

What makes this series so valuable is that each Bible event leads the reader or the group to discover the deepest truths of the Bible for themselves. This is done through insightful multiple choice questions which draw the readers to enter into the story and find for themselves its meanings and implications which they then can apply to their own lives.

The series is best “taught” by persons who encourage the group to do most of the talking and thinking. The teacher best acts as a leader in which the group discovers its way through the Scriptural events. The teacher may help the group when he or she believes that valuable truths have been overlooked, but the first discoverers should be members of the group itself. This stirs tremendous interest on the part of the group. This also relieves the teacher of the responsibility, under older systems of teaching, to carefully master all the truths of the text and present them in a way that would hopefully interest and “teach” the group.

Individuals who use these lessons for their own personal study find this investigative method interesting and meaningful. The reader is invited to sense the drama of each story in his or her own Bible and be led to discern the spiritual truths that are packed into each story.



# *People Who Knew* **JESUS**

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*Interactive Bible Studies in John*

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NATIONAL  
BIBLE READING  
CAMPAIGN

## How to Use and Teach “People Who Knew Jesus”

*The Bible study series, People Who Knew Jesus, has been used very successfully. Several reasons for this success: Each lesson is based on a true life story from the Bible; the student is lead to discover truths for himself; gospel invitations are given at the end of lessons five and six but are given in such a way the person is challenged to receive Christ but is not forced to say “yes” or “no” to Christ at that time.*

**HOW TO TEACH OTHERS:** *The secret to teaching these lessons is to lead the students to discover the truth for themselves. A student is asked to read the first paragraph of the study, then another to read the second, a third to read John 1:6-7 which is printed in the study. The next person is asked to read question one with its three choices. Then, the teacher says, “Please mark your answer while I read for you again the verse.” After the verse is read, the teacher asks the person who read aloud the question, “What is your answer?” Each student is asked to read their answer. The teacher will ask, “Are we all in agreement?” The teacher does not tell them that their answer is right or wrong but goes to the next verse.*

*What if a person gives the wrong answer? The teacher doesn’t act surprised or say in any way that the answer is wrong. Have each student to read their answer. The teacher says, “This is interesting. We have a difference of opinion. Let’s read the verse again and you decide as a group which answer is the best and why you think so. The group will correct the person who made the mistake. This tells them that the group is the authority and not the teacher.*

*The order is always the following: (1) a student reads the verse aloud, (2) a second student reads the question and possible answers, (3) the teacher asks the students to mark their answer as he or she reads again the verse, (4) students read their answers, which are usually the same. Then the group goes to the next verse.*

*Sometimes, a student will not read their answer but will say, “The same.” When that happens the teacher should say, “Thank you, but please read your answer.”*

*The teacher does not do a lot of talking or explaining. They are to simply lead the group through the verses and questions. The wiser we are, the more we will encourage our students to make these discoveries. When they have really important questions, they will listen to us with great respect when we try to answer them in simple and unassuming ways.*

*If there are people who have difficulty reading, we do not ask them to read, but we may ask them to take part in answering the questions, especially those that are brief and usually after one or two others have read their answer.*



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## **John the Baptist**

In ancient days, heralds preceded the coming of kings to announce the royal visit. In the same manner, God sent a messenger to prepare the world for the coming of His Son, the King of kings.

John the Baptist, a man who finally lost his life for his faithfulness to the cause of truth and justice, was God's chosen man to present Jesus Christ to the world.

***Bible Text: John 1:6-14, 19-34***

***John 1:6-7. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light so that all should hear the message and believe.***

1. John the Baptist was:

- the Messiah
- God's messenger
- the king of Jerusalem

***John 1:8-9. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light ----- the light that comes into the world and shines on all mankind.***

2. In your opinion, who is the light?

- Jesus Christ
- John the Baptist

***John 1:10. The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him.***

3. Which of these statements are true?

- Jesus is described as "the Word."
- Jesus participated with God, his Father in the creation of the world.
- The world recognized Him immediately.



***John 1:11-13. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ----- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.***

4. Who were given the right to become God's own children?

- All people, regardless of whether or not they receive Christ as Lord.
- All who received Christ as Lord and believed in Him.

