

Men's Sunday Night Live
Lesson 1 - John 1:1-51
Finding Identity and Purpose
God is Here

The theme of John's Gospel is that Jesus is the Son of God, and in this first chapter he proves his claim. As you read this wonderful chapter, you cannot help but see that Christ is God's Son because of the names and titles He bears, the works He performs, and the witnesses who knew Him personally and declare who He is.

He is the Word

Just as our words reveal our mind and heart, so Christ reveals the mind and heart of God to men. "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father.*" The Bible is the written Word of God, and Christ is the living, incarnate Word of God.

He is the Light

God's first creative act in Gen. 1 was producing light, for life comes from light. Jesus is the true light, that is, the original light from which all light has its source.

He is the Son of God

It was this claim that aroused the Jews to persecute Christ. Note the seven persons in John's Gospel who called Christ the Son of God: John the Baptist, Nathanael, Peter, the healed blind man, Martha, Thomas and the Apostle John.

He is the Christ

"Christ" means the Messiah, the Anointed One. The Jews were expecting their Messiah to appear, and this is why they questioned John. Even the Samaritans were looking for Him.

He is the Lamb of God

There were many lambs slain in Old Testament history, but Christ is the Lamb of God, the unique one. The blood of lambs slain in the tabernacle or temple merely covered sin, but Christ's blood takes away sin. The lambs offered in the Old Testament days were for Israel alone, but Christ died for the sins of the whole world.

He is the King of Israel

Israel's people were tired of Roman rule and wanted a king. Because Christ fed them, they wanted to make Him King, but He left the crowd. He offered Himself as their King but the chief priests said, "We have no king but Caesar!"

He is the Son of Man

Christ is "God's ladder" between earth and heaven, revealing God to men and taking men to God.

We see the Trinity in this chapter: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The Spirit identified Christ to John; and we cannot truly see Christ today unless the Spirit opens our eyes.

John uses the word “witness” often in his Gospel. The witnesses of the Bible can be trusted because they had a personal contact with Christ, and they gained nothing from men by witnessing for Christ. In fact, they suffered for it. There is no evidence that they lied; their witness would stand in court today.

Read John 1:1-18 and answer the following questions

1. Who is “the Word” and what does 1:1-2 tell us about Him?
2. What two traits did the Word have according to 1:4-5?
3. How did the world react to “The Light”? (See 1:9-11)
4. What blessing did He give to those who believe on Him? (See 1:12)
5. What did the Word do according to 1:14?
6. What have we received from Jesus? (See 1:16)

Read John 1:19-28 and answer the following questions

7. Who did John the Baptist say he was? Who did he say he wasn't?
8. How did John compare himself to the one to come after him, and what does it mean? How would you describe John the Baptists mission? (See 1:26-27)
9. How are we as believers called to prepare for the Lord's coming? How can we do better at this?

Read John 1:29-42 and answer the following questions

10. How did John describe Jesus in 1:29? Why do you think Jesus is being referred to as a lamb? Note these following verses where Jesus is referred to as a lamb (John 1:36, Isa. 53:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Rev. 5:12).
11. On the next day, who did John again identify Jesus to be? What happen as a result? (See 1:35-37)
12. What name did Jesus give Simon, and what does this name mean? What do you think was the significance of Simon's new name (little rock)? (See 1:42)

Read John 1:43-51 and answer the following questions

13. On the next day, who did Jesus call? What did He say to him? (See 1:43)
14. Who did Philip find, and what did he say regarding Jesus? (See 1:45)
15. Why do you think Jesus said what he did to Nathanael in 1:50-51? How might you have felt if you had been Nathanael hearing these words?

The Seven Signs of John's Gospel

A famous author once said that the key to good writing is not in knowing what to put into a story, but what to leave out. Imagine then, the problem of writing down the story of Jesus, especially if you have been an eyewitness and even a participant in the events. Of all that Jesus said and did, what would you include? What would you leave out?

John solved the problem by determining what he wanted his gospel to accomplish. He wanted his readers to know that "Jesus is the Christ," the Son of God, and that believing they might have life in His name. To the end, he organized his account around seven miracles that Jesus performed, seven "signs" pointing to His divine nature.

1. Turns water into wine	2:1-11	Jesus is the source of life
2. Heals a nobleman's son	4:46-54	Jesus is master over distance
3. Heals the lame man at the pool of Bethesda	5:1-17	Jesus is master over time
4. Feeds 5,000	6:1-14	Jesus is the bread of life
5. Walks on water, stills a storm	6:15-21	Jesus is master over nature
6. Heals a man blind from birth	9:1-41	Jesus is the light of the world
7. Raises Lazarus from the dead	11:17-45	Jesus has power over death

The fact that there are seven sign miracles is significant. In the Jewish view of life the number seven means perfection or completion. Upon closer inspection, each sign turns out to be rooted in the Old Testament understanding of the Messiah. John's point is that Jesus is perfect and complete. His miracles show that He is the Messiah that Israel has been looking for, and that He alone offers eternal life.