

# 1.9-10 How to understand and teach a Gospel: John's Gospel

## Andrew Page

### A. Introduction

What a Gospel is

#### Why there are 4 Gospels

Matthew, Mark and Luke      synoptics

John

#### The synoptic problem

Who they're for and why they matter

### B. John's Gospel: Getting started

**Author**

**Date**

**Purpose**                      Chapter 20:30-31

#### Highlights

'I am the good Shepherd'

Footwashing

'I am the bread of life'

Prologue

The resurrection appearances of Jesus

Jesus clears the temple

'I am the light of the world'

'Simon, do you love me?'

Jesus and the Samaritan woman

Jesus turns water into wine

'I am the vine'

The promise of the Holy Spirit

'You must be born again'

'It is finished!'

'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'

Jesus walks on Lake Galilee

## C. John's Gospel: Structure

**Why this matters**

**The usual structure**

**Introduction (1:1-18)**

**Main body (1:19 - 20:31)**

The book of signs (1:19-12:50)

Jesus' miracles and their meaning

The book of glory (13:1 - 20:31)

Jesus teaching his disciples (13:1 - 17:26)

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

**Conclusion (21:1-25)**

**The problems**

it's not accurate

it's not learnable

## D. John's Gospel: an alternative structure

After an introduction, which is the whole of chapter 1, I think John has divided the story he wants to tell into six main sections.

Each section consists of two signs and three blocks.

Section Two runs from John 4:43 to 5:47. It looks like this:

### Two signs

- A. Jesus heals a royal official's son (4:43-54)
- B. Jesus heals a paralysed man (5:1-15)

### Three blocks

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

### Four things to notice about this structure:

1. The two signs reveal something about Jesus
2. The three blocks explain what the signs reveal
3. The whole section has a main theme
4. I have given each sign and each block sub-headings

The sub-headings for the two signs:

#### **A. Jesus heals a royal official's son (4:43-54)**

1. Great need (46-47)
2. Effortless authority (48-50a)
3. Growing faith (50b-54)

#### **B. Jesus heals a paralysed man (5:1-15)**

1. Great need (1-3)
2. Effortless authority (5-9a)
3. Growing opposition (9b-15)

## E. John's Gospel: understanding and teaching it

### Understanding

Each group gets a section to focus on

Each half of the group reads through one half of the section in John's Gospel and in Andrew's book (15 minutes)

Each half-group discuss what they've learnt (5 minutes)

### Teaching

Share your section with another small group: teach it!

## F. Conclusion

### My recommendations

Read John's Gospel

Study individual sections

Take one section

Read it through in John

Read the appropriate part of my book on it

Have a go at answering the questions in Appendix 2

Learn the outline

### Your ambitions