

Sunday School Member Quarterly

Fall 2018

John 1 – 11

That You May Believe,
Part 1

Sunday School Lessons for Adults and Youth
Written by John O. Yates



Morningside
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School – 8:45 each Sunday Morning

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Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are taken
from the King James Version of the Bible.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sunday School Lessons

September through November 2018

John 1 – 11

That You May Believe, Part 1

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Daily Bible Reading Guide

Read the following scripture passages each day and complete the learning activities in this book each week. This will prepare you for Sunday School class, and God will bless you as you read, study, and memorize His Word.

Week of August 27 – September 1

Mon: John 1:1-18; **Tues:** Colossians 1; **Wed:** Hebrews 1;
Thurs: Memorize John 1:1 and 1:14; **Fri:** 1 John 5;
Sat: John 1:1-18

Week of September 3 – 8

Mon: John 1:19-51; **Tues:** Exodus 12:1-28; **Wed:** Isaiah 53;
Thurs: Memorize John 1:29; **Fri:** Hebrews 9;
Sat: John 1:19-51

Week of September 10 – 15

Mon: John 2; **Tues:** Psalm 69; **Wed:** 1 Corinthians 1;
Thurs: Memorize John 3:16-17; **Fri:** Acts 13; **Sat:** John 2

Week of September 17 – 22

Mon: John 3; **Tues:** Romans 3; **Wed:** Matthew 7;
Thurs: Memorize John 3:18; **Fri:** Romans 10; **Sat:** John 3

Week of September 24 – 29

Mon: John 4:1-42; **Tues:** Acts 8; **Wed:** 1 John 4;
Thurs: Memorize John 4:24; **Fri:** Psalm 51:1-13;
Sat: John 4:1-42

Week of October 1 – 6

Mon: John 4:43-54; **Tues:** John 5:1-14; **Wed:** James 5;
Thurs: Memorize James 5:16; **Fri:** John 4:43-54;
Sat: John 5:1-14

Week of October 8 – 13

Mon: John 5:15-47; **Tues:** Matthew 3; **Wed:** Matthew 17;
Thurs: Hebrews 3; **Fri:** Philippians 2; **Sat:** John 5:15-47

Week of October 15 – 20

Mon: John 6:1-35; **Tues:** John 6:36-71; **Wed:** Exodus 6;
Thurs: Memorize John 6:37; **Fri:** John 6:1-35;
Sat: John 6:36-71

Week of October 22 – 27

Mon: John 7:1-24; **Tues:** John 7:25-53;
Wed: Deuteronomy 18; **Thurs:** 1 Kings 18:17-40;
Fri: Matthew 16; **Sat:** John 7

Week of October 29 – November 3

Mon: John 8; **Tues:** Exodus 3; **Wed:** 1 John 2;
Thurs: Memorize John 8:58; **Fri:** 2 John 1; **Sat:** John 8

Week of November 5 – 10

Mon: John 9; **Tues:** Psalm 146; **Wed:** Isaiah 42;
Thurs: Memorize John 9:5; **Fri:** Matthew 11; **Sat:** John 9

Week of November 12 – 17

Mon: John 10; **Tues:** Psalm 23; **Wed:** 1 Peter 2;
Thurs: Memorize John 10:10 and 10:30; **Fri:** 1 Peter 5;
Sat: John 10

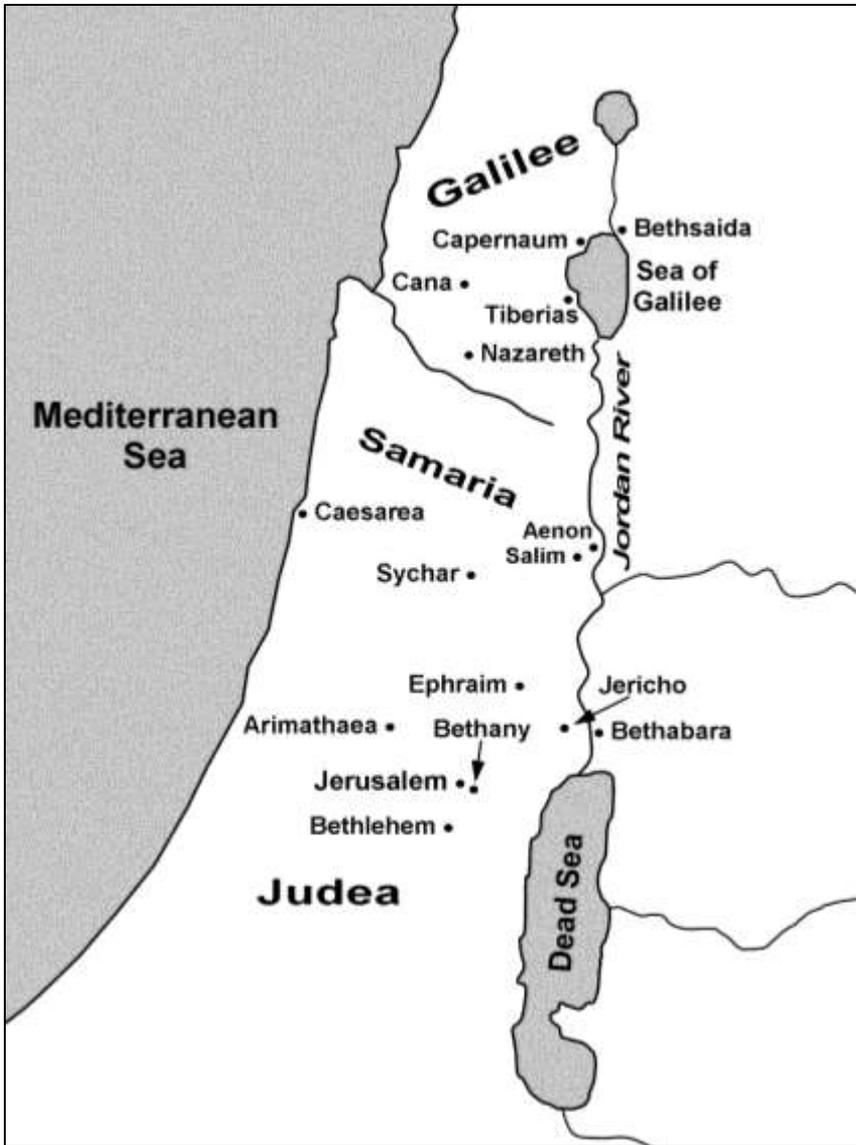
Week of November 19 – 24

Mon: John 11; **Tues:** Matthew 9; **Wed:** Luke 7;
Thurs: Romans 6; **Fri:** 1 John 1; **Sat:** John 11

