



## Getting started with John

SPOILER ALERT!

John tells us exactly why he wrote his gospel. Chapter 20v31: “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

The other three gospels are different in style but similar in approach – John takes a slightly different angle. John is sometimes called “the Evangelist” – he wants people to believe the truth about Jesus and take Him at His Word. And so, John presents various “witnesses” about Jesus: The Scriptures; John the Baptist; Jesus Himself, God the Father, Jesus’ works, the Holy Spirit, John himself. All of these testify to the truth of ch20v31.

### Structure

John’s gospel splits roughly in half.

#### **Chapters 1-12v19 – The hour has not yet come**

These chapters portray Jesus’ teaching & signs, plus people’s response to Him. This is all leading up to His death and resurrection, but at this point we keep reading “his hour had not yet come.” (2v4, 7v30, 8v20)

#### **Chapters 13-21 – The hour has come**

12v23 – “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” From this point onwards, we’re in Jesus’ final block of teaching and then the narrative of His death, resurrection and ascension. It’s important to remember that the familiar teaching in ch13-17 all happens on the cusp of the cross.

## **7 signs**

John is selective in which “signs” he records – and each sign is accompanied by an explanation. John’s design is to show the truth of Jesus’ identity.

1. Water to wine in Cana (2v1-11)
2. Healing a nobleman’s son (4v41-54)
3. Healing a lame man (5v1-15)
4. Feeding a multitude (6v1-15)
5. Healing of a blind man (ch.9)
6. Raising of Lazarus (11v1-12v19)
7. Jesus’ own resurrection (ch. 20, cf. 2v18-22)

## **7 ‘I am’s**

There are also 7 “I am” sayings in John’s gospel. “I am” is a loaded phrase, because it is God’s name, revealed to Moses. (Ex 3v14). By using this phrase, Jesus is claiming God’s name as His own!

1. I am the bread of life (6v35)
2. I am the light of the world (8v12)
3. I am the gate (10v9)
4. I am the Good Shepherd (10v12)
5. I am the Resurrection and the life (11v25,26)
6. I am the way, the truth and the life (14v6)
7. I am the vine (15v5)

## **Things to watch out for...**

- John the gospel writer is not the same as John the Baptist, who is talked about in chapter 1
- Look out for the themes of life, light, unity, testimony, truth.
- In John’s gospel, believing in Jesus means taking Jesus at His Word (4v50). This is a good self-application when reading this book.
- There is some debate about whether ch7v53-8v11 are in the original manuscript. However we can have great confidence in the Word of God which is honest enough to admit when we’re not sure. There’s nothing in this debateable section which changes the overall message of John.



## RBT Grow Group is on Tuesday 31st July

Bring along some things from your reading of  
John to share with others.

### **Some RBT reading ideas:**

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.

### **Grow 1:1 questions to unlock the passage:**

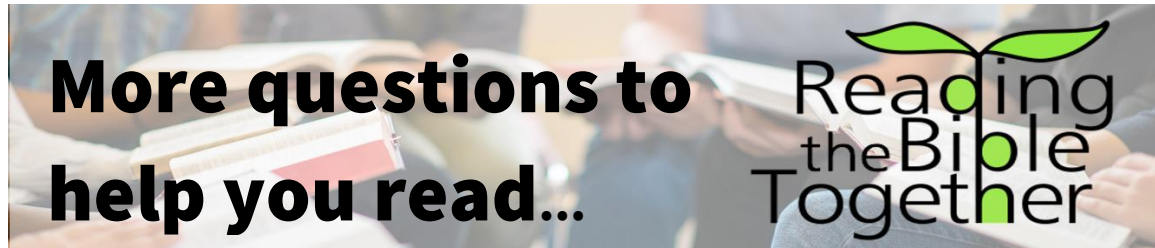
**What** does this teach me about God?

**How** does this point me to the Lord Jesus and His cross?

**What** does this teach me about myself?

**How** does this help me to pray?

**What** difference will this make to my week?



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)