

# The Gospel of John





# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A 7-WEEK STUDY

ASHLEY ARMIJO, TAYLOR MITCHELL,  
AND ELLEN KRAUSE

*The Creators of Coffee and Bible Time*

**MOODY PUBLISHERS**  
CHICAGO

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Edited by Ashleigh Slater

Interior design: Puckett Smartt

Cover design: Brittany Schrock

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Authors photo: Isaac Mitchell

ISBN: 978-0-8024-3418-0

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820 N. LaSalle Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60610  
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

*Printed in the United States of America*

*For our incredible husbands—  
Johnny Armijo, Douglas Krause, and Isaac Mitchell—  
your unwavering love, steady encouragement,  
and constant belief in us made this possible.  
We truly couldn't have done it without you.*

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# Before Diving In

*From Ashley, Taylor, and Ellen*

**B**efore we dive deep into studying the gospel of John, we want to introduce ourselves! This Bible study comes from the hearts of two sisters, Ashley and Taylor, and our mom, Ellen. The three of us do online ministry together at Coffee and Bible Time and love connecting with people all over the world and teaching them how to study the Bible. We have seen many benefits from the EASY Bible Study Method, and we are here to guide you through the process step by step. We are so excited to delve into God's Word with you!

Let's get started!

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# This Bible Study Is for You

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*From Ashley, Taylor, and Ellen*

**T**he Bible is shallow enough for a child to wade in yet deep enough for an elephant to drown.<sup>21</sup> This statement couldn't be truer. A child can grasp the mystery that Jesus loves them, yet at the same time, scholars spend their entire lives studying the complexities of Scripture, never reaching its full depth.

The book of John is simple yet profound. Its central theme is about the good news of Jesus, who loves the world and loves you. It shares the clear story of God sending His Son into the world to live a perfect life, die the death we deserved, and rise again. Every word written is there for a purpose—"so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Each sentence in John is packed with meaning and depth. The book contains over a hundred connections to the Old Testament and many theological, historical, and cultural concepts. But, if this is your first Bible study or it has been a while since you've done one, we don't want you to be scared away by John's vastness. Studying Scripture does not have to feel overwhelming. It can be incredibly fulfilling, regardless of your background or experience.

So, if you need a place to start or restart, *this study is for you!* The goal of this study is to keep things simple. We will open our hearts to the profound truths of God's love and the heart of Jesus Himself. Not only will you learn how to study the Bible for yourself, but more importantly, you will encounter the God of the universe on every page, and your personal relationship with Him will grow as a result.

In this study, we will highlight important stories and key individuals whom Jesus encountered during His time on earth. These people are not much different than you and me. They are normal, regular, everyday people who Jesus called to Himself. As you get to know them, their stories, and how Jesus loved them, we hope that you will see that, just like them, you are not following Jesus by accident. **He intentionally called you to believe in Him.** He continues to be after your heart and wants to see you grow in your relationship with Him and enjoy the benefits of eternal life now!

Here is the breakdown of **who you will encounter** as you read through seven different stories within the book of John:

1. **Jesus.** He is the main character in every story. John puts Jesus on display, emphasizing how Jesus came on a mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
2. **Jesus' first disciples.** Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael were normal Jewish men. They likely weren't highly educated and were lowly fishermen, yet Jesus called them to be part of His inner circle.
3. **Nicodemus.** He was a highly educated Pharisee and devout Jew who followed the rules of Judaism very strictly. Nicodemus came to Jesus in the darkness of the night with much curiosity to meet Him and understand His teachings.
4. **The woman at the well.** She was a Samaritan woman who had five different husbands yet still could not quench the thirst of her soul. She went to the well in the midday heat alone, not realizing Jesus had a divine encounter planned for her.
5. **The man born blind.** A marginalized man who was blind since birth not only received his physical sight through Jesus' powerful miracle, but even greater than that, he received *spiritual sight* and saw Jesus for who He truly is.

