

Gospel of John Resources

Bible and Study Bible

ESV Bible

ESV Study Bible

ESV Scripture Journal Bible – John (available at First B)

Basic Study Helps

Exalting Jesus in John (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) -

Carter, Matt

Let's Study John – Mark Johnston

John 1-12 For You – Josh Moody

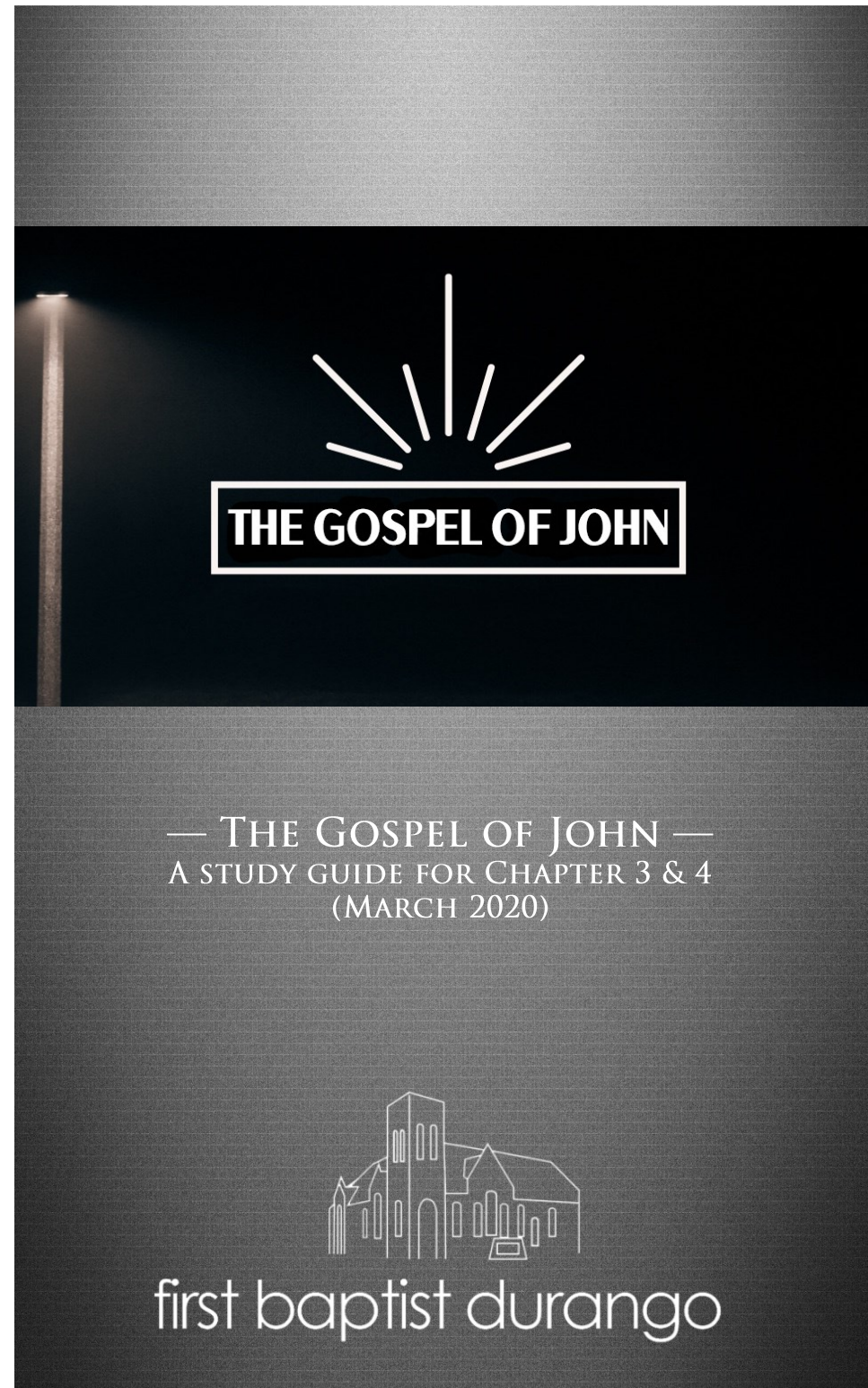
Commentaries

The Gospel according to John (Pillar) – DA Carson

The Gospel of John – A Commentary – Craig Keener



first baptist durango



Overview

As we embark on our journey through John's Gospel account, our desire is that you find this study guide a useful tool to enrich your time in God's word. The questions and information in this study guide are designed to prompt personal growth, family devotion, and/or conversations within Gospel Community groups. Thus, there are three types or sub-sets of questions depending on the setting for which this guide is used. Feel free to use any sub-set of questions in any setting you wish.

Repetition is the foundation of learning and being familiar with the text prior to the sermon(s) will deepen your understanding of the treasures contained in the scriptures. As you read, we also encourage you to grab a notebook or journal and jot down thoughts or questions you may have. Perhaps your questions will be answered within a sermon, or perhaps your questions will be answered within the context of group conversation. Either way, we encourage you to engage the text and seek answers. We grow together when we are unified and engaged around the Word of God.

Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 6

(John 4:46-54)

Memory Verse: John 4:48

So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

Read Chapter 4 - Focus on John 4:46-54.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 46-54, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. How has your belief in Jesus grown as you have exercised faith in the circumstances of life?
2. A prophet has no honor in his own hometown yet the father's family believed with him. How can you live so that those closest to you see the Gospel at work?

Group Discussion:

1. Matt 13:57, Mark 6:4, Luke 4:24, and John 4:44 record the same proverb. How do you explain the difference in wording and application?
2. Is there a difference in the meaning of the word "believed" in verses 50 and 53? Is this the same as faith?

