

"That You May Believe"

— THE GOSPEL OF JOHN —

SUNDAY AUDITORIUM CLASS

JANUARY-JUNE 2024



Class Schedule

January 7	John 1:1-18 • In the Beginning
January 14	When Jesus Said, "I AM"
January 21	John 1:19-51 • "Behold, the Lamb of God"
January 28	John 2 • "What Sign Do You Show Us?"
February 4	John 3 • He Who Comes From Above
February 11	John 4 • "This is Indeed the Savior of the World"
February 18	John 5 • "Those Who Hear Will Live"
February 25	John 6 • "You Have the Words of Eternal Life"
March 3	John 7 • Rivers of Living Water
March 10	John 8 • "Before Abraham Was, I Am"
March 17	John 9 • "Do You Believe in the Son of Man?"
March 24	John 10 • The Good Shepherd
March 31	John 11 • The Resurrection and the Life
April 7	John 12:1-19 • "Behold, Your King is Coming"
April 21	John 12:20-50 • "When I Am Lifted Up From the Earth"
April 28	John 13 • "Just As I Have Loved You"
May 5	John 14 • "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"
May 12	John 15 • "I Am the True Vine"
May 19	John 16 • "I Have Overcome the World"
May 26	John 17 • "Father, the Hour Has Come"
June 2	John 18 • "My Kingdom is Not of This World"
June 9	John 19 • "It is Finished"
June 16	John 20 • "Peace Be With You"
June 30	John 21 • "Follow Me"



"In the Beginning"

JOHN 1:1-18 · LESSON 1

Two thousand years ago, a man named John spent time with, learned from, and devoted his life to the most incredible person to ever live. John was an eyewitness of the most amazing and important events in human history. He wrote down what he saw and heard for a very specific reason.

Now _____ did many other _____ in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that _____ may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have _____ in his name. (John 20:30-31)

Near the conclusion of his Gospel, John describes a moment between Jesus and the apostle Peter. John knows what was said in that moment because he was there.

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You _____ me!" So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is bearing _____ about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21:20-25)

Our guide for the next six months is reliable. Not only is he sharing what he saw with his own eyes and heard with his own ears, he is being carried along by the Holy Spirit of God as he writes (1 John 4:1-6).

...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have _____ with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (1 John 1:3-4)

Where does he start? Where every great story starts. "In the beginning" (John 1:1). And from the beginning of his Gospel, John wants us to know—Jesus was not simply just another human being.

- ✿ Jesus is "the _____" who was with "with God" and "was God" (1:1-3)
- ✿ In Jesus was "_____, and the life was the light of men" (1:4)
- ✿ Jesus is "the _____" that the darkness cannot overcome (1:5)
- ✿ Jesus gives to all who believe in his name "the right to become _____ of God" (1:12-13)
- ✿ Jesus "became flesh and dwelt among us," revealing the glory of God, "full of grace and truth" (1:14)
- ✿ Jesus has made our _____ known (1:18)

What a great opportunity to know and believe in the most incredible person to ever live. Let's dig in...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- “In the beginning...” What does **John 1:1** sound very much like? Is this a coincidence? Looking carefully at **John 1:1-3**, what’s the connection between **John 1** and **Genesis 1**?
- The Son of God is described as “the Word” in **John 1**. Why? What goes through your mind as you hear that description?
- How does **John 1:1-3** help us understand the nature and power of the One we know as Jesus? Why do we need to be crystal clear about his nature and power?
- Who is the “John” being described in **1:6-8** and **1:15**? We’ll learn a little more about him in a future lesson, but for now, what role did he play in God’s great plan to save mankind?
- What’s the power behind describing Jesus as “the true light” in **1:4-5** and **1:9-10**?
- Who are “his own people” that Jesus came to in **1:11**? Why didn’t they receive him? For those who *did* receive him, what difference did Jesus make in their lives according to **1:12-13**?
- Finally, what is the significance of “the Word” becoming “flesh” and “dwelling among us” (**1:14**)?
- Jesus was “full of grace and truth” (**1:14**). Both of those sound really important. What difference can they make in anybody’s life?
- **John 1:18** is a powerful note on which to end. How would you rephrase the big idea of that verse in your own words?