

# "HE DWELT AMONG US"

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 1 Chapter 1: 1-18

*Jesus said "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him." John 14:23*

When we love the Lord, we want to live in close fellowship with Him. We treasure His love and His presence in our lives. Jesus tells us that our love is evidenced by "keeping His word." We must *know* His word in order to keep it. That is the goal of this study, to learn God's word in such a way that we first know what it says. When we realize what the Bible says, then we can proceed to understand its meaning and lessons. Then, and only then, can we gain insight into how the Bible applies to our life. God begins speaking to our hearts in a personal and powerful way. There will never be a richer reward than the abiding presence of God in your life! *"Belief, you see, can only come from hearing the message, and the message is the word of Christ."* **Romans 10:17** (Phillips translation). **Take a moment to pray right now. The Lord will help you to open your heart and mind to what He has to teach you.**

### KEYS TO BIBLE STUDY

#### A. PRAYER

Ask God, Himself, to be your teacher and to guide as you seek to understand what *He* has to say. *"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God."* **I Corinthians 2:12**. He is very interested in your growth in faith and your knowledge of Him. Pray with expectancy. You can be confident that He will reveal Himself through His word.

#### B. DESIRE

Our life in Christ is more precious than gold. We must be nourished to be healthy and to grow. God's word is our spiritual food. **I Peter 2:2** tells us, *"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."* Many Christians are weak and starving because they are not reading and personally studying. Jesus said, *"Thou shalt not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* **Matthew 4:4**

As with any loving Father, God has so much that He wants to teach us. He wants to assure, guide, warn, enlighten and encourage. **Stop** and pray that you will have a *desire* and *hunger* to feast on His word.

#### C. COMMITMENT

King David once said, "I will not give to the Lord that which costs me nothing." There is absolutely no doubt that there is a price to pay when we commit ourselves to spend the time for study. There will be days or weeks when many other things will distract us and vie for our time. Our commitment must be from our heart and given unto God. *"Choose this day whom you will serve."* **Joshua 24:15**

Find a certain time that is best for you to set aside each day. Early in the morning before

responsibilities of the day begin, or alone at lunch time, or in the quiet of the evening are best for most. The enemy of our souls will make it his goal to distract. Pray and persevere! The rewards will be great.

## INTRODUCTION: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

### Authorship:

The apostle John was the writer of this gospel. He identified himself in the book only as, "*The disciple whom Jesus loved.*" (**John 21:20, 24**) John was a son of a fisherman from Galilee named Zebedee. He was the younger brother of another apostle named James. The brothers were also known as the "sons of thunder." John had an especially close relationship with Jesus and was included in the "inner circle." John was seated next to the Lord at the Last Supper.

### Date:

The Gospel of John was the last of the four written. The early church fathers believed it was written when John was an old man. Therefore, a date between 85 A.D. and 95 A.D. is assumed.

### Purpose:

*"Many other signs, therefore, Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."* **John 20:30, 31.** John clearly states that his purpose was not to record every detail, miracle and teaching of the ministry of Jesus. His purpose *was* to present a clear picture, with miracles as signs to support belief in Jesus as the Christ and Son of God. John recorded seven sign-miracles to reveal the person and mission of Jesus.

### JESUS' SEVEN "SIGNS" in the Gospel of John

1. **Changing water into wine in Cana. (2:1-11)**
2. **Healing an official's son in Capernaum. (4:46-54)**
3. **Healing an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. (5:1-18)**
4. **Feeding the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee. (6:5-14)**
5. **Walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee. (6:16-21)**
6. **Healing a blind man in Jerusalem. (9:1-7)**
7. **Raising dead Lazarus in Bethany. (11:1-45)**

### Emphasis:

When the Gospel of John is compared with the other three gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), the emphasis is clearly different. John does not include Jesus' genealogy, birth, baptism, temptations, casting out of demons, parables, transfiguration, the Lord's Supper, His agony in Gethsemane or His ascension. John *does* stress the ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem, the feasts of the Jewish nation, Jesus' private conversations with individuals and His ministry to His disciples.