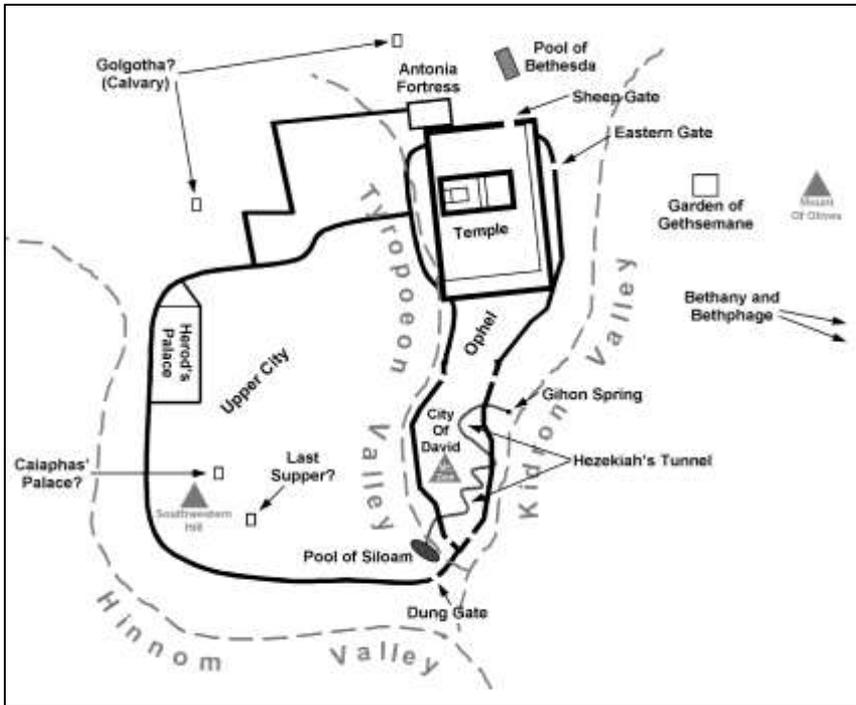
Coming Next Quarter
(December 2018 – February 2019)

John, Part 2

Map of Israel



Map of Jerusalem



Introduction to John

Author: The Apostle John

Date: A.D. 85-90

The Apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, the epistles of 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, and the book of Revelation. Only the Apostle Paul wrote more of the New Testament than John. One of the youngest of Jesus' disciples (perhaps only a teenager during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry), John enjoyed a very special relationship with Jesus as a member (along with Peter and James) of the "inner circle" of disciples.

Purpose: The purpose of John's Gospel is clearly stated in John 20:31: *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*

To prove that Jesus is the Christ, John included the following seven "sign miracles" in the first half of his gospel.

1. Jesus turned water into wine – John 2:1-11
2. Jesus healed a nobleman's son – John 4:46-51
3. Jesus healed a lame man – John 5:1-9
4. Jesus fed over 5,000 people – John 6:1-14
5. Jesus walked on water – John 6:16-21
6. Jesus gave sight to a blind man – John 9:1-38
7. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead – John 11:1-44

In John's Gospel Jesus often identified Himself as God by referring to Himself as "I AM," the same name God called Himself when He spoke to Moses at the burning bush (Ex. 3:14).

This Quarter's Study: This quarter you will study chapters 1-11 of the Gospel of John. Next quarter (winter) you will study the remainder of the gospel (chapters 12-21).

“In The Beginning ...”

Sam Walton was an interesting person. A simple man from Arkansas, Walton opened and operated one small store. Later he added another store, and then another, and now his company is one of the largest retailers in the world – Wal-Mart.

Sam Walton enjoyed visiting his stores, but he did it in an unusual way. Rather than arriving with the pomp and ceremony one might expect of the founder and owner, he often walked in unannounced wearing ordinary work clothes and a ball cap.

Whether or not he was recognized for who he was, Sam Walton was the **boss**. With a word he could hire, fire, promote, demote, or even close the store and put everybody out of work, but his employees might not know that this ordinary man was the owner!

The Bible tells us Jesus Christ came to His people, but most of them didn't recognize that He was the Son of God who had created them. Read **John 1:1-18** to learn more about it.

John 1:1-2 Jesus Christ is called “*the Word*” (see verse 14).
How long has Jesus Christ existed?

Some people don't believe that Jesus Christ is God.
What do these verses say about that?

John 1:3 How much of the universe did Jesus create?

What does this tell you about evolution?

John 1:4 “In Him was _____.” Where does life come from?

Jesus Christ is described as “*the light*” (verses 7-9). Have you ever been in a completely dark place? If so, you know that light is a very important and valuable thing.

John 1:5 Jesus brought light into a dark world. Did the world understand who He was?

John 1:6-8 These verses tell us about John the Baptist. What was his mission?

John 1:9 What did the “*true Light*” (Jesus) do?

Jesus brought true light to the world, but most people rejected Him.

John 1:10 “He (Jesus) was _____ the world, and the world was _____ by Him.” Did the world know who Jesus was?

John 1:11 “*His own*” refers to the Jewish people. God chose the Jews (**Deut. 14:2**) and has a special affection for them. How did they receive Jesus?

John 1:12 While most people rejected Jesus Christ, some received Him. What did He do for those who believed in Him?

Throughout the Gospel of John you will find that some people received Jesus while many others rejected Him. The purpose of John’s gospel is to lead people to believe in Jesus so they can be saved (see **John 20:31**).

John 1:13 People who are saved are “born, not of _____, nor of the will of the _____, nor of the will of _____, but of _____.” Salvation is entirely the result of God’s saving grace, not your good works (**Eph. 2:8-10**).

John 1:14 The “*Word*” (Jesus Christ) was made _____. Where did He live?

What did those who knew Jesus see in Him?

Jesus Christ was the fullest expression of God in human flesh (**John 14:9; Col. 2:9**).

John 1:15-16 What did John the Baptist say about Jesus?

John 1:17 The Law came through Moses. What did Jesus bring into the world?

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God. What did Jesus Christ **declare** (demonstrate, explain) to us?

Concluding Thoughts: the Bible makes it very clear that Jesus Christ was God in human flesh. Anyone who receives Him can become a child of God. Sadly, though, most of Jesus' own people rejected Him. They didn't believe He was God and that He could save them from their sins.

What about you? Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior? Have you realized you are a sinner and cannot save yourself? Do you understand that Jesus can forgive your sin because He took your sin's penalty on Himself? Jesus Christ can save you, but you must recognize your need and who He is.

The employees at Wal-Mart might not have recognized that Sam Walton was the owner because he didn't look like they thought the "big boss" would look. Their lack of recognition didn't make Sam Walton **NOT** the owner, and humanity's lack of recognition of Jesus Christ doesn't make Him **NOT** God.

Don't miss Jesus! He's willing to save you. Read the verses printed on the back of this book and ask Jesus to save you now.

Project: Memorize **John 1:1 & 1:14**. Do the **Daily Bible Readings** (page 4) each day this week and tell others about Jesus.

Behold the Lamb of God!

Have you ever seen a lamb? There are few creatures as sweet, helpless, and innocent looking as a baby lamb.

In the Old Testament God established a sacrificial system in which innocent lambs were killed as sin offerings. If you were an ancient Israelite who committed a sin, then an innocent lamb had to die to pay the price for your sin.

Many, many lambs were killed in ancient Israel. At each annual Passover time in Jerusalem an estimated 250,000 lambs were killed. There was so much blood that it ran out of the Temple and down the valley east of Jerusalem. When someone referred to a lamb that would take away sin, the Jews clearly understood.

In this week's scripture passage, Jesus Christ was identified as the Lamb of God. Read **John 1:19-51** to learn more.

John 1:19 What did the priests and Levites from Jerusalem ask John the Baptist?

John 1:20 Who did John say he was **NOT**?

John 1:21-24 They continued to press John for his identity. He answered by quoting **Isaiah 40:3**. What did he say?

