
UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLAINING THE MISSION OF GOD

HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND TEACH A GOSPEL

JOHN'S GOSPEL

TERM 2; SESSION 2 – JOHN RISBRIDGER

Gospels

What is a gospel?

Why four gospels?

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Pitfalls in reading gospels

John's Gospel

Author

Purpose (20:30-31)

Overview:

Introduction (1:1-18)

Middle

The book of signs:

Jesus' Miracles and their meaning (1:19-12:50)

The book of glory/passion:

Jesus' teaching His disciples (13:1-17:26)

Jesus death and resurrection (18:1-20:31)

Epilogue (21:1-25)

Outline (see alternative outline in Appendix One)

1:1-18 Life exchange: Jesus, the eternal Word, became a human being to reveal God to us (The Prologue)

1:19-51 Encounters: Who Jesus is and why it matters (Introduction)

2:1-12:50 “...through which he revealed his glory”: signs and explanations

2:1-4:54 Jesus is the Messiah

First sign in Cana of Galilee: A crisis a sign and a bottle of red!

The clearing of the temple (2:13-25)

The smart guy who needed a new life (3)

The mixed up woman who got into deep water (4)

Second sign in Cana of Galilee: The worried parent who found someone to trust (4:43-54)

5:1-10:42 Jesus fulfils Old Testament Religion

First sign on the Sabbath: From his mat to his feed (5:1-15)

Jesus the life-giving Son (5:15-47)

First sign fulfilling OT: Feeding of the 5,000 (6:1-15)

Second sign fulfilling OT: Walking on the water (6:16-24)

Jesus the bread of life (6:25-71)

Jesus the giver of the Spirit (7)

Jesus the light of the world and giver of freedom (8)

Second sign on the Sabbath: From darkness to sight (9:1-41)

Jesus the good shepherd and giver of life to the full (10)

11:1-12:50 Jesus is the resurrection and the life (Transitional?)

Sign of Jesus' triumph over death: Dead man up

13:1-20:31 The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified (Jesus death and resurrection)

13:1-14:31 Preparation 1: Anticipating the cross and promising the Spirit

13:1-17 Getting close to dirty feet

13:18-38 An awkward meal time.

14:1-14 – Preparing to leave

14:15-31 – Third person present

15:1-16:33 Preparation 2: Abiding in Christ and sharing his mission

15:1-17 Abiding in Christ

15:18-16:33 – Help and hope for a tough job

17:1-26 Listening in to God's conversation (Jesus prays for his disciples)

18:1-19:42 All done: the greatest death

20:1-31 All won: the greatest victory (The Resurrection of Jesus)

Final sign showing Jesus' triumph over death: The Resurrection

21:1-25 Epilogue: The call to follow Jesus

Using the gospels to communicate the gospel

How does John Answer the Questions people are asking?

Is there really a spiritual reality? 1:14-18

How can I get lasting satisfaction? 6:26-35 4:4-26 7:37-9 10:10

Is there really such a thing as universal truth? 1:1-18 8:31-47 14:6

Is there life after death? 11:1-45 14:1-6

How can I deal with my guilt? 8:1-11

Don't you just have to lead a good life? 3:1-21

Surely God would never accept me? 4:1-26

Why is there suffering? 9:1-11; 11:1-44

Key passages for explaining the basics of the gospel to people:

The Need to be Born Again and saved from Judgement 3:1-21

The Significance of Jesus' Death and Resurrection 11:45-52 9:35-10:18

The Promise of Eternal Life for those who believe 6:25-40

The Structure of John's Gospel – Andrew Page

John's Introduction (John 1:1-51)

- A. Jesus: the Word of God (1:1-18)
- B. Jesus: who is this man? (1:19-51)

Section One: The Message (John 2:1 – 4:42)

Two signs

- A. The wedding at Cana (2:1-12)
- B. Judgment in the temple (2:13-25)

Three blocks

- X. Jesus and Nicodemus (3:1-21)
- Y. The truth about Jesus (3:22-36)
- Z. Jesus and the Samaritan woman (4:1-42)

Section Two: The Authority (John 4:43 – 5:47)

Two signs

- A. Jesus heals a royal official's son (4:43-54)
- B. Jesus heals at the Pool Bethesda (5:1-15)

Three blocks

- X. The claim (5:16-30)
- Y. The evidence (5:31-40)
- Z. The diagnosis (5:41-47)

Section Three: The Training (John 6:1 – 8:59)

Two signs

- A. Jesus feeds the 5,000 (6:1-15)
- B. Jesus walks on Lake Galilee (6:16-24)

Three blocks

- X. Jesus: the bread of life (6:25-71)
- Y. Jesus: the source of water (7:1-52)
- Z. Jesus: the light of the world (8:12-59)

Section Four: The Cost (John 9:1 – 11:57)

Sign A. Jesus heals a man born blind (9:1-41)

Block X. Jesus: the good shepherd (10:1-21)

Block Y. Jesus: who is this man? (10:22-42)

Sign B. Jesus raises Lazarus from death (11:1-44)

Block Z. Jesus: this man must die (11:45-57)

Section Five: The Judgment (John 12:1-50)

Two signs

A. Anointing in Bethany (12:1-11)

B. Arrival in Jerusalem (12:12-19)

Three blocks

X. The decision (12:20-36)

Y. The rejection (12:37-43)

Z. The invitation (12:44-50)

Section Six: The Love (13:1 – 20:31)

Three blocks

X. Jesus and his friends (13:1 – 16:33)

1. The last supper (13:1-38)

2. The disciples: two pieces of news (14:1-31)

Jesus goes away (1-14)

Jesus sends his Spirit (15-31)

3. The disciples: three relationships (15:1 – 16:3)

4. The disciples: two pieces of news (16:4-33)

Jesus sends his Spirit (4-15)

Jesus goes away (16-33)

Y. Jesus and his Father (17:1-26)

Z. Jesus and his enemies (18:1 – 19:16)

Two signs

A. The crucifixion (19:17-42)

B. The resurrection (20:1-29)

One purpose (20:30-31)

John's Conclusion (John 21:1-25)

A. The end of the past (21:1-14)

B. The start of the future (21:15-25)