

As you read each passage of John, you may want to consider one or more of the following questions:

- Why would John include this in his gospel?
- How might John's original audience hear and interpret this passage?
- How do 2000 years and the perspectives & values of our western culture affect how we hear & interpret this passage?
- What truths/lifestyle principles are taught in this passage?
- Do our privileged lifestyles prevent us from living out the truths/principles taught in this passage?

JULY

1	1:1-5
2	1:6-13
3	1:14-18
4	1:19-28
5	1:29-34
6	1:35-42
7	1:43-51
8	2:1-11
9	2:12-22
10	2:23-25
11	3:1-21
12	3:22-30
13	3:31-36
14	4:1-26
15	4:27-38
16	4:39-42
17	4:43-54
18	5:1-15
19	5:16-30
20	5:31-40
21	5:41-47
22	6:1-15
23	6:16-21
24	6:22-24
25	6:25-40
26	6:41-51
27	6:52-59
28	6:60-71
29	7:1-13
30	7:14-24
31	7:25-31

AUGUST

1	7:32-36
2	7:37-44
3	7:45-52
4	8:1-11
5	8:12-20
6	8:21-30
7	8:31-41
8	8:42-47
9	8:48-59
10	9:1-12

AUG.(cont)

11	9:13-23
12	9:24-34
13	9:35-41
14	10:1-21
15	10:22-42
16	11:1-16
17	11:17-31
18	11:32-37
19	11:38-44
20	11:45-53
21	11:54-57
22	12:1-11
23	12:12-19
24	12:20-36
25	12:37-50
26	13:1-17
27	13:18-30
28	13:31-38
29	14:1-14
30	14:15-24
31	14:25-31

SEPTEMBER

1	15:1-11
2	15:12-17
3	15:18-25
4	15:26-16:3
5	16:4-11
6	16:12-15
7	16:16-24
8	16:25-28
9	16:29-33
10	17:1-5
11	17:6-19
12	17:20-26
13	18:1-11
14	18:12-18
15	18:19-27
16	18:28-32
17	18:33-42
18	19:1-12
19	19:13-16
20	19:17-27
21	19:28-37
22	19:38-42
23	20:1-9
24	20:10-18
25	20:19-23
26	20:24-29
27	20:30-31
28	21:1-14
29	21:15-19
30	21:20-25

JOHN

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Of the sixty-six books in the Bible, no writings are more important than the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. While all four gospels tell some of the same stories, the gospels are like interviewing four different relatives about their perspective of Grandfather. While each relative will repeat some of the same stories, each will include some information peculiarly their own. This is a good way to read and interpret the four gospels.

Most scholars agree The Gospel according to John was written in Ephesus between 90 to 110 A.D. By this time, most of the eye-witnesses of Jesus' ministry had died. Also, the Church had entered the Gentile world and now consisted more of people from a Hellenistic/Greek background than from the Jewish roots of Christian faith. The message of Christian faith had not changed. Yet, the ways in which this message was communicated needed to be restated.

The Gospel of John is unique. Whereas the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) differ somewhat from one another, they see Jesus alike. John, though, is different in language, and in his report of the chronology of Jesus' ministry. John is literature, history and theology and influenced the doctrines of the early Church as much as any other book of the New Testament. At the end of the third century, Clement of Alexandria described John's Gospel as "a spiritual version of the other three Gospels."

Only through John do we learn of a three-year time-frame for Jesus' ministry as John frames his work around three celebrations of Passover. In John, there are fewer miracle stories; each one mentioned as a sign of Jesus' identity and power for the purpose of empowering faith among people.

John uses metaphorical language and presents long segments of Jesus' sermons. However, not one parable is used in John. The Kingdom of God, a major theme in the Synoptics, is barely mentioned by John. He does not mention Jesus' birth, baptism, temptations, Last Supper, prayer in Gethsemane or ascension. We will not read of Jesus healing anyone possessed by demons in John.

Yet, as we seek to live faithfully and obediently, in our relationship with God, through our commitments to Jesus Christ, as Lord, we should be encouraged by a promise of Jesus, recorded only in the Gospel of John: *"All this I have spoken while still with you. But, the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you"* (John 14:25-26). This Holy Spirit of God, promised by Jesus, convicts the world of guilt regarding sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8) and guides Jesus' followers into all dimensions of truth (John 16:13).

Thus, let us now turn our attention to the Fourth Gospel. It is through the Gospel of John, maybe more than any other book of scripture within the pages of New Testament literature, that we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit of God to be taught, convicted and guided in our journey of discipleship, continuing the mission of God, as revealed through Christ.



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St. John's encourages spiritual growth. Growing in biblical literacy is an essential aspect of spiritual growth. We must always seek to connect our discipleship, to worship, work, God's mission and our social relationships.

Please use this brochure as a resource to support your spiritual growth. We encourage you to reflect each day on the passage of scripture.

This is the fourth of four quarterly brochures to be published this year. Each is designed to guide you through an in-depth reading of the gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

(John: July – September)