John 1:25-27 The priests and Levites asked John why he was baptizing, since he admitted that he wasn't the Christ, Elijah, or "*that prophet*." What did he say about the one who would come after him?

John 1:28 All of this took place on the east side of the Jordan River (see the **Map of Israel** on page 6 for location).

John 1:29 Who did John see coming the next day?

How did John identify Jesus and what did he say Jesus would do?

John 1:30-34 How did John the Baptist know who Jesus was?

John 1:35-36 The next day John and two of his disciples (followers) saw Jesus. What did he say about Jesus?

John 1:37 What did John's disciples do?

John 1:38-40 What was the name of one of the two men?

John 1:41 Who did he tell about Jesus?

Who did he say Jesus was?

John 1:42 What did Jesus call Andrew's brother?

Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus. When Jesus met him, He changed Simon's name to Cephas, which was an Aramaic word meaning stone. The Greek translation of that word is "*petros*," from which we get the name Peter. Andrew's brother was Simon Peter, whom we know as the Apostle Peter.

John 1:43-44 The next day Jesus began traveling north toward **Galilee** (see the map on page 6). He found a man named Philip. What did Jesus tell Philip to do?

John 1:45 Philip went to his friend Nathanael. What did he tell Nathanael?

John 1:46 How did Nathanael respond to Philip?

John 1:47 What did Jesus say about Nathanael?

John 1:48 Nathanael asked how Jesus knew him. How did Jesus answer?

John 1:49 Nathanael said to Jesus: “Rabbi, thou art the _____ of _____; thou art the _____ of _____.”

John 1:50-51 Jesus told Nathanael he would see even greater miracles in the days ahead.

Concluding Thoughts: Let’s review the things that were said about Jesus Christ in this scripture passage:

1. John the Baptist said Jesus was the **Lamb of God** who **takes away the sin** of the world (verses 29 & 36).
2. Andrew said Jesus was the **Messiah** (the Christ – verse 41).
3. Philip said Jesus was the **one foretold** by Moses and the prophets (verse 45).
4. Nathanael said Jesus was the **Son of God** and the **King of Israel** (verse 49).

All of these titles identify Jesus Christ as the Messiah whom God had promised to send into the world. Not only was Jesus Christ God in human flesh, He also came into the world for a very specific purpose: **to die to pay the price for our sin.**

The world says that Jesus was just a great teacher or a good man, but those statements are lies. Jesus claimed to be God, so He either **was God**, or else He was a liar or a nut! If He wasn’t God, He certainly wasn’t a great teacher or a good man.

Jesus Christ was in fact the Lamb of God. Do you remember the lambs we talked about at the beginning of this lesson? They were innocent, but they died because someone else sinned. In the same way, Jesus Christ never sinned, but He died to pay the price for your sin. Thank Jesus for being the Lamb of God.

Project: Memorize **John 1:29**. Whenever you commit a sin this week, picture in your mind Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, nailed to a cross. Then confess that sin and thank Jesus for dying for you.

A Miracle and a Scene

Have you ever been asked to show your identification? If so, what did you display to prove your identity?

In our modern culture we use identity cards such as our driver's license or student ID to identify ourselves. In Jesus' time there were no such identification cards. He couldn't prove He was the Son of God by pulling His ID out of His wallet. So how did Jesus prove He was the Messiah?

Jesus demonstrated His identity by the things He did. Every miracle He performed served as another piece of identification.

The purpose of the Gospel of John is to prove to its readers that Jesus Christ is the Son of God so that they can be saved (**John 20:31**). Because this is the purpose of the book, the Lord led John to write about events and actions that proved Jesus' identity. Two things in this week's lesson proved who Jesus was.

John 2:1-2 Where did Jesus, His mother (Mary), and His disciples go (see the **Map of Israel** on page 6)?

John 2:3 What did Mary tell Jesus?

Because water purification was not available, wine was the common drink at meals. Drinking water often made people sick, so they customarily mixed a little wine in with the water. The alcohol in the wine killed germs and bacteria, but didn't cause drunkenness unless taken in very large quantities.

John 2:4-5 Jesus said the wine was her concern, and not His. What did Mary tell the servants?

There were some large water pots nearby that contained 18-27 gallons of water each. The Jews used these for purification rituals.

John 2:7-8 What did Jesus tell the servants to do?

John 2:9-10 Jesus miraculously turned the water into wine. What did the “*governor*” or “*ruler*” of the feast say about this wine?

John 2:11 This was the **first** miracle Jesus performed. What did the miracle cause Jesus’ disciples to do?

The fact that Jesus could perform miracles in the natural world proved to His disciples that He was truly the Son of God. Jesus, His family, and His disciples went to **Capernaum**.

John 2:13 Where did Jesus go, and why?

Passover was the holiest religious event on the Jewish calendar. Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem to worship.

John 2:14 Who did Jesus find in the Temple?

The Jews were required to bring sacrificial animals to the Temple in order to worship. Those who traveled a long way couldn’t bring their own animals, so merchants set up booths and sold animals. The Jews were also required to pay an annual Temple tax with a certain type of Jewish coin, so moneychangers made a business of selling the coins to Jews who had come from far away.

John 2:15 What did Jesus do?

John 2:16 Jesus told them all to leave the Temple. He said: “Make not my _____ house an house of _____.”

John 2:17 Jesus’ disciples remembered something they had read about the Messiah in **Psalms 69:9**. What does that say?

The Jews realized Jesus was doing things that showed He was the Messiah (the Son of God).

John 2:18 The Jews asked Jesus for a sign to prove He was the Messiah.

John 2:19 How did Jesus answer their request?

John 2:20 What did the Jews think Jesus meant?

John 2:21 What “temple” was Jesus actually speaking of?

John 2:22 When did Jesus’ disciples remember these words?

John 2:23 “Many _____ in His name, when they saw the _____ which He did.”

John 2:24-25 What does Jesus know?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus performed a miracle at a wedding and He caused a scene in the holiest place in the Jewish world – Jerusalem’s Temple. As different as those two events were, they both accomplished the same purpose. Both the miracle and the cleansing of the Temple showed those watching that Jesus Christ was God in human flesh, the promised Messiah.

Jesus showed His “ID” to the Jewish people. Many people believed in Him, but many others did not. Since Jesus knows all people, He knows which of us are true believers and which are not.

Jesus knows your heart right now. He doesn’t need anyone to tell Him about you; He knows everything.

You may be able to fool others into thinking you are a Christian, but Jesus knows the truth. If you’ve never truly been saved, why don’t you ask Jesus to save you right now? Call your Sunday School teacher if you need help. Do it now.

Project: Memorize **John 3:16-17**. Do the **Daily Bible Readings**, and be sure to come to Sunday School this Sunday.

You Must Be Born Again

What must you do to go to heaven when you die?

According to a national survey, 51% of Americans believe “*if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in heaven.*”¹ Some believe you go to heaven if you simply don’t hurt anyone during your life.

Many people, like the man you will learn about in this lesson, believe you get to heaven by being faithful to your religious rituals and rules. When this man came to Jesus, however, he was shocked by what he heard. Read **John 3** to see what Jesus said to the man.

John 3:1-2 Nicodemus was an important and influential man among the Jews. He was a Pharisee. They were the religious conservatives who made and followed many rules in an attempt to stay right with God. When did Nicodemus come to Jesus?

