



Questions

Study Procedure: Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding as you study and don’t be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One: The Author

Read the Introduction.

1. Give some biographical information for the two Johns below:

(a) John the Baptist _____

(b) John the apostle _____

2. According to John 20:30 and 31, John carefully selected the material for his gospel to accomplish a specific purpose. What was it? _____

3. What do you hope to gain from studying the Gospel of John this year? _____

Day Two: John’s Family and Background

1. What was the name of John’s brother and father? See Mark 10:35.

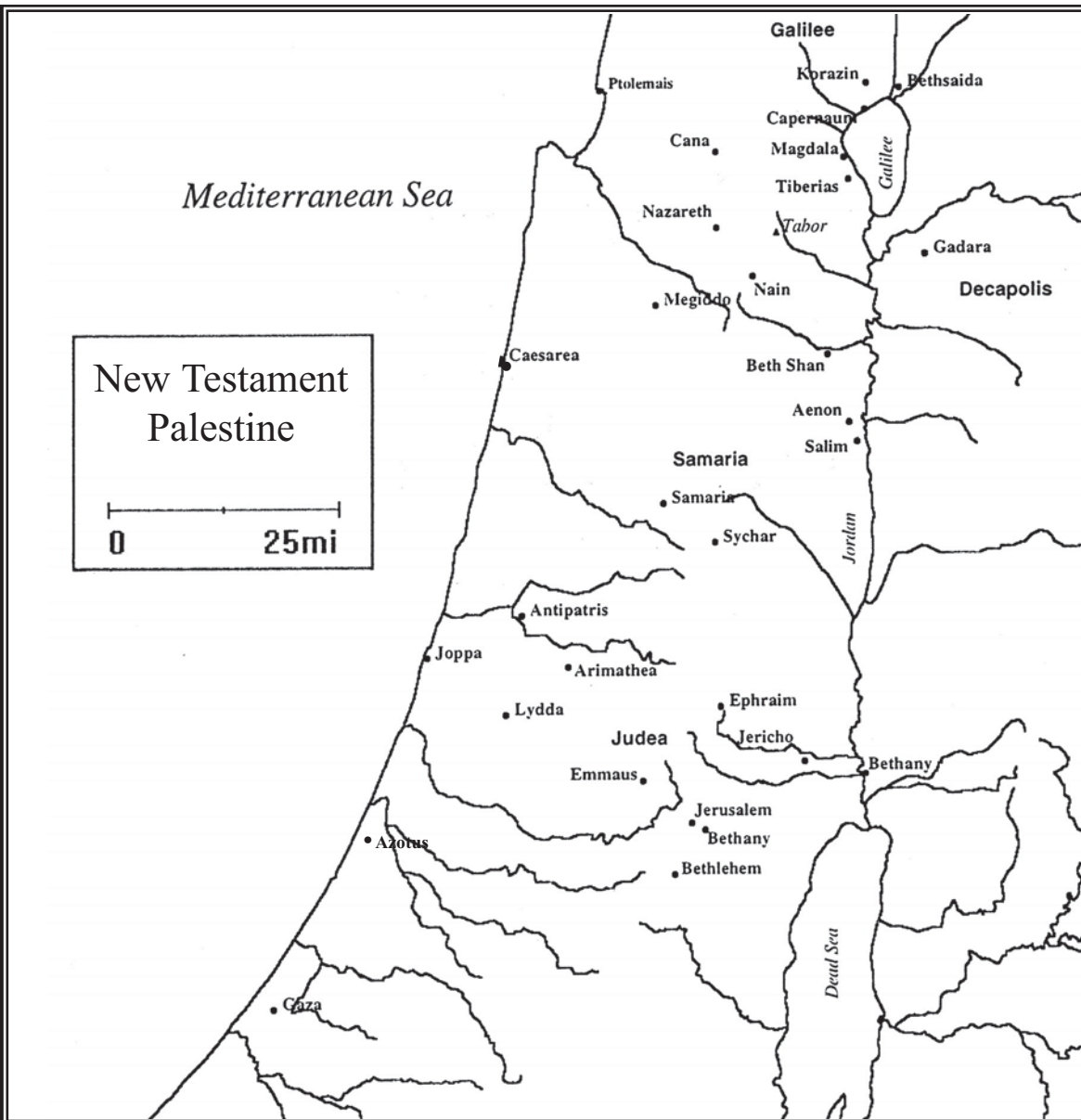
(a) John’s brother _____
(b) John’s father _____

2. Write in one column the names of the women in Mark 15:40,41. Then match each one with its corresponding name from Matthew 27:55,56. (The first one is done for you.)