6. **Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.** They were siblings who were all close friends with Jesus. Lazarus became sick and died. Martha and Mary both turned to Jesus in grief and sorrow but also in genuine faith. They wished Jesus had been there sooner to heal Lazarus, not realizing that Jesus had an even greater plan for Lazarus to come to life once again.
7. **Thomas.** One of Jesus' disciples who was filled with doubt after hearing that Jesus had risen from the grave. Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive until he could see and touch Jesus himself.

These next seven weeks will be filled with emotion, adventure, and deep self-reflection as you encounter Jesus in every story. Just as He was pursuing the hearts of many people in the Gospel of John, so He is continually pursuing your heart today. As you read the stories of real men and women who felt the call from Jesus in their lives to follow Him, you'll find yourself relating to their journeys of faith and their deepest emotions. Through these seven stories, Jesus will transform your heart and call you into deeper intimacy with Himself.



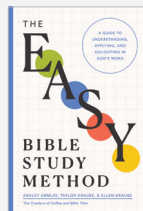
# Overview of the EASY Bible Study Method

*From Ashley, Taylor, and Ellen*

**A**s you read through the gospel of John, your guide will be the EASY Bible Study Method. This method makes studying Scripture a bit more straightforward allowing you to connect with God more deeply and personally.

If you are wondering why we call it the EASY Bible Study Method, EASY is an acronym to help you remember each step to study, process, and apply Scripture to your life. Here, we will give you a simple overview of the EASY Method, but if you want a full guide to it, check out our book, *The EASY Bible Study Method*.

## *The EASY Bible Study Method* book



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## EASY BIBLE STUDY METHOD

<b>E</b>	Enter into the Story
<b>A</b>	Assess the Main Idea
<b>S</b>	Seek God and His Character
<b>Y</b>	Yearn for a Heart Change and Deeper Intimacy with God

## **E** Enter into the Story

The first step is to *Enter into the Story*. You will learn how to step into a Bible story by reading the text slowly and thoughtfully. You will also discover the importance of context when reading Scripture and how to identify the context. In essence, you will become a keen observer when reading the Bible and learn how to ask insightful questions. Here are the main steps to entering into the story that we practice throughout this study:

- **Pray** before reading
- **Read** the text slowly and thoughtfully
- **Determine** the context
  - Where does this fit in the storyline of the Bible?
  - Who was the original author?
  - Who was the original audience and what were they going through?
- **Put** yourself in the story
- **Ask** good questions

## **A** Assess the Main Idea

Next, you will learn how to *Assess the Main Idea* of a Scripture passage by highlighting key points and themes through annotation, paraphrasing, and uncovering the passage's meaning. We know that may sound intimidating right now, but we promise you can do it! Stick with us! And as you work through those steps, the main idea will naturally emerge. Here are the main steps to assessing the main idea that we will use throughout this study:

Annotate the passage (identifying keywords and themes).

- Highlight or circle keywords and phrases, make notes of the context of the passage, ask questions, define words, connect ideas, note God and His character.

Paraphrase the passage in your own words.

- Break the text into chunk, summarize each chunk into bite-size pieces, and then write one- to two-sentence paraphrases
- Ask yourself: What is the main idea of this passage?

## **S** Seek God and His Character

Third, we will show you how to *Seek God and His Character* by looking for explicit and implicit qualities and characteristics of God. Seeking these out aims to allow you to grow closer to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by gaining a deeper understanding more of who He is. You will realize how knowing His character shapes your thoughts about Him, feelings toward Him, and your actions. Here are the main steps to seeking God and His character that we will apply throughout this study:

Write out a list of who God is from the passage. (“**God is \_\_\_\_\_**”)

- Find explicit qualities and characteristics of God
  - Attributes plainly written in the text
- Find implicit qualities and characteristics of God
  - Look at the context clues, mainly actions, to find attributes not plainly found

## **Y** Yearn for a Heart Change and Deeper Intimacy with God

Finally, you’ll be encouraged to *Yearn for a Heart Change and Deeper Intimacy with God*. You will learn the importance of desiring Him to personally meet you where you are so you can be transformed by Him and His Word.<sup>2</sup> Here are the main steps to yearning for a heart change that we will practice throughout this study:

- Journaling questions for inward transformation of heart and mind
- Journaling questions for outward application

## Dig Deeper

### DIG DEEPER

Each week, we will close our study on Day 5 by digging deeper into the passage. This is where you will take your Bible study time a step further and learn important study tools, such as how to read commentaries and look into the historical and cultural context of a passage. Along with this, you will learn how to connect more deeply with a passage through prayer, journaling, art, worship, and memorization. Digging deeper is your opportunity to become like a sponge and soak up all the extra nutrients the passage has to offer. It is one of our favorite parts of Bible study!

## **Let's Begin!**

Whether you are completely new to studying Scripture or if you are giving it another go, we are excited you have chosen to use the EASY Bible Study Method to study John with us! Let's start by opening our Bibles up to the gospel of John and going back to the very beginning.



# Receive or Reject

John 1:1–18

*From Ashley*

**H**ave you ever felt like the rug was pulled out from under you? The first year of marriage felt a lot like that for me. After I walked down the aisle, it wasn't just my last name that changed. I packed my bags, left my childhood home and family, and stepped into a brand-new life in a brand-new town. I had to learn how to be married, make new friends while battling social anxiety, and figure out what it means to be a pastor's wife. On top of it all, I was experiencing depression and overwhelming waves of self-doubt.

My new husband patiently and lovingly walked with me through it all—he never left my side. He constantly reminded me of God's love for me and that **I am God's child: accepted, loved, and secure in Jesus**. It was that truth alone that carried me through the valley. Perhaps someone in your life has done the same for you in a difficult season.

John emphasized this same message to his readers: **Through Jesus' great love and sacrifice, we are welcomed into God's family**. In John 1:1–18, he boldly proclaimed Jesus as God. Though many rejected Jesus, the invitation to become a child of God remains open to all who believe.

## WEEK 1 | DAY 1

# Written So That You May Believe

## **E** Enter into the Story

To start your Bible study time, you will enter into the story. This is your opportunity to slow down and enjoy today's passage. It is full of incredible beauty and truth! There may be things you don't fully understand, and that's okay. Just keep moving forward, and you will be surprised at how much you learn by the end of this week's study.

### Prayer

**Start your Bible study time with this prayer.** Quiet your heart, slow down, and read each word out loud to the Lord:

*Dear Lord, soften my heart and open my eyes to behold wonderful things out of your Word. Amen.*

### Read slowly and thoughtfully

**Open your Bible to John 1:1–18. Read it slowly and thoughtfully. The passage is also included for you here.**

At the start of each week, we encourage you to read the passage while also listening to an audio version. Hearing and reading together can help you understand it more deeply. You can find audio readings on a Bible app or online.

 Listen to the text while reading

## John 1:1–18

### The Word Became Flesh

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Write down your insights. What stands out to you initially? Also, note any questions you have while reading the text.

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# Context of The Gospel of John



## Author

John one of Jesus' closest disciples and friends.

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## Audience

Jews and Gentiles (non-Jewish people)

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## Date

Likely around AD 85–95. Believers were facing persecution and the early church was growing.

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## Location

John likely wrote to believers living in Asia Minor near Ephesus (modern-day Turkey).

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## Purpose

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31 ESV).

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Context

You may be wondering **who the author, John, is**. Most credible sources will tell you that he was one of Jesus' closest disciples. He is not to be confused with John the Baptist, whom you read about in John 1:6–7 and appears again in John 1:19–34. Although the author John never directly mentions his name, he refers to himself as the disciple “whom Jesus loved” multiple times throughout the book (John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20).

John walked with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry. He is considered to be one of **Jesus' closest friends**. John was there when Jesus died on the cross, saw Jesus alive after He rose from the grave, and watched Jesus ascend into heaven. It is absolutely incredible that we have a firsthand witness account of the life of Jesus through His beloved disciple, John.

John originally wrote this story to **Jews and Gentiles** (*Gentile* means a non-Jew), **encouraging them to believe in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God**.