What did Nicodemus say to Jesus?

John 3:3 Jesus began by saying, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee,*” which meant what He was about to say was very important and deserved Nicodemus’ undivided attention. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus?

John 3:4 What did Nicodemus ask Jesus?

John 3:5 Jesus said a person must be born of _____ and of the _____ in order to enter God’s kingdom. “*Born of water*” refers to physical birth and “*born of the Spirit*” refers to spiritual birth.

¹ Barna Research Online, www.barna.org, survey conducted in 2001

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is _____; and that which is born of the Spirit is _____.”

John 3:7 “Ye must be _____.”

What was Jesus talking about? When a person is “*born again*,” he or she admits their sin and trusts Jesus Christ to save them from the penalty of their sin. Christians are born again, in that their old life of selfishness and sin dies and Jesus gives them new life.

John 3:8 We can’t control or direct the wind, but we can certainly see its effects. In the same way, the Holy Spirit does His work in the lives of people and the result is evident for all to see.

John 3:9-13 Nicodemus was confused. According to verse 13, why did Jesus know what He was talking about?

John 3:14 To better understand what Jesus said, read **Numbers 21:5-9**. To be saved from the deadly snakebites, the Israelites had to **believe** in God’s power to save them and they had to **look** to the bronze serpent. In order to be saved spiritually you must **believe** salvation is available through Jesus and you must **look** to Him (trust Him) to save you.

John 3:15 “That whosoever _____ in Him should not _____, but have eternal _____.” How long does that life last?

John 3:16 Why did God give His Son?

What happens to anyone who believes in Jesus?

Believing in Jesus is much more than just believing there once was a person named Jesus. When the Bible speaks of believing in Jesus it means to believe Jesus Christ can save you and then place your complete faith and trust in Him for salvation. If you believe

in Jesus' power to save then you won't try to earn your salvation through religious rituals or good works.

John 3:17 Why did God send His Son into the world?

John 3:18 Why doesn't Jesus have to condemn the world?

John 3:19-21 Jesus is the light of the world (**John 1:9; 8:12**), but men love darkness more than light. Why?

John 3:22-30 Some of John the Baptist's disciples asked him about Jesus. What did he tell them (v. 30)?

John 3:31-35 Jesus came from heaven and spoke God's Word.

John 3:36 "He that _____ on the Son hath everlasting _____: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see _____; but the _____ of God abideth on him."

Concluding Thoughts: Nicodemus was a very religious man, but Jesus told him his religion wouldn't get him to heaven. According to the Bible, one must believe in Jesus Christ (be born again) to go to heaven. If you believe in Jesus you have everlasting life; if you don't believe you are under God's wrath.

Jesus said, "*Ye must be born again.*" Have you been born again? If you haven't, please read the verses printed on the back cover of this book, confess your sins, and place your trust in Jesus Christ to save you right now. Sadly, if you refuse to do that you are under God's wrath and you will not enter God's kingdom.

Project: Memorize **John 3:18**. Tell someone how he or she can be born again and go to heaven when they die.

Christ The Savior

Are there certain people with whom you'd rather not associate? Do you try to avoid people of certain ethnic or economic groups? What about people you know to be immoral? Do you avoid social contact with them whenever possible?

We are most comfortable when we are around people that are similar to "us." Most of us like to associate with people who talk, act, dress, and behave like us. "Different" people sometimes make us uncomfortable.

In this week's scripture you will learn that Jesus went out of His way to make contact with some people most Jews avoided. He even had a conversation with an undesirable outcast of society: an immoral woman.

Why did Jesus do these things and what were the results?

John 4:1-4 Jesus left Judea. Where was He going?

"And he must needs go through _____."

Samaria was north of Judea, on the direct route toward Galilee (see the map on page 6). The inhabitants of Samaria (called Samaritans) were half-breeds whose ancestors intermarried with pagans and mixed their Judaism with false religions. The Jews hated them and usually took a much longer route along the east side of the Jordan River so they wouldn't pass through Samaria.

John 4:5-6 Jesus came to the city of **Sychar** (see the map again). What did He do?

John 4:7-8 What did Jesus ask the woman?

Where were Jesus' disciples?

John 4:9 Why was the woman surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink of water?

In Jesus' time, Jewish men did not speak to women in public and the Jews tried to avoid having any contact with Samaritans.

John 4:10 What did Jesus say He would give the woman if she simply asked?

Jesus used the term **living water** to refer to salvation. But just like Nicodemus in last week's lesson, the woman missed Jesus' true meaning and only understood the natural meaning.

John 4:11 What did the woman ask Jesus?

John 4:12 Even though the Samaritans were half-breeds and idolaters, they proudly traced their ancestry back to Jacob. Similarly, many people today claim some ancestor's spirituality as their own.

John 4:13-14 What did Jesus say would happen to anyone who drank His water?"

John 4:15-18 The woman asked for Jesus' water. What did Jesus tell her about herself?

John 4:19 What did the woman say about Jesus?

A prophet is someone who speaks God's message to men. Jesus Christ was not merely a prophet speaking for God: **He is God.**

John 4:20-24 The woman asked Jesus about worship. What did He say about worship in verse 24?

John 4:25-26 Who did Jesus say He is?

In verses 27-30 the disciples returned to Jesus, while the woman went back to town and told everyone she had met the Christ (the Messiah). The townspeople headed out to see Jesus.

In verses 31-34, Jesus spoke to His disciples about His commitment to finish the work the Father had given Him to do.

John 4:35 What did Jesus tell the disciples?

John 4:36-38 Jesus told them (v. 37): “One _____, and another _____.”

John 4:39 Why did many of the Samaritans believe in Jesus?

John 4:40 What did they ask Jesus to do?

John 4:41 Many more Samaritans believed in Jesus. Why did they believe?

John 4:42 They said they knew that Jesus was “the _____, the _____ of the world.”

Concluding Thoughts: Most Jews avoided the Samaritans, taking a much longer route to avoid going through their land. According to **John 4:4**, Jesus “*must needs go through Samaria.*” Why did He do this? Why would Jesus Christ publicly talk with an immoral woman at the well?

He did those things so the immoral woman and many of the Samaritan townspeople of Sychar could be saved. Many people believed in Jesus and publicly said that He was “*the Christ, the Savior of the world.*”

What about you? Are you willing to go out of your way to tell someone about Jesus? What if that person is someone you’re not very comfortable with? Will you tell him or her about Jesus? If so, do it this week. If not, confess that as sin. Ask your teacher how you can get involved in outreach visitation.

Project: Memorize **John 4:24**. Go out of your way to tell someone about Jesus this week.

Two Miracles

Have you ever seen a magic show? Watching the so-called “magician” pull a rabbit out of a hat or make something disappear fascinates us, but we understand that those are just illusions and tricks. The “magician” knows how to fool our eyes and make us think we saw something that is really impossible.

Jesus Christ was not a magician with a bag of tricks and illusions, trying to impress people and attract a crowd. He was (and is) God, so He has limitless power to perform miracles. The miracles He performed while He was on the earth were not illusions or tricks, nor were they the faked and pre-arranged “healings” the so-called “faith-healers” perform in their big rallies.