Mark’s List	Matthew’s List
(a) Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene
(b)	
(c)	

- (d) What can you conclude was the name of John’s mother? _____

MAP STUDY



3. Bethsaida is traditionally named as the birthplace of John. Using the map above, circle Bethsaida and name the nearest body of water and the region of Israel in which Bethsaida was located.

(a) nearest body of water _____

(b) region _____

4. What was John's job and who were his coworkers, when Jesus called him to become a disciple?
See Matthew 4:21,22.

(a) job _____

(b) coworkers _____

Day Three: Events Witnessed by John

1. There was an “inner circle” within the group of Jesus’ twelve disciples, which included Peter, James, and John. Read the following passages and list the events to which these three were eyewitnesses.

(a) Mark 5:22-24, 35-43 _____

(b) Matthew 17:1-3 _____

(c) Matthew 26:36-38 _____

2. In your opinion, from what you have studied this week about John’s life, what aspects of his home-life, vocation, or experiences with Jesus contributed to his being a trustworthy and effective gospel writer? _____

Day Four: Seven Witnesses, Seven Miracles, and Seven “I Ams”

This day’s questions are in chart-form and are designed to give focus to your study of John so that you won’t miss the series of “sevens” John used to organize and present his material.

1. Seven witnesses who testified that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God:

Person	Scripture Reference
(a) John the Baptist	John 1:34
(b)	John 1:41
(c)	John 1:49
(d)	John 4:42
(e)	John 6:69
(f)	John 9:35-38
(g)	John 11:27

2. Seven signs or miracles which prove that Jesus is God:

Sign	Scripture Reference
(a) turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana	John 2:1-11
(b)	John 4:46-54
(c)	John 5:2-9
(d)	John 6:10-14
(e)	John 6:19
(f)	John 9:1-38
(g)	John 11:33-44

3. The seven different metaphors which begin with this wording: *"I am the..."*:

Statement	Scripture Reference
(a) <i>"I am the bread of life."</i>	John 6:35,48,51
(b)	John 8:12 and 9:5
(c)	John 10:7,9
(d)	John 10:11,14
(e)	John 11:25
(f)	John 14:6
(g)	John 15:1,5

Day Five: The Word (John 1:1-5)



1. Read John 1:1-5, the beginning of the prologue or introduction to John's gospel. What similarity exists between the opening verses of Genesis 1 and John's prologue? _____

2. John says "*the Word*" was in the beginning. Read ahead to John 1:14 and 17. Who was this "*Word*"?

3. From the following references, what important facts do we learn about Christ, "*the Word*," before He came to dwell on earth?
- (a) John 1:1-5 _____

- (b) Hebrews 1:1-3 _____

- (c) Colossians 1:15-17 _____

4. Is Christ as "*the Word*" strictly a New Testament idea? Support your answer from some of these verses: Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:6,9; Psalm 147:15; Hebrews 11:3. _____

5. Two elements of creation oppose each other in verse five. What are they? _____

6. The apostle John wrote this gospel in his later years, after having faithfully lived out, in very difficult times, what he knew to be true about Jesus of Nazareth. Reread John 1:1-5 one more time and summarize in one sentence what truth expressed here would sustain or encourage you in troubling circumstances. _____

7. Now take a few minutes to read your study notes for this lesson.

Notes

THE PROLOGUE (JOHN 1:1-5)

prologue - an introduction to a book, play, etc.

The Right Man at the Right Time

The apostle John compiled the information for the fourth gospel in the later years of his long life. He seemed to be the perfect man to give the final Scriptural testimony about the words and actions of Jesus Christ. Though a fisherman in his family's business, John took time to become a disciple of John the Baptist. This spiritual development must have been at least permitted by his father Zebedee and, from the evidence in Scripture about Salome's faithfulness to Jesus, was certainly encouraged by his mother. Even his brother James joined him later when he left John the Baptist to become a disciple of Jesus. John was blessed in having a family who shared his longing and search for Israel's Messiah.

More than a biography, John's gospel is an eyewitness account of selected sayings and actions put together by a man who firmly stood for what he knew, even when persecuted, imprisoned, and doubted by those who wanted to destroy the Christian faith.

discourses - formal and lengthy, written or spoken discussions of a subject

John had another advantage. When he answered Jesus' call to become a disciple, he immediately became an eyewitness to the daily life of His Master. As part of the inner circle, within the larger group of Jesus' twelve disciples, John had almost uninterrupted access to the Lord Himself. John did not waste this privilege. His obvious attentiveness to all Jesus said and did was blessed by the Holy Spirit, who empowered him to recall lengthy conversations with and difficult **discourses** given by Jesus during the three and a half years in which he accompanied the Lord in public ministry.

