

Lesson 1: Introduction

1. John the Author.

- a. Who is this man named John that wrote the 4th book in the New Testament?
 - 1) First appears in Matthew 4:21:
 - a) He is the son of _____ and most likely the younger brother of _____.
 - b) They were probably natives of _____.
 - c) He and James were _____ by trade and _____ with Simon and his brother Andrew.
 - 2) His second encounter with Jesus is recorded in Luke 5:10-11:
 - a) His testimony: “they _____ all, and _____ him.”
 - b) How many of us would be willing to do what James and John did? Read Matthew 10:37 and Matthew 19:29.
- b. What were John's qualifications?
 - 1) *Jesus does not call the* _____. These four fishermen were not equipped.
 - a) Moses was not equipped. He protested his calling multiple times (Exodus 3:11-4:13).
 - b) Paul was not equipped. Paul had to spend three years in the desert of Arabia being taught by the Holy Spirit before the Lord sent him out on his first missionary journey.
 - 2) *He* _____ *the called*. Read Matthew 4:19.
 - a) John became a member of Jesus’ _____ of disciples. He was known as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”.
 - b) Jesus turned the care of His _____ over to John.
 - c) John became a prominent _____ in the early Jerusalem church.
 - d) He authored _____ books of the New Testament, and lived a long and fruitful life in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2. John's Purpose.

a. Read John 20:30-31

1) John wrote this Gospel to _____. His target audience is _____. He was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write a book with the specific purpose of _____.

2) John's thesis is simple: study this book and you will come to _____ that Jesus is the _____, the _____ of _____, and through that belief you will receive _____ life.

b. Why are we studying this book?

1) The Gospel According to John is God's _____ for witnessing to unbelievers. It should be every soul winner's basic _____.

2) What greater way is there to _____ and _____ our own belief than to study the very book written for that purpose?

3) No one knew the _____ and _____ of Jesus any better than John.

3. John's Method.

a. Read John 20:30-31

1) The Holy Spirit inspired John to select and record only _____ of the miracles performed by Jesus during His pre-resurrection earthly ministry.

2) This tells me that these _____ signs must be pretty special, and that they must contain a very important spiritual message. Each time we come to one we need to ask ourselves: Why did John choose this miracle?, and What is John trying to show us about Jesus through this miracle?

b. Read John 21:25, so why only _____ signs?

c. Also _____ "_____..." statements.

4. John's Organization.

a. Part one includes chapters _____.

b. Part two is comprised of chapters _____.

c. Part three encompasses chapters _____.

d. Part four consists of chapter _____.

5. **Homework:** Read chapter 1 and determine its overall theme.