***John 1:14. The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.***

5. According to the verse, Jesus became a \_\_\_\_\_ and lived \_\_\_\_\_.

***John 1:19-20. The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying, "I am not the Messiah."***

6. John the Baptist declared that:

- He was the Messiah.
- He was not the Messiah.

***John 1:21-23. "Who are you, then?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" they asked. "No," he replied. "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert, 'Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!'"***

7. What did John say about himself?

- He said that he was the Messiah.
- He said that he was a messenger sent to prepare the people to receive the coming Lord.
- He said he was the long awaited Prophet.

**John 1:24-28.** *Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you don't know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany, on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

8. How does John compare himself to Jesus?

- He said he was superior to Jesus.
- He said he was very inferior to Jesus.

**John 1:29.** *The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

9. John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God" because Jesus is the only one who

---

10. Discussion: What did Jesus do to take away sin? What motivated Him to do so? Why call Him "Lamb"?

**John 1:30-31.** *This is the one I was talking about when I said, "A man is coming after me, but He is greater than I am, because He existed before I was born."*

11. Discussion: John the Baptist was older than Jesus. Why did John say that Jesus existed before him?

**John 1:32-33.** *And John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on Him. I still did not know that He was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, "You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."*

12. John baptized with:

- water.
- the Holy Spirit.

13. Jesus baptizes all who believe in Him with:

- water.
- the Holy Spirit.

**John 1:34.** *"I have seen it," said John, "and I tell you He is the Son of God."*

14. John declared the following about Jesus:

- Jesus is a false prophet.
- Jesus is the Son of God.

Did you find this first Bible study to be difficult? We hope not. If you desire to complete the remaining five lessons, you will be awarded an attractive Certificate of Study. We hope that you find the studies to be both interesting and of value. Write your name and address on the back cover.

## **The Samaritan Woman**

Many criticized Jesus for being a friend of sinners. He declared that He **“came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10**

Jesus spoke to sinners with love and patience. That way they realized how much they needed a Savior to save them from their sins and to give them salvation as a gift.

In the fourth chapter of John, we find Jesus having a conversation with a woman of bad reputation. What Jesus told her is of great importance for each one of us since **“everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence.” Romans 3:23**

**Bible Text: John 4:4-29, 39-42**

**John 4:4-6. On his way there he had to go through Samaria. In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon.**

1. The Bible indicates that:

- Jesus was a rich man and traveled in luxury.
- Jesus was a real man who got tired.

**John 4:7-9. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink of water.” (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.) The woman answered, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan ----- so how can you ask me for a drink?” (Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.)**

2. Discussion: Why did the woman act surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?

**John 4:10. Jesus answered, “If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water.”**

3. What did Jesus say He could give her?

**John 4:11-12. “Sir,” the woman said, “you don’t have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his sons and his flocks all drank from it. You don’t claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?”**

4. This woman thought Jesus spoke of:

- natural water
- eternal life

**John 4:13-14. Jesus answered, “Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again, but whoever drinks 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 which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life.”**

5. What is the best thing that Christ offers us?

- material things
- Spiritual life, eternal life

**John 4:15-19. “Sir,” the woman said, “give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water.” “Go and call your husband,” Jesus told her, “and come back.” “I don’t have a husband,” she answered. Jesus replied, “You are right when you say you don’t have a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.”**

6. Opinions: Why did Jesus ask the woman to bring her husband?

- because he did not know if she had a husband
- so that she would realize the truth of her situation and her need of salvation, which Christ offers as a gift.

**John 4:20-24. “My Samaritan ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is Spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”**

7. Jesus said that true worship can only be done:

- in the Holy Spirit's power.
- only in special places, like the temple in Jerusalem.

**John 4:25.** *The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."*

8. What did the woman expect from the Messiah when He arrived?

**John 4:26.** *Jesus answered, "I am He, I who am talking with you."*

9. Did Jesus confess to her openly that He is the Messiah, the Savior?

- yes
- no
- not sure

**John 4:27-29.** *At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked Him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then, the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could He be the Messiah?"*

10. What did the woman do after she met the Lord Jesus?

- She said that Jesus was a false prophet.
- She testified that Jesus was the Messiah.