Jesus performed genuine miracles, which helped people believe that He was the Christ, the Son of God. Read **John 4:43 – 5:14** to learn about two such miraculous healings.

John 4:43-45 Where did Jesus go after spending two more days in the Samaritan city of Sychar?

Why did the people of Galilee receive Jesus?

John 4:46 Jesus went to **Cana** (see the **Map of Israel** on page 6). Where was the nobleman whose son was sick?

John 4:47 The nobleman traveled almost 20 miles to speak to Jesus. Why did he do this?

John 4:48 Jesus said unto him, “Except ye see _____ and _____, ye will not _____.”

John 4:49 Why did the nobleman insist that Jesus come to his home immediately?

John 4:50 What did Jesus tell the man?

Why do you think he believed Jesus?

John 4:51 As the nobleman returned home, his servants met him on the road. What did they tell him?

John 4:52-54 When was the nobleman's son healed?

Jesus healed the nobleman's son without even going to see him. This miracle caused the nobleman to believe in Jesus. The first half of the Gospel of John is built around seven sign miracles, which proved that Jesus was the Christ, God in human flesh. This was the **second** miracle and the **third** is in the next chapter.

John 5:1 Where did Jesus go next?

Faithful Jewish men were required to attend three religious feasts each year in Jerusalem (**Ex. 23:17; Deut. 16:16**).

John 5:2 Where was the pool of **Bethesda** located?

The pool was just outside the city wall, near the gate through which sheep were brought to be sacrificed at the Temple (see the **Map of Jerusalem** on page 7). Surrounding the pool were five covered porches where people could seek shelter from sun or rain.

John 5:3 What kind of people lay under these porches?

John 5:4 Why were the sick people waiting for the water in the pool to move?

Scholars are uncertain whether the moving water in this pool had any real healing power, but one thing is certain – the sick people believed it did.

John 5:5 How long had the man been infirmed (paralyzed)?

John 5:6 What did Jesus ask the man?

John 5:7 How did the man answer Jesus?

John 5:8 What did Jesus tell him to do?

John 5:9 What happened?

John 5:10 Were the Jews happy that the man was healed?

What did they tell him?

John 5:11-13 The Jews wanted the man to identify Jesus, but he couldn't.

John 5:14 Later, Jesus found the man in the Temple. What did He tell the man?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus didn't do illusions or tricks – He did genuine miracles that cannot be explained away. He spoke a word and healed a sick boy who was 20 miles away. He spoke again and healed a man who had been lame or paralyzed for 38 years.

We really shouldn't be surprised that Jesus performed miracles with His spoken word, since He created the entire universe with a few spoken words (**Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26**).

Since the Lord Jesus can do anything, we ought to ask Him to answer our prayers. What are you facing in life that needs God's miraculous intervention? We don't know if God will answer our prayers the way we want, but we know for certain that He has the power to do **anything**.

Project: Memorize **James 5:16**. Pray every day this week. Ask God to miraculously work in your needs.

Jesus is the Son of God

Have you ever personally known someone who claimed to be God? Down through the centuries, many people have made such claims. Most cult founders and leaders claim to be God.

Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the Unification Church, taught that Jesus brought only spiritual salvation. He said another savior was needed to fulfill Jesus' mission and he was that savior. David Koresh (leader of the Branch Davidians) claimed to be the messiah. Despite the fact he died in 1993, many of his followers still believe his claims and expect him to be resurrected soon.²

If someone claims to be God, only one of three possibilities can be true. Either that person is (1) a **liar** who deceives innocent followers, or (2) an **insane person** who sincerely thinks he is God, or (3) actually **God**. Only one of those three can be true: if he is a liar then he is not insane or God; if he is insane then he is not a liar or God; but if he really is God then he is not insane or a liar.

In this week's lesson you will learn that Jesus claimed to be God. Since Jesus actually is God, He backed up His claim with facts.

John 5:15-16 The man who was healed (last week's lesson) identified Jesus as the one who healed him. What did the Jews decide to do to Jesus?

John 5:17 What did Jesus say to the Jews?

John 5:18 Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?

The Jews clearly understood that Jesus Christ claimed to be equal with God the Father (**John 10:30**).

² Watchman Fellowship's *Index of Cults and Religions*,
<https://www.watchman.org/index-of-cults-and-religions/>

Jesus is equal to God in six ways:

1. Equal In His Work

John 5:19 What work did Jesus do?

2. Equal In His Knowledge

John 5:20 What does the Father show the Son?

3. Equal In His Ability to Give Life

John 5:21 To whom does Jesus give life (“*quickeneth*”)?

4. Equal In His Judgment

John 5:22 What has the Father committed to the Son?

5. Equal In Honor

John 5:23 “He that honoureth not the _____ honoureth not the _____ which hath sent Him.”

6. Equal In Possessing Life Within Himself

John 5:24-26 What does Jesus have “*in Himself*?”

John 5:27-30 What will happen when Jesus calls the dead to come forth from their graves?

The Old Testament required two or three witnesses to prove something in a court of law. Jesus said if He were the only one testifying to the fact that He is God then His testimony would not be true. He then told the Jews about four “witnesses” who testified that Jesus Christ actually is God:

John 5:33-35 The Jews asked John if he was the Messiah (**John 1:19-25**). John said he was not the Messiah, but told them that Jesus was (**John 1:29-34**).
Witness Number 1 is John the Baptist.

John 5:36 What did Jesus’ works show?

Witness Number 2 is Jesus' Works.

John 5:37-38 God the Father verbally bore witness of Jesus' identity (see **Matt. 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; John 12:28**).

Witness Number 3 is God the Father.

John 5:39 "Search the _____; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of _____."

John 5:46 "For had ye believed _____, ye would have believed _____: for he wrote of me."

Witness Number 4 is the Scriptures

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God, and thus equal with God. This made the Jews angry, so Jesus told them six ways in which He is equal with God and four witnesses that proved He was who He claimed to be.

At the beginning of this lesson we established that if anyone claims to be God, he is either a liar, insane, or he is actually God. Jesus is not a liar and He is not insane. He could prove that **He is God!**

Many other people have claimed to be God, but they can't produce evidence like Jesus did. Sun Myung Moon and David Koresh (and many others) claimed to be God. Since they are not actually God, then they are **liars** or **lunatics**. The same is true for any cult leader who claims he or she is God or the Messiah.

If you've never accepted the fact that Jesus Christ is God and the only Savior available to man, what are you waiting for? The evidence is in and the truth is established. Confess your sin and ask Jesus Christ to save you right now.

Project: Tell someone the truth about Jesus Christ this week.

More Miracles and Strong Words

Bread ... a frightening storm ... being abandoned.

Have you ever been really hungry? If so, you were very thankful when you finally got some food.

Have you ever been in a storm that really scared you? Wasn't it a wonderful feeling of relief when the storm finally ended?

Have you ever had "friends" who turned their backs on you and abandoned you? If so, you know that really hurts.

In this week's scripture you will learn about bread, a frightening storm, and being abandoned. Read **John 6:1-71** to learn more.

John 6:1-2 Jesus and His disciples left **Capernaum** and crossed the Sea of Galilee to a place near the city of **Bethsaida** (see the **Map of Israel** on page 6). Who followed Him there?

John 6:3-6 What did Jesus ask Philip?

