sign also demands a response.

Some people saw the signs and believed. Others saw the same evidence and rejected Him.

That same division still exists today. Some hear the Word and believe. Others hear the Word and harden their hearts.

#### **Application:**

The Gospel of John reminds us that evidence alone does not save. A person must be convicted by the Holy Spirit and is willing to receive the gift of faith to Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. John Shows the Conflict Between Faith and Unbelief**

A major theme in John is the conflict between belief and unbelief.

John 1:11 says: "He came to His own, and His own received Him not."

The rejection of Jesus grows throughout the book. After the healing in John 5, the religious leaders begin opposing Him. In chapters 7–12, the conflict intensifies. By chapters 18–19, they arrest and crucify Him.

But at the same time, John shows individuals who believe: the disciples, the nobleman, the Samaritans, the paralytic, the blind man, and others.

John presents a tragic contrast:

Jesus is **the Way**, but many would not walk with Him.

He is **the Truth**, but many would not believe Him.

He is **the Life**, but they crucified Him.

**Application:**

John's Gospel forces us to decide. We cannot remain neutral about Jesus. Either we receive Him by faith, or we reject Him in unbelief.

**Conclusion**

The Gospel of John was written with a clear purpose: that we might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we might have life in His name.

As we study this Gospel, we should look for three things:

First, **the identity of Jesus** — He is the Son of God.

Second, **the signs of Jesus** — they reveal His glory.

Third, **the invitation of Jesus** — believe and receive life.

The central question of John's Gospel is the central question of every human life:

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?**