Family Devotion:

1. Why was Galilee important to Jesus? What is it: a city, a country, a state?
2. What else had Jesus done in Cana?
3. What is a sign? What are the two signs John mentions?

Suggested Method of Bible Study

We recommend the S.O.A.P. method. (Scripture, Observe, Application, Pray). While this method is not the only way to study scripture, it is a good way and a great place to start. To know God is to know who he is and what he has done. To love God is to respond to him. In scripture he meets us and the Holy Spirit changes us.

Scripture- Pray that God would reveal Himself as you read slowly through a passage or complete thought of scripture.

- What is happening in the passage?
- What is the passage saying?
- What immediately stands out?

Observe- write observations about the passage.

- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about man?

Application- As a result of this passage...

- Is there something I need to do or stop doing?
- How do you worship God more as a result of the passage?

Pray- God hears us and delights in our honest prayer.

- Thank God for the forgiveness of sin available in Jesus, confess the sin revealed in the passage, and ask him to change your heart and life based on what you just read.

Conferencing

Family, Group or Discipleship Sermon Discussion

Conferencing was a puritan practice to reflect on the most recently preached sermon. One of its primary goals was to increase all believers' understanding of and ability to apply Scripture in the context of listening to the preached word. While the format was fluid, conferencing was guided by two fundamental questions:

1. Was the pastor right on Sunday?
 - a. Prove and explain from scripture one way or another.
2. What did your heart do or how did you react when you heard that sermon?

The goal of these two questions was to both engage the heart and the head. The head in a desire to deeply know scripture. Christians were expected to have a deep and growing knowledge of Scripture, forcing congregants, families, and friends to search the Scriptures together. Even if you did believe the pastor was right, you had to use your own means to prove it. The heart in a desire to be moved by the word of God. The word of God should always affect our intellect and emotions in a desire to know Him and move our hearts to action.

Week 5

(John 4:1-42)

Memory Verse: John 4:14

... whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Read Chapter 4 - Focus on John 4:1-42.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 1-42, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. How has Jesus dealt with your past so that your story is about Him?
2. How has the "living water" satisfied you like nothing else can?

Group Discussion:

1. What did Jesus mean by saying God was seeking people to worship him in "spirit and truth"?
2. Why do you think John included the Samaritan's response in verse 42?
3. What do you think Jesus was teaching his disciples in the section on the harvest in the middle of Samaria? How would you apply that to Durango?

Family Devotion:

1. Why was it unusual that Jesus would talk to this woman?
2. What made the woman think Jesus was a prophet?
3. Does Jesus know everything about you like he does the Samaritan woman? Is that good or bad? What does that make you think about Jesus?

Week 4

(John 3:22-36)

Memory Verse: John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

Read Chapter 3 - Focus on John 3:22-36.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 22-36, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. How is John the Baptist an example for you as a follower of Christ?
2. How has your life demonstrated that you have received the testimony of Jesus?

Group Discussion:

1. Who is the one “of the earth” in verse 31? How does this relate to how we bear witness?
2. What is the relationship between believe and obey in verse 36? How does this relate to Ephesians 2: 8-9?

Family Devotion:

1. What two groups were baptizing?
2. What did John the Baptist’s disciples see as a problem?
3. Was that a problem for John the Baptist?
4. What is “ eternal life”? What does verse 36 say you must do for eternal life?

Week 1

(John 3:1-11)

Memory Verse: John 3:5

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Read Chapter 3 – Focus on John 3:1-11.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 1-11, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. In what way is your being “born of the Spirit” like your birth as a human? How is it unlike your birth as a human?
2. From verse 1-11, what changes when you experience the new birth? What difference does that make?

Group Discussion:

1. What do we know about Nicodemus from the passage? Why does this discussion feel unique?
2. How does John use the themes of “ light” and “life” (particularly in John 1) to bring greater understanding to this discussion of the “new birth”?
3. If applicable, have someone share the story of how they were “born again”?

Family Devotion:

1. Think about a king and his kingdom. What does it mean to be ruled by a king?
2. What does it mean to live in the kingdom of God with Jesus as the king?
3. How did Jesus explain that you can be one person but born twice?

Week 2

(Ephesians 4:1-16)

This is a unique week in the life of our church. The sermon will not necessarily reflect the questions or scripture on this page, however, this selection of scripture will help form our understanding of God and his people.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...

Read Ephesians 4:1-16.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 1-16, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. What is your calling as a Christian?
2. Why do we need to walk in a manner worthy of the calling?
What does it reveal about us?
3. Why all of the “one”s?

Group Discussion:

1. How do we cultivate unity?
2. In this passage, what is the purpose he gave “the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers”? Why does that matter for you?
3. What does speaking “truth in love” mean and what can it accomplish?
4. Speaking truth in love, how do you see the people in your GC gifted for the Kingdom of God?

Family Devotion:

1. Who is in charge of the church?
2. What is unity?
3. From the passage, what creates unity?

Week 3

(John 3:12-21)

Memory Verse: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Read Chapter 3 - Focus on John 3:12-21.

(Practice the S.O.A.P method for vs. 12-21, see page 3)

Personal Reflection:

1. Put in your own words what it means to “believe in the only Son of God”.
2. Read Numbers 21:4-9. Why does John use this illustration of Jesus being like the serpent?

Group Discussion:

1. In what ways are the serpent in the wilderness and the death of the Son of Man parallels? Why would this be a particularly potent illustration for Nicodemus?
2. The word “world” is used four times in verses 16 and 17. How do these verses amplify the message of John 3:13-15?
3. What does it mean and why is it important to know those who do not believe are “condemned already”?

Family Devotion:

1. What does it mean to “believe in Jesus”?
2. What does it mean to be condemned?
3. According to John 3:16, why did God give “his only Son”? Why does that matter to you?