John 6:7-9 How did Philip answer Jesus?

What did Andrew suggest?

John 6:10-13 What miracle did Jesus do?

This was the **fourth** of the seven sign miracles recorded in the Gospel of John (see the list of those miracles on page 8).

John 6:14 What did the people say about Jesus?

John 6:15-18 The disciples sailed back across the Sea of Galilee toward Capernaum. What happened to them?

John 6:19-21 Where was Jesus?

This was the **fifth** of the seven sign miracles.

John 6:22-26 The people Jesus miraculously fed the day before came searching for Him at Capernaum. Why did Jesus say they were seeking Him?

John 6:27-29 What did the people ask Jesus?

Jesus answered, “This is the work of God, that ye _____ on Him whom He hath sent.”

The people asked Jesus to show them a sign so they could believe in Him. They reminded Him that God gave the Israelites manna daily in the wilderness and asked Him to give them daily bread.

John 6:35 Jesus said, “**I AM** the _____ of _____.”

Remember that God identified Himself to Moses as “I AM” (**Ex. 3:14**). Jesus often identified Himself that same way. Those who heard Him clearly understood that He claimed to be God.

John 6:37 What did Jesus say about those who come to Him?

John 6:40 What did He say about those who believe in Him?

John 6:44 “_____ man can come to me, except the _____ which hath sent me _____ him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Jesus continued to use strong words. He again said He is the bread of life (v. 48 and 51), and then said no one can have eternal life unless they “eat” His flesh and “drink” His blood (v. 53-58). These phrases are symbolic of receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

John 6:60 What did the people say about these things?

John 6:61-65 Jesus knew that many were offended by His words. Who did He say can come to Him?

John 6:66-67 Many disciples abandoned Jesus. What did He ask the twelve?

John 6:68 How did Simon Peter respond?

John 6:69 Peter spoke some very strong words. What did he say that the twelve believed about Jesus?

John 6:70-71 Which disciple was actually “*a devil*”?

Concluding Thoughts: In this lesson Jesus performed two more amazing miracles and many people followed Him. His disciples were in a terrible storm, but Jesus came to them and protected them. He spoke some very strong words, causing many of His followers to abandon Him. Finally, Peter spoke some strong words, stating his belief that Jesus was the Son of God.

The multitudes followed Jesus because they enjoyed getting free food. They even asked Him to continue to feed them every day! They only wanted Jesus for what they could get out of Him. Do you follow Jesus out of sincere love for Him, or are you just interested in what He can do for you?

The disciples were afraid in the storm, but Jesus took care of them. Do you trust Jesus in the storms of your life? Many people abandoned Jesus, but Peter firmly declared his belief in Jesus Christ. Do you stand up for Jesus and clearly state your beliefs about Him, or do you keep silent?

Jesus is the “*Christ, the Son of the living God.*” He deserves our love and devotion all the time.

Project: Memorize **John 6:37**. Stand up for Jesus this week.

Divided Opinions

“Public opinion polls indicate that 43% of Americans believe this, while 37% hold the opposite view. Another 18% are undecided, and 2% have no opinion at all. We want to know what you think, so connect with us on social media and give us your opinion.”

Sound familiar? Most televised newscasts contain some type of public opinion poll information, and many air the thoughts of viewers who call in or send their opinions electronically.

In this week’s scripture you will discover that Jesus made a public appearance in the Jerusalem Temple at a time when the city was crowded with worshipers. You will also learn that the Jews had many differing opinions about Jesus.

Some say that opinions are like noses – everybody’s got one! That was certainly true in Jerusalem in Jesus’ day. What about you? What is your opinion of Jesus?

John 7:1 Why did Jesus stay in Galilee?

John 7:2-5 What did Jesus’ half-brothers urge Him to do?

Did they believe in Jesus?

Jesus sent His brothers on to Jerusalem, while He stayed behind. We’ve already seen two opinions about Jesus: the Jews in Judea wanted to kill Him, and Jesus’ brothers didn’t believe in Him.

John 7:10 Why do you think Jesus went secretly to Jerusalem?

John 7:11-12 What did the people think about Jesus?

Jesus taught publicly in the Temple and the people were amazed. He said His doctrine was what He received from His Heavenly Father, and then Jesus exposed the Jews’ plot to kill Him. Jesus

said that their murderous plot violated the Law of Moses, which they claimed to obey.

John 7:20 What did the people say about Jesus?

Jesus had healed a crippled man on the Sabbath at the pool at Bethesda (**John 5:1-16**), and the Jews got upset. Jesus pointed out their hypocrisy by saying they circumcised babies on the Sabbath, yet they wanted to kill Him because He healed on the Sabbath.

John 7:25-26 The people knew that the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. What did they suspect their leaders knew about Him?

John 7:30 They wanted to arrest Jesus. Why couldn't they?

John 7:31 What did many of the people think of Jesus?

John 7:32 What did the Pharisees and chief priests do?

John 7:33-34 What did Jesus say to the people?

John 7:35-36 What was the reaction of the people?

John 7:37-39 What did Jesus offer the people?

The situation in Jerusalem was getting tense. Many people believed Jesus was the promised Messiah, but others thought he was a demon-possessed lunatic. The religious leaders wanted to arrest and kill Him. They tried to arrest Him, but couldn't!

John 7:40 Many people said, "Of a truth this is the _____," which was an Old Testament name for the Messiah (**Deut. 18:15-20**).

John 7:41-42 Others said: "This is the _____." What did some other people question?

John 7:43 “So there was a _____ among the _____ because of _____.”

John 7:44-46 The religious leaders asked the officers why they hadn’t arrested Jesus. How did they answer?

John 7:47-49 The Pharisees ridiculed the officers. What did they say about the people?

John 7:50-51 What did Nicodemus ask?

John 7:52-53 How did the religious leaders react to Nicodemus?

Concluding Thoughts: Wow! Did you notice how many different opinions were expressed about Jesus in this scripture passage? Some people believed He was the Christ and wanted to accept and follow Him. The Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Him. Some folks thought He was a nut and others had no opinion at all.

There are still many different opinions about Jesus. Many follow Him as their Savior and Lord, while others hate Him and wish they could completely erase Him from world history. Many “religious” folks believe Jesus was a great teacher or even a prophet from God. Some just try to ignore Him. One thing about opinions – they don’t change the **facts**. Jesus is Lord, Creator, and Savior, **whether people believe it or not!**

What is your opinion about Jesus Christ? Do you believe He is the Lord, the Creator, and the one and only Savior? Here is an even more important and personal question: is Jesus Christ **YOUR** Lord and Savior? If not, why don’t you ask Him to save you today? Read the simple plan of salvation printed on the back cover of this book, confess your sins, and place your faith in Jesus to save you. Call your Sunday School teacher if you need help.

Project: Tell someone your opinion about Jesus this week.

“I AM”

Do you remember reading about Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush? While Moses watched the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, he saw a very strange sight. Moses saw a bush that was burning, but the fire was not consuming the bush. He went over to investigate.

When Moses approached the burning bush, Almighty God spoke to him out of the bush. The Lord identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He told Moses to return to Egypt and lead the Israelites out of captivity.