**Look up John 20:31.** It explains why John wrote this book. Write down the verse here:

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The word **belief** is used **nearly 100 times** within the book of John. It's a theme within John's gospel that we cannot escape. Every story and moment that John captured is included to help lead his readers to believe in Jesus.

Reflect

As you start this journey through John, reflect on where your heart is now. Circle where you currently stand on this belief spectrum, and honestly journal where you are in your walk with Jesus.



WEEK 1 | DAY 2

# It All Starts Here

## Assess the Main Idea

Now that we have become familiar with John 1:1–18, our goal is to assess the main idea and figure out what this passage means.

**Annotate**

Reread John 1:1–18, but this time focus on some key components of the passage, such as:



Highlight the name **Jesus** and the other **names of Jesus in purple**:

- The Word, the only Son, Jesus Christ, God the only Son



Highlight the following **character references in green**:

- **John the Baptist.** He was Jesus' relative (Luke 1:36), whom God called to pave the way for Jesus. His ministry was all about **pointing people to Jesus**; that's why the text says John "bore witness about him" (John 1:15). John the Baptist is not to be confused with the author John, who was Jesus' disciple.



Identify **themes**:

- Circle **life** and **light in purple**
- Circle the **world in red**
- Circle **grace** and **truth in blue**
- Highlight any forms of **belief in yellow**:
  - believe, believed

Ashley's Annotation Example: **John 1:1-18**

1 In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was **God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men. 5 The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was **John**. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the **light**, that all might **believe** through him. 8 He was not the **light**, but came to bear witness about the **light**.

9 The true **light**, which gives **light** to everyone, was coming into the **world**. 10 He was in the **world**, and the **world** was made through him, yet the **world** did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, **who believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the **Word** became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the **only Son** from the Father,

John wanted to show that Jesus is the ultimate communication of God to humans. Jesus is God and reveals who God is.

Life: Jesus is life (John 14:6). True life can only be found in Him.

Light: Jesus reveals truth and overcomes spiritual darkness.

John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus.

World: full of sin, brokenness, and in rebellion against God. This is the world God so loves (John 3:16).

full of **grace** and **truth**. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was **he** of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, **grace** upon **grace**. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace** and **truth** came through **Jesus Christ**. 18 No one has ever seen God; **God the only Son**, who is at the Father’s side, **he** has made him known.

Truth: There is nothing wrong or false within Jesus. He embodies truth. He is the truth (John 14:6). He perfectly reflects and reveals God.

Grace: Unmerited grace and favor. Forgiveness, salvation, and a restored relationship with God through Jesus.

### Main Idea

As you look back on your annotations, what color is repeated the most throughout the passage?

Yep—**it’s purple!** We highlighted the character qualities of Jesus in purple and circled light and life in purple, too. It’s quite obvious that Jesus is the main idea of this passage and the central theme of John’s opening introduction to his book.

John intentionally wrote this prologue *to lay the foundation* for everything else that is to come. Not only did he want to introduce us to Jesus, but to immediately show us **who Jesus is** and **what His incredible mission is**.

Look back in the passage and write down:

**Who is Jesus?**

---

**What is Jesus’ mission?**

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### Paraphrase

John 1:1–18 is split into four sections for paraphrasing. Writing the passage in your own words will help you **grasp the main idea of this passage**. I started by paraphrasing John 1:1–5 and John 1:6–8 for you. You can finish the rest. Make sure to

keep these short, between one to two sentences. Look back at John 1:1–18 to help you paraphrase.

**John 1:1–5:**

We are introduced to the Word, who is Jesus. He was with God in the beginning. He is God, and through Him, God made all things. In Him is light and life.

**John 1:6–8:**

We are introduced to John the Baptist. He is Jesus’ witness so that all would believe in Jesus.

**John 1:9–13:**

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**John 1:14–18:**

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**Reflect**

**Today, we have learned that** Jesus came into the world, revealing God’s glory and grace. John bore witness to Jesus, and although many rejected Jesus, anyone who believed became a child of God. Close today’s study by writing down one new thing you learned about God.

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