More than a biography, John's gospel is an eyewitness account of selected sayings and actions put together by a man who firmly stood for what he knew, even when persecuted, imprisoned, and doubted by those who wanted to destroy the Christian faith. John did not write everything there was to know about Jesus. He commented in John 21:25: *"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."*

What John did include in his gospel fit into a pattern, three series of sevens: seven witnesses, seven divine claims, and seven signs. John wanted his gospel to be memorable so that it would be life-changing: *"these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"* (John 20:31). Have you found such "life"?

In the Beginning Was the Word (John 1:1-3)

"In the beginning was the Word." John's echo of the opening of Genesis in his first line, *"in the beginning,"* reminds his readers of the first "Word" or revelation from God expressed through the creation (Romans 1:20). As in Genesis, God is taken for granted. There is no attempt on John's part to prove that God exists; John proceeds as if there could be no controversy on such a subject and on the full assumption that He is, as beyond any question.

"In the beginning was the Word." Jesus was not only present at creation, but He was also God's agent in creation: *"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made"* (John 1:3). The writer of Hebrews confirms this also, with his description of Jesus as God's Son, *"whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds"* (Hebrews 1:2).

"In the beginning was the Word." Jesus as the *"Word"* of God is the main subject of John's gospel. We would not know God if He had not chosen to make Himself known to us. After the revelation of creation, God communicated verbally to His people through His prophets, who recorded what He spoke to them. But *"when the fullness of time had come,"* God sent His ultimate and final *"Word"*: Jesus the Christ, God in human flesh, not only to teach but also to communicate through action and finally through sacrifice how sinful man could be reunited to his holy Creator (Galatians 4:4).

"In the beginning was the Word." The *"Word"* (or in Greek, *Logos*) existed *"in the beginning."* Notice that John did not write *"from the beginning."* He did not refer to some definite point of time but to the indefinite eternity which preceded all time. The *"Word"* or *Logos* always was. John continued, *"and the Word was with God."* Christ is the eternal self of God, possessing the divine nature and existing with God. He has a conscious existence, distinct from the Absolute One: He is with Him. However, John explained further: *"and the Word was God."* He is God in form, the express image of the Father (Hebrews 1:3). *"Was God"* implies coequality. The Son can never be the Father, but He is of the same essence and nature as the Father. God was never without His Son. Christ was with God in His counsel and redemptive purpose. Christ is the center of the plan of our salvation (Revelation 3:4,5; Colossians 1:15-18; and Ephesians 1:4). When God took on human form, He experienced hunger, thirst, and fatigue as other men. He grew in wisdom and stature. He was subject to the humbling, petty details of daily life, even as any of us; yet, at intervals, John recorded moments of flashing glory, which Jesus had before the world was.

Life and Light (John 1:4)

What is God, man, life, or destiny? The only answers that carry any sufficient weight of evidence are those obtained by those who understand the life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world, the revelation of the Father.

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Where Christianity is not, there is darkness and death; where Christianity is, there is light and life. Multitudes testify that Jesus Christ, the power of Christianity, has made them new creatures.

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." The way of the Christian life was not taught by Jesus; the life was in Him. He is the source of life and light for all people. He is the fountain from which every stream of life flows, and the life is the source of light. Point others to Christ: in Him are solutions to the spiritual and moral problems we face today.

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"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." The revelation of Jesus Christ is the greatest miracle of history. Apart from Christ, there is no hope for man's moral future in its degradation, unholiness, selfishness, and shame. In Him is found life-giving power. Through Him the way is reopened to the Father. He canceled our sin-debt through His death in our place so that we could be brought into the very family of God.

"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). This is the distinct provision of Christianity. *"Holding fast the word of life"*: this is our continuous Christian duty (Philippians 2:16).

**Light Verses
Darkness
(John 1:5)**

"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." At no time in the history of mankind was the darkness more dense and universal than at that period of time when Christ, the light of the world, appeared. The religion of heathenism was pervasive. The Romans brought their idolatry to an all-time low when they began worshiping their emperors. The Greeks had speculated so broadly about religion that they openly acknowledged their ignorance, exemplified in the dedication of an Athenian altar *"TO THE UNKNOWN GOD"* (Acts 17:23). The ancient world powers were in their final stages. The religion of the Jews had also run its course, having deteriorated largely to a system of ceremonies and legal requirements. It was at this dark time that the light of God shone brightly through the person of Jesus Christ.

"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." Darkness always opposes light, but where light exists, darkness cannot prevail. The Greek word for *"comprehend"* means "to seize or possess." In other words, Jesus as God's Light came into this world but was immediately opposed by the spiritual darkness of Satan's forces. However, darkness will never overwhelm God's Light. The struggle still continues, but the power of Christ will always enable His followers to overcome.

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