The gospels were not meant to be complete biographies of Jesus. Each gospel writer, through the Holy Spirit, chose certain facts, teachings and actions which would serve the goal of that particular book. Each gospel records certain miracles and omits others. Since the ministry of Jesus lasted about three

years, it's clear that many things were left unrecorded. The focus of the gospels is the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection.

### **Themes:**

Deity and Humanity, "*He Dwelt Among Us*" is the wonderful message of this gospel. God was manifest in the flesh. God became a man, lived in a body and walked on the earth. Jesus was fully God and fully man.

The key word in the Gospel of John is "*believe,*" which occurs 98 times. John wanted to stress an active, continuous and vital trust in Jesus.

### **Inductive Bible Study**

This study will be written with a format geared to encourage you as the student to go through a process to more thoroughly understand God's Word. We will be using the tools of the Inductive Bible Study method. The three basic steps of this method are:

- 1. OBSERVATION:** Discovering the basic facts is the first step; the who, what, when, where, why, and how. As you read through the text, observe and record the facts that are key to understanding what is really happening or being taught. This will help you to accurately determine what the portion of scripture says. At this stage, you will not try to determine an interpretation or application. You will merely be reporting the facts.
- 2. INTERPRETATION:** The second step is to read through the facts to understand the meaning. What did that event or teaching mean to the people of that time? What is it teaching? What can we learn? What does it mean to us today? Many of the questions in the homework portion of the lesson will be used to help you discover answers and insights.
- 3. APPLICATION:** The final step is rich and rewarding. After you learn what God's word says first and then what it means by what it says, you will truly be able to apply it effectively and powerfully to your life! This is where the transforming effect of the Word of God is applied, resulting in renewed thinking and actions. Questions in the homework that ask you how you can grow or change from what you have learned are directed toward application.

### **DAY #1**

Begin the study this very first day and *every day* with prayer. Look to the Lord as the Instructor and view yourself as *His* student.

Read **John 1: 1-18**. Read through again and list the important facts. You might want to go verse by verse and list the facts you find by the number of the verse. Sometimes you will want to group several verses together and pick out one or more facts in the grouping of verses. At this stage, observe what is being said, who is saying it, what are the key statements, ideas, actions, and people.

- 1.
- 2.
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- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.

**DAY #2**     **Read John 1:1-3**     Begin your study today, as always, with prayer.

- 1) We see as we read through these verses that Jesus and "The Word" are the same. When we speak, we express ourselves with words. We make our thoughts known. When our thoughts are known, we are known. In light of this, why do you think Jesus was called "The Word?" Share additional insights you gain from reading **John 1:18**, focusing on the statement "He has declared Him" (New King James version). Also read **Hebrews 1:1-2**.
- 2) "*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus)*" **John 1:1**. Notice that "was" is past tense. What does this tell us about the existence of Jesus *before* His birth in Bethlehem? (Also refer to **John 17:5**).

***“Just as His death was not the end of Him, His birth was not the beginning of Him”***

- 3) Read **John 1:3** and **Colossians 1:16**. List all of the things that were created by and through Jesus.
  
- 4) Thousands of years ago, Job made a remarkable, scientifically accurate description of the universe (**Job 26:7-14**). From this passage, write down some of the amazing things God does that we take for granted.

***Creation is not only more complex than we think it is. It is more complex than we can think.***

- 5) There is a controversy between those who believe in the theory of evolution and those who believe that God is the Creator of all that exists. The Bible says that God is the intelligent master planner of the heavens and earth (**Genesis I**). Many choose to believe that the universe *evolved* from a series of accidents, mutations and explosions. It is interesting to note that when we observe this happening today, the result is not progress or improvement, it is chaos. In **Romans 1:18-22**, we learn that man's refusal to acknowledge their Creator is not new with our generation. Describe in your own words why people choose to have "*blind faith*" in theories that reject God. Use the passage from Romans to help explain your answer.

**DAY #3    Read John 1:4-5    LIGHT AND LIFE**

- 1) What two things does Jesus offer in **verse 4**?
  
- 2) Since many people are *physically* alive without Jesus, explain the "*Life in Him*" spoken of here. You may write of your own personal experience.

***Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10***

- 3) The "light" in **verses 4** and **5** is not mere physical light. Write down as many benefits of light that you can think of. Then describe how these features have a spiritual application. Add scriptures if possible to your applications.

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

Example:

A. Light helps us see where we're going.  
lives.

God's Word is a Light to our

He gives us insight and wisdom.

B.

C.

D.

**DAY #4     Read John 1:6-13     JOHN THE BAPTIST, A MAN WITH A MISSION \_\_\_\_**

1) From **John 1:6-8** and **verse 15**, what do you learn about the mission, goals and attitudes of John the Baptist?

**\*DIGGING DEEPER\*** Read the account of John the Baptist in **Luke 1:5-25** and **Luke 1:57-80**. This gives some interesting background.

2) Read **John 1:9**. We learn in this verse that the light is offered to *every* man on the earth. Many people worry about people in remote parts of the world where there are no missionaries. And yet, we hear from missionaries that even in darkest Africa or communist China, they find people who believe in God. They have responded to the "*light*" of the evidence of a great and powerful God who created the world. Read **Psalm 19:1-3**. From these verses, explain how people from remote areas come to the knowledge of God and thus respond to the "*light*."

3) Describe, in your own words, the sad response of some as stated in **John 1:10-11**.

4) After reading **verses 12** and **13**, explain what happens when someone "believes" and "receives" the light.

5) When we receive Him, God adopts us. He is our Father and He loves us more than any earthly father could. Maybe we struggle with the concept of a positive father image because our own fathers let us down. We must not carry these negative concepts over to our relationship with God. **Psalm 27:10** tell us, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up." He wants to make it up to us. He wants to be the father we never had.

A. What are the advantages, privileges, and benefits that a *loving* father would bestow on a daughter?

- B. What are some duties, responsibilities and actions a devoted daughter would love doing to please her father?
- C. Summarize your thoughts from A and B and apply them to your relationship with God your Heavenly Father. Make your response as personal as possible. Pause and pray that the Lord will imprint the truth of all He is and wants to be to you on your heart.

**DAY #5 Read John 1:14-18**

- 1) Read and ponder the concept of the fact that “He dwelt among us” as stated in **John 1 verses 14 and 18**. One of the struggles we have in our faith is that we cannot physically see God. From these verses, explain why it was important that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world in the form of a human man and how it helps us understand God better. This is an important concept and truth, ponder deeply as you answer.

***“He is the image of the invisible God” Colossians 1:15***

- 2) One of the reasons for studying the Gospel of John is so that, at completion, we will truly know Jesus. We will *behold Him and see His glory (verse 14)*. We will know what He did, what He said, what He views as important and unimportant. The apostle John's life was definitely changed by his close, personal time with Jesus.

A. What was the goal for writing this gospel as stated in **John 20:31**?

B. What are *your* goals in this study?

- 3) What does **John 1:16-17** tell us we have received through Jesus?

A. From a dictionary (preferably a Bible dictionary) write out the definition of "grace."

B. Write out the definition of "truth."

C. Why are grace and truth important to your life? Really ponder this question and be as descriptive as possible.

- 4) Read **John 1:16-17**. The Law, which was written on tablets of stone and given to Moses, gave the people of Israel rules which provided order for their lives and society. The problem with the Law is that sinful man has a very hard time obeying it. What wonderful change has God made for us as stated in **Hebrews 10:16-17**?

## DAY #6 APPLICATION

- 1) Read through **John 1:1-18** again. Write down five personal applications of what these verses mean to you. How do they apply to *your* life? Is there an example you can follow, a promise you can accept, an exhortation or warning you need to heed? Look back on page 2 of this lesson for the explanation of application. This part can be stated in the form of questions you ask yourself.

Example:

A. Lesson from **verse 4**- "In Him is Life"      Am I living the full free life He has intended?  
How can I be filled more with His Life?

B.

C.

D.

E.

- 2) Prayerfully star three lessons from question one that you especially desire to apply to your life. Ask the Lord to help you grow in these areas. Jesus tells us in **John 15:5**, "Without Me, you can do nothing." The Lord is ready, willing and able to work those changes in you as you yield to Him. ***"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6***

\*Most Bible quotations in this lesson are from the New King James version