Moses protested, telling the Lord the Israelites wouldn’t believe God had really spoken to him. Moses said the Israelites would ask, “What is the name of the God who spoke to you?” God’s answer is recorded for us in **Exodus 3:14**: “*And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*” The name God used to identify Himself was “**I AM.**”

We’ve already learned that Jesus claimed to be God, but the Jews didn’t believe Him. This week we’ll see that Jesus clearly identified Himself as Almighty God by saying, “I AM.”

John 8:1-4 Jesus went to teach in the Temple. Who did the scribes and Pharisees bring before Him?

John 8:5 What did they ask Jesus?

John 8:6 Why did they do this?

What strange thing did Jesus do?

John 8:7 What did Jesus tell the scribes and Pharisees?

John 8:8-9 What did the scribes and Pharisees do?

John 8:10 What did Jesus ask the woman?

John 8:11 What did He tell her?

John 8:12 Jesus said, “**I AM** the _____ of the _____: he that followeth me shall not walk in _____, but shall have the _____ of life.”

John 8:13-18 The Pharisees said since Jesus testified of Himself he must be lying. Jewish Law required two witnesses. Who else (in addition to Himself) did Jesus say bore witness of Him?

John 8:19 What did the Jews ask Jesus?

How did He answer them?

In the next few verses Jesus used the phrase “*die in your sins*,” which means to die as an unredeemed sinner and spend eternity in the torment of hell.

John 8:23 Where did Jesus say He was from?

John 8:24 Jesus said, “If ye believe not that _____ *he*, ye shall _____ in your _____.” Note that the word “*he*” is italicized, indicating that it is not in the original Greek. What Jesus actually said was, “If ye believe not that **I AM**, ye shall die in your sins.” Jesus clearly said He was God!

John 8:25-28 The Jews questioned Jesus further, and He told them, “When ye have lifted up [crucified] the Son of man, then shall ye know that _____.”

John 8:30-32 Many believed in Jesus. What did He say would be the result of continuing in His Word?

The Jews protested that they were Abraham's descendants, they were not in bondage, and they didn't need to be freed. Jesus was talking about bondage to sin.

John 8:39-44 Who did the Jews claim as their father?

Who did Jesus say was actually their father?

How did Jesus describe the devil?

John 8:47 What did Jesus say about the Jews?

The Jews and Jesus continued to argue about the identity of their father and Jesus' Father.

John 8:51 Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall _____ see _____."

John 8:52-53 This got the Jews mad! What did they ask Jesus?

John 8:54-55 What did Jesus say He would be if He denied knowing God?

John 8:56 What did He say about Abraham?

John 8:57 How did the Jews react to that statement?

John 8:58 Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, _____ Abraham was, _____."

John 8:59 The Jews clearly understood that Jesus claimed to be God. What did they try to do to Him?

Concluding Thoughts: What have we discovered in this week’s scripture? We have found that **four times** Jesus clearly referred to Himself as “**I AM**” (**John 8:12, 24, 28, 58**). Everyone who heard Jesus understood without doubt that He was calling Himself God. This made many people very angry.

Those are interesting facts, but what did we learn that applies to our lives? Consider the following:

1. Jesus is God, He claimed to be God, and the people who heard Him understood that He claimed to be God.
2. If you don’t believe that Jesus is God, you will “*die in your sins*” and go to hell (**John 8:24**).
3. True disciples of Jesus continue in His Word and are set free from sin (**John 8:31-32, 34**).
4. Lost people are the children of the devil (**John 8:44**).
5. The devil is a liar and a murderer. There is **no** truth in him, and he is the father and motivator of all lies (**John 8:44**).

Those are the facts. If you’ve never accepted Jesus as your God and your Savior, then you still belong to the lying, murdering devil and will go to hell when you die. The Good News is that Jesus can save you. Please read the verses printed on the back of this book and trust Jesus as your Savior. Please do it right now!

If you are a Christian, then you should thank Jesus for setting you free from sin and you should continue in His Word. Thank Him right now for saving you. Make a commitment to read the Bible every day.

Project: Memorize **John 8:58**. Thank Jesus daily for saving you. Look for opportunities to tell people that Jesus is God and He can save them, too.

The Blind See, but the Seeing are Blind

Can you imagine being blind?

Think how hard it would be to get dressed and shave or put on make-up if you couldn't see. Imagine the difficulty of preparing a meal, shopping for household supplies, or going to work. Being blind would present some serious challenges.

Did you know there's a condition far more serious than physical blindness? In this week's scripture you'll see Jesus tell some of the Jewish religious leaders that they had that serious condition. Read **John 9:1-41** to learn about it.

John 9:1-2 Jesus and His disciples saw a man who had been blind all his life. What did the disciples ask Jesus?

Many of the Jews believed that all physical illness was the direct result of one's personal sin. Jesus' disciples assumed the man was blind either because of his sin or because of the sin of his parents. Jesus gave them a surprising answer.

John 9:3 Why did He say the man was born blind?

John 9:4-5 Jesus said: "As long as I am in the world, _____ the _____ of the world."

John 9:6 What did Jesus do to the blind man?

John 9:7 What happened to the blind man?

John 9:8-12 Those who knew the man were amazed that he could see. They asked what had happened to him, so he told them.

John 9:13 Where did they take the formerly blind man?

John 9:14 What day of the week was it?

The Pharisees had very strict rules about what one could do on the Sabbath. In **John 5**, the Pharisees got very upset at Jesus for healing a lame man and then telling the man to carry his bed. They considered that “work,” which violated the Sabbath. In healing the blind man, Jesus had done it again. His act of making clay from dirt and saliva was considered “kneading,” so the Pharisees were again angry with Him for violating the Sabbath.

John 9:15-16 The Pharisees questioned the man about **how** Jesus healed him. What two opinions did the Pharisees have about Jesus?

John 9:17-19 The Jews didn’t believe the man had been blind at all. Who did they call in for questioning?

John 9:20-21 What did the parents say?

The parents were afraid because the Jews had already decided to “*put out of the synagogue*” anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Christ. To be put out of the synagogue meant to be completely cut off from Israel’s religious life and to be a social outcast.

John 9:24-25 The Jewish religious leaders told the formerly blind man that they had decided Jesus was a sinner. The man answered: “One thing I know, that, whereas I was _____, now I _____.”

John 9:26-29 The Jews questioned the man further. They were unkind and harsh toward him.

John 9:30-33 The man rebuked the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness. What did he say about Jesus?

John 9:34 The Jews put the man out of the synagogue.

John 9:35 Jesus found the man. What did He ask him?

- John 9:36** What did the man ask about the Son of God?
- John 9:37** What did Jesus tell him?
- John 9:38** What did the man say and do?
- John 9:39** Jesus said He had come into the world so that “they which see not might _____; and that they which see might be made _____.”
- John 9:40** What did the Pharisees ask Jesus?
- John 9:41** The Jewish religious leaders saw the light of Jesus Christ, but they rejected Him. Therefore they remained in their sinful, lost condition.

Concluding Thoughts: The blind man was pitiful. He couldn't work, so he spent his days begging. Jesus gave the man physical sight and completely changed his life. Jesus also opened the man's eyes spiritually, he confessed faith in Christ, and he has been with Jesus in heaven for 2,000 years. What a change!

The Pharisees and other religious leaders were at the very top of Jewish society. They had wealth, power, and respectability, but they were spiritually blind and rejected Jesus Christ. Those who continued in their rejection have spent the last 2,000 years in the torment of hell.

