

# Discovering the Gospel of John

Jesus' Life and Ministry: A Bible study to take you from Christmas to Easter

## Jesus from the Cradle to the Cross

### John

God in the flesh! What would He be like? What would He do? How would He live in relationship to the Father once he came to earth? How would people know He was God? Would He force people to believe in Him? And what about those who refused to believe He was God?

And of those who believed, who followed Him? What would God in the flesh expect from them? And what if they failed?

God in the flesh. It would be hard for some to believe, but their belief or unbelief would be a matter of life or death.

Three other Gospels had been written, and years had passed/ One more Gospel was needed, one which would answer these questions and more, one which would illuminate the shadows of doubt. So the apostle John answered God's call to write a fourth and final Gospel to explain the One who came to reveal the Father. It was about A.D. 85.

#### Things to do:

1. Before you begin studying the Word of God, remember that truth is revealed! Do your part (study) and allow God to do His part—guide you into all truth. Always begin your study time with prayer, not as a formality, but as a necessity.
2. Read John 21:20-25 to see how the author identifies himself.
3. **To understand the purpose of John, read John 20:30-31. (Why written?)**

#### Chapters 1-12

1. Read this segment chapter by chapter, observing what the author includes to accomplish His purpose.
2. As you read, read with an interrogating mindset; one desiring to find out the who, when, what, where, why and how
3. Look for and mark each occurrence of the following key words:

believe, life, sign, signs, judge, judgment, witness, true, truth, king, & kingdom.

(A key word is a word that if removed from the text, the text is void of meaning). Mark key words by highlighting or underlining or marking each in a distinct, different & consistent way so you will recognize the word each time. Create a list of what you learn from marking key words. They'll make the below obvious.

4. Gather facts looking for:  
Events, geographic locations, timing of events, portrayals of Jesus Christ, signs and miracles, references that show the deity of Jesus, witnesses

#### Chapters 13-17

This segment brings a change in Jesus' ministry as He draws away with His disciples in order to prepare for what is to come.

1. Distinctively mark all references including pronouns for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. List everything you learn about the Holy Spirit.
2. Key words to look for: believe, love, works, commandments, fruit, abide, ask, truth, (true, truly), Satan, (ruler of this world). Mark ruler of this world in chapter 12 as well.
3. List specific instructions or commandments Jesus gives to the disciples.

#### Chapters 18-21

The final chapters of John give an account of the events surrounding the arrest, trial, crucifixion, resurrection & post resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ.

Mark the following key words and their synonyms: witness, believe, love, truth (true), life, king (kingdom).

#### Reflections

1. Do you really believe that Jesus is God? Do you live accordingly?
2. Do people know that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ because of your love for others and because you have continued in His Word?
3. Are you relying on the Spirit of God to comfort you, help you, bear witness through you, do the work of God through you, and guide you into all truth?
4. Do you look at other Christians and wonder why God deals differently with you than He does with them? Do you need to hear His words to Peter in John 21:22, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"? Are you willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads, even if you do it alone?

You'll need a Bible, colored pens/pencils and paper for this study on your own. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) to print off Gospel of John chapter by chapter free of charge.

# Making Lasting Memories



We have this moment to hold in our hand,  
And to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand.  
Yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come,  
But we have this moment today.

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## Christmas Traditions to Try

- Start a tree decorating tradition. Serve the same menu each year as you trim the tree. The children will look forward to it!
- Each Christmas let each of your children choose their own tree ornament. When they are grown, their ornaments will have special memories as they trim their own "family tree."
- Each Christmas start a tradition of viewing all of the family photographs, movies and heirloom slides. It is fun to see how everyone has changed, and it stirs up warm memories to reminisce about when the pictures were taken. This is fun later in the day.
- On December 1 set up a card table with an appropriate jigsaw puzzle (500-1,000 pieces). As guests drop in throughout the holidays, they will enjoy working on the project. The object is to complete the puzzle by Christmas.
- Set a date with another family to go caroling in the neighborhood. Close the evening with hot chocolate and goodies.
- Parents give elementary aged children a set amount of cash to buy gifts for everyone in your immediate household.
- Honor Jesus with a special birthday party.

## Christmas Card Activities

- Each day use the Christmas cards received that day during family devotions.
- Read the card(s) aloud, have a time of prayer for those who sent the card(s).
- Hang cards up for display on the mantle, around a doorway, around an archway, on the back of a door or on the Christmas tree.
- Send a postcard to the families you prayed for telling them about your Christmas-card prayers. They will appreciate knowing you prayed for their family today.
- After Christmas, put all of the cards on the dinner table in a basket or suitable container. Each night take turns choosing 1 card. Discuss the person or family who sent the card. Are there any specific needs or problems you might be able to help with? Close out your dinner time by praying for this person or family.

## Christmas Eve Traditions To Try

- *Read the Christmas Story aloud from the Bible in Luke 2:1-20. Have kids take turns reading to your family.*
- Go to a Christmas Eve candle light service.
- Have the same dinner menu each year.
- Take a family drive to look at light displays.
- Have the children open one package on Christmas eve—perhaps it could be pajamas to keep them snugly and warm tonight.
- Hang Christmas stockings, fill with small treasures once the kids have gone to bed.
- Mom and dad have a glass of eggnog together and talk of love and blessings before you collapse into bed.

## Super Easy Christmas Breakfast Ideas

1. Do-ahead egg bake (assemble night before)
2. Whack on the counter Pillsbury® Cinnamon rolls
3. Cut up fresh fruit
4. Pre-cooked bacon (do earlier in the week & refrigerate)
5. Hot Chocolate, coffee, juice

For Picky Eaters (We all have 'em)

1. Dad's Famous Pancakes (Aren't many Dad's known for this delicacy ???!) Not just for Saturday anymore!
2. Cold cereal...