

John's Gospel Introduction Message

BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

Key Verse: 20:31

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

1. Notice how the author identifies himself throughout this gospel (13:23; 19:26; 21:7,24). Why is it significant that he called himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved"?

13:23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

19:26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"

21:7,24 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water... This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

2. What is the author's expressed purpose of writing this gospel? (20:30-31) What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (1:12; 3:16; 6:69) What does it mean to have life in his name? (10:10)

20:30-31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

6:69 Simon Peter answered him, "We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

3. Jesus boldly claimed "I am...": the bread of life; the light of the world; the gate; the good shepherd; the resurrection and the life; the way, the truth and the life; the vine (6:35; 8:12; 10:9,11; 11:25-26; 14:6; 15:5). What do these claims say about Jesus? In the underlined references, note who the invitation is to and what promise is given? Which of these "I am" statements speaks to you most personally?

6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

10:9,11 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture"... "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

4. Jesus performed miraculous “signs” before his death: turning water to wine (2:8-9); healing a royal official’s son (4:50-51); healing an invalid man (5:8-9); multiplying food to feed a crowd (6:11); walking on water (6:19-20); healing a blind man (9:6-7); raising the dead (11:43-44). Notice Jesus’ words and the human response in these signs. What do these miraculous signs show about Jesus? What is the ultimate sign that Jesus is the Son of God? (10:17-18)

2:8-9 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

4:50-51 “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.

5:8-9a Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

6:19-20 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.”

9:6-7 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

11:43-44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

5. Jesus’ “I am” claims and his miraculous signs reveal his deity. How does this gospel declare his humanity? (1:14) Why is this both amazing and important?

1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

6. Read 20:31 again. If we want to be good students of John’s gospel, what should we do? What does this mean to you personally? Are you excited to study John’s gospel deeply and personally?

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