**John 4:39.** *Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I have ever done."*

11. Did many of the Samaritans in that town believe because of the woman's testimony? Why?

**John 4:40-41.** *So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message.*

12. Finally, how many believed in Jesus?

- few
- many more
- some

**John 4:42.** *...and they told the woman, "We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know he really is the Savior of the world."*

13. The Samaritans finally declared that Jesus "really is \_\_\_\_\_."

14. What is your opinion about the following: Do you believe that the Samaritan woman repented of her sinful life? Do you believe she received "eternal life," the spiritual life from Jesus Christ? Do you think that the Samaritan town became happier or sadder because of Jesus coming?

## **The Hungry Multitude**

During the earthly life of our Lord Jesus, many followed Him because of His miracles and the material benefit they hoped to receive from Him. Sadly, many did not follow Christ because they loved Him, but because they hoped that they might receive some material benefit from Him. Spiritual life, eternal life, is for those who love Jesus Christ and are willing to give their lives to Him. The true Christian is not just a person who follows the crowd, even when the crowd shows interest in religion. This is revealed in the Bible event which you will now study.

***Bible Text: John 6:1-15, 25-31, 35, 40-41 and 67-69***

**John 6:1-2.** *After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or Lake Tiberias, as it is also called). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick.*

1. Discussion: Why were many people following Jesus?

**John 6:3-5.** *Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. The time for the Passover Festival was near. Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?"*

2. After Jesus had taught the crowd:

- He thought He could make some extra money by selling them a lunch.
- He wanted to feed them because He felt concerned for them.

**John 6:6-9.** *(He said this to test Philip; he already knew what he would do.) Philip answered, "For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins to buy enough bread." Another one of his disciples, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish. But they will certainly not be enough for all these people."*

3. Discussion: What problems did Phillip and Andrew put forth which made them think it was impossible to feed the multitude?

**John 6:10-15.** *"Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted. When they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit." So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten. Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely this is the prophet who was to come into the world!" Jesus knew that they were about to come and seize him in order to make him king by force; so he went off again to the hills by himself.*

4. Mark the correct sentences with an "X".

- They finally found bread at the bakery.
- They used a child's offering of food to feed the people.
- Jesus used His followers to distribute what He had blessed and given to them.
- The people said it was a trick.
- Jesus left quickly because the people wanted to make Him an earthly king.

**John 6:25-26.** *When the people found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, "Teacher, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you understood my miracles."*

5. Discussion: According to Jesus, why did the people look for Him?

**John 6:27.** *"Do not work for the food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him."*

6. Jesus declared that we should:

- be primarily interested in material needs.
- be sure to get eternal life for ourselves.

**John 6:28-31.** *So they asked him, "What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?" Jesus answered, "What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent." They replied, "What miracle will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, just as the Scripture says, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

7. Your Opinions: What did the crowd want most: another miracle so they would believe in Jesus or some more free bread? What does God most want us to do?

**John 6:35.** *"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

8. Opinions: What was Jesus trying to say when He told the people that He was "the Bread of Life?"

**John 6:40.** *"For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life. And I will raise them to life on the last day."*

9. According to Jesus, it is God's will that all who believe in Jesus, who trust only in Him and in nothing else, should have \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 6:41.** *The people started grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."*

10. How did the people respond?

- They criticized Jesus, because He offered Himself as bread from Heaven instead of giving them more bread to eat.
- They confessed their faith in Jesus as their one Lord and Savior.

**John 6:67-68.** *So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you ---- would you also like to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life."*

11. Simon Peter said that:

- they would no longer follow Jesus.
- Jesus is the only person who offers eternal life.

**John 6:69.** *And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God.*

12. Discussion: What did Peter finally say about Jesus Christ?

13. In your opinion, what differences were there between the crowd and those who were real followers of Jesus, regarding:

- what they wanted from Jesus.
- their love for Jesus.
- their faithfulness to follow Jesus.



## **The Man Who Was Born Blind**

Jesus told those who were hungry, ***“I am the bread of life”*** (John 6:35). Shortly afterwards, He said, ***“I am the light of the world”*** (John 9:5). Light is only of value to those who have sight. Jesus came to give sight to those who were physically blind. He also came to give spiritual sight to those of us who were spiritually blind.

In the following biblical account, we shall see that the men who we would most expect to have spiritual sight, the religious leaders, were the most blind of all. We shall see the case of a physically blind man who not only received the sight of his eyes, but also spiritual sight. Jesus Christ, the “light of the world,” gives spiritual sight to all who desire it and ask it of Him.