Spiritual blindness is far worse than physical blindness!

Do you know anyone who is spiritually blind? That person may be a very wicked sinner or he or she might be a religious person. Either way, the spiritually blind person rejects Jesus Christ. Pray that God will open the eyes of your spiritually blind friend.

Project: Memorize **John 9:5**. Pray daily for those you know who are spiritually blind.

The Good Shepherd

Most of us have never seen a shepherd with his sheep, so it's hard to really understand one of the common images in the Bible. We have a hard time comprehending the close relationship that developed between the sheep and their shepherd.

At night, ancient shepherds brought their sheep into a sheepfold for protection from wild animals and thieves. The sheepfold was surrounded by a stone wall ten feet high. There was one door into the sheepfold, and at night one of the shepherds or a hired "porter" lay across the opening of the door. No wild animal or thief could enter while the porter or shepherd guarded the door.

In the morning the shepherds would come to the sheepfold and call their sheep. The sheep recognized the voice of their shepherd, so they would obediently follow him out to the pasture.

In this week's scripture you will learn how Jesus used the special relationship between a shepherd and his sheep to illustrate His relationship with His followers.

John 10:1 Who entered the sheepfold by a way **other than** the door?

John 10:2-5 Who will the sheep follow?

Who will they **NOT** follow?

John 10:6-7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, _____ am the _____ of the sheep."

John 10:8 Did the sheep hear the thieves and robbers who came before Jesus?

John 10:9 What did Jesus promise those who enter by Him?

John 10:10 What three things do thieves do?

Why did Jesus come?

The thief represents the devil. His purposes are to steal, kill, and destroy. He always wants the very worst for you. Jesus, on the other hand, wants to give you eternal and abundant life.

John 10:11 “I am the good _____.” What does He do for His sheep (us)?

John 10:12-13 The hired servant will run away in the face of danger, leaving the sheep defenseless.

John 10:14-18 Jesus said He knows His sheep (believers). In speaking to the Jews, He told them He had other sheep “*not of this fold,*” referring to the Gentiles who would accept and follow Him. What did He say He would do for His sheep?

John 10:19-21 What opinions did the Jews have about Jesus?

John 10:22-24 What did the Jews ask Jesus?

John 10:25 Jesus said: “I _____ you, and ye _____ not.” What proved He was the Christ?

John 10:26 Why did He say they didn’t believe?

John 10:27 What do Jesus’ sheep do?

John 10:28-29 What does Jesus give His sheep?

Who can pluck them out of His hand?

Since Jesus gives **eternal** life and no one can ever pluck us out of His hand, these verses prove that **someone who is genuinely saved can never again be lost.**

John 10:30 “_____ and my _____ are _____.” What does this mean?

John 10:31-33 The Jews took up stones with which to kill Jesus, but He asked for which of His good works they were going to stone Him. Why did they say they wanted to stone Jesus?

The Jews clearly understood what Jesus said about Himself in verse 30.

Jesus replied by quoting **Psalm 82:6**, in which God referred to Israel’s earthly leaders as “gods,” because they represented God’s authority on earth and they taught and led God’s people.

John 10:36 Who did Jesus say He is?

John 10:37-38 What did He say should convince them of this?

John 10:39-42 The Jews again tried to arrest Jesus, but He left Jerusalem and went over beyond the Jordan River. How did the people respond to Him there?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus is the Door of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, and He is God. He gives eternal life to anyone who comes to Him, such that they can never again be lost. He gives abundant life to His followers who hear His voice.

Have you come through the Door of Jesus Christ? Are you one of His sheep who hear His voice and follow Him? If you are, then thank Jesus for saving you and for being your Good Shepherd. If not, ask Jesus to save you right now.

Project: Memorize **John 10:10** and **John 10:30**. Come to Sunday School this Sunday to learn more about your Good Shepherd.

Victory Over Death

DEATH.

There are few things as cold, harsh, unforgiving, and frightening as death. Every day's newspaper tells of those who have slipped from life into the unfamiliar realm of death. Death is not limited to the old or the sick, either. Crime, accidents, and disease also claim the lives of many young people.

Down through time people have tried many ways to cheat or defeat death. Even today, some pay huge sums of money to have their bodies frozen, in hopes that sometime in the future the technology will exist to bring them back to life.

The harsh reality about death, however, is that it has a 100% success rate. Statistics prove that there is one death for each and every birth, because **everyone** eventually dies.

In **John 11** you'll learn that Jesus is stronger than death.

John 11:1-3 Lazarus was sick. What did his sisters do?

John 11:4 What did Jesus say was the purpose of Lazarus' sickness?

John 11:5-6 What did Jesus do?

John 11:7-8 After two days, Jesus suggested they return to Judea. What did the disciples say about this idea?

John 11:9-10 Jesus used the analogy of light and darkness to tell His disciples He was completely safe to walk in the light of His Father's will, just as it is safe to walk in the daylight.

John 11:11 What did Jesus say about Lazarus?

John 11:12-13 What did the disciples think He meant?

John 11:14 Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is _____.”

John 11:15 What did Jesus say about Lazarus’ death?

Jesus and His disciples traveled to Bethany and found that Lazarus had already been dead four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, so many Jews came to comfort Mary and Martha.

John 11:20-21 What did Martha say to Jesus?

John 11:22 What did Martha believe about Jesus’ power?

John 11:23 What did Jesus promise her?

John 11:24 When did Martha think her brother would rise from the dead?

John 11:25 “I am the _____, and the _____.”

John 11:26 What did He promise those who believe in Him?

Martha went back to the house and told her sister Mary that Jesus was coming. Mary left the house quickly, so everyone thought she was going to the tomb to mourn for her dead brother.

John 11:32 What did Mary say to Jesus?

John 11:33 How did Jesus react to their grief and weeping?

John 11:34-35 Jesus asked to see Lazarus’ tomb. Why do you think Jesus cried?

John 11:36-37 What did the Jews wonder?

John 11:38-39 What did Jesus tell them to do?

Why did Martha object?

John 11:40 Jesus said, “If thou wouldest _____, thou shouldst see the _____ of God”

John 11:41 What did Jesus do?

John 11:42 Why did Jesus pray aloud?

John 11:43 What did Jesus say?

John 11:44 What amazing thing happened?

John 11:45 Raising Lazarus from the dead was the seventh of the sign miracles recorded in the Gospel of John. How did many of the Jews respond to it?

Some of the unbelieving Jews told the Pharisees what happened (v. 46). The Jewish religious leaders decided to kill Jesus (v. 53).

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus healed the sick and fed the 5,000, but raising Lazarus from the dead proved He is more powerful than **death**. Ironically, Jesus raised the dead, so the chief priests and Pharisees decided to kill Him. They were in for quite a surprise!

Lazarus is a picture of the condition of a lost sinner. He was dead, decaying, and utterly helpless. Jesus came to Lazarus, called him by name, and replaced deadness and decay with life and vitality.

If you have been saved, that’s what happened to you. You were dead in your sins and completely helpless, but Jesus called you by name and gave you new life. Thank Jesus for saving you.

Project: Be sure to pick up a *Sunday School Member Quarterly* for the new quarter and begin the **Daily Bible Readings** on Monday.