



John 1 – 12

Light the dark

Leaders' notes and sample studies

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Background notes

This booklet includes 21 study guides with sample questions from the Gospel According to John (focusing on chapters 1– 12).

After a really positive opening in chapters 1 – 4 of John’s Gospel where the person and work of Jesus is outlined, things turn decidedly darker in chapters 5 – 12. Jesus is challenged by his opponents – the Jews – as to whether his claims are correct. He in turn challenges his opponents as to whether they have understood who he is and what he came to do.

In chapters 5 – 7 we see a build up of action as Jesus moves closer to Jerusalem and his crucifixion. There is much dialogue about who he is and what he came to do.

- Chapter 5 gives a deeper insight into who Jesus is.
- Chapter 6 gives a deeper insight into what he came to do.
- Chapter 7 records the controversy that raged and still rages today about Jesus.

In chapters 8 – 12 different reactions to Jesus’ signs come to a head in a dispute between Jesus and the Jewish leaders over who Jesus is.

An interesting motif throughout this part of John’s Gospel is the seven signs, in which Jesus reveals his glory.

1. Water into wine (John 2)
2. Healing of the royal official’s son (John 4)
3. Healing of the paralytic (John 5)
4. Feeding the 5000 (John 6)
5. Walking on water (John 6)
6. Healing the blind man (John 9)
7. Raising Lazarus (John 11)

How these sample studies work

- The first couple of questions in *Getting started* raise some general issues to think about.
- *Observation* is about getting the detail – reading the passage and seeing what it is about. *Interpretation* aims to take you to some issues in and behind the passage – to help us to think at a little more depth. Sometimes *Observation* and *Interpretation* are combined in the form of interviews, role plays, questions, charts, etc.
- *Implications* seeks to help us think about applying this section of Scripture.
- Each study finishes with suggestions for prayer.

For Your Information will provide a little background to some verses with some additional references to look up from time to time. There will also occasionally be a section called **Did You Notice?** which will also make some comments on various verses and themes.

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