***Bible Text: John 9:1-17, 24-25, 28-38***

***John 9:1-5. As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parent’s sin?” Jesus answered, “His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents’ sins. He is blind so that God’s power might be seen at work in him. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”***

1. Your Opinion: Why did Jesus identify Himself with light, saying, “I am the light of the world”?

***John 9:6-7. After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man’s eyes and told him, “Go and wash your face in the pool of Siloam.” (This name means “sent.”) So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing.***

2. Discussion: What strange cure did Jesus use to give sight to the blind man? Did He give any instructions to the blind man? What was the result?

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***John 9:8-9. His neighbors, then, and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “He is the one,” but others said, “No he isn’t; he just looks like him.”***

3. How did the people express their doubts about the miracles?

- They said that it was simply a trick.
- They said that it was just a man who looked like the blind man.

***John 9:10-12. “How is it that you can now see?” they asked him. He answered, “The man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash my face. So I went and as soon as I washed, I could see.” “Where is he?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he answered.***

4. The blind man told them that:

- a man called Jesus had healed him.
- he had cured himself.

***John 9:13-16. Then they took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured him of his blindness was a Sabbath. The Pharisees, then, asked the man again how he had received his sight. He told them, “He put some mud on my eyes; I washed my face, and now I can see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “The man who did this cannot be from God, for he does not obey the Sabbath law.”***

5. Some of the religious leaders, known as Pharisees, said that Jesus could not be from God because:

- Jesus lived a sinful life.
- Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath (Saturday), breaking the Jewish tradition.

***John 9:17. So the Pharisees asked the man once more, “You say he cured you of your blindness ----- well, what do you say about him?” “He is a prophet,” the man answered.***

6. In verse 11, the blind man referred to Jesus as the “man.” Now he refers to Him as a \_\_\_\_\_.

***John 9:24-25. A second time they called back the man who had been born blind, and said to him, “Promise before God that you will tell the truth! We know that this man who cured you is a sinner.” “I do not know if he is a sinner or not,” the man replied. “One thing I do know. I was blind, and now I see.”***

7. The man who had been blind said that he knew only one thing:

- he knew all about Jesus Christ.
- he knew that his life had been changed by Christ.

**Personal Testimonies:** Among those who are students or teachers: Has Jesus made any real change in your life? If so, share what happened.

**John 9:28.** *They insulted him and said, "You are that fellow's disciple; but we are Moses' disciples."*

8. In order to insult the healed man, the religious leaders said that the man was:

- a liar and a thief.
- a follower, or disciple, of Jesus.

**John 9:29-33.** *"We know that God spoke to Moses; as for that fellow, however, we do not even know where he comes from!" The man answered, "What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness! We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing."*

9. The healed man said that:

- Jesus was a deceiver.
- God only listens to those who love Him and do His will.
- Jesus must have come from God.

**John 9:34.** *They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin ----- and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue.*

10. Discussion: At last, what did the religious leaders do with the man?

**John 9:35.** *When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

11. After this, Jesus:

- was no longer interested in the man.
- personally looked for the man.

**John 9:36.** *The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in Him!"*

12. The healed man:

- was already convinced that Jesus was the Messiah.
- was not sure if He was the Son of God, but he trusted Him.

**John 9:37.** *Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now."*

13. Opinions: What did Jesus say about Himself to the man? Why did Jesus reveal Himself so clearly to this man, but did not do so to the religious leaders?

**John 9:38.** *"I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus."*

14. Finally, the healed man:

- worshiped Jesus.
- doubted Jesus.
- confessed his complete faith in Jesus as the divine Savior and as his own personal Lord.

**Nicodemus: A Religious Leader**

How does a person receive eternal life? The world is very confused. Many believe that eternal life is for all who have been faithful to their religion. Others think that eternal life, if it exists, is like a prize for those who have lived fairly good lives in this world. How can we know the truth?

We know that what Jesus says is the truth. In the following study, we shall see the surprise of a good moral man, a religious leader, when Jesus explained to him that heaven is only for those who have experienced a spiritual birth. Jesus went on to explain how we could be born spiritually and receive eternal life, something that can and should be experienced by everyone.

**Bible Text: John 3:1-18 and 36**

**John 3:1-2.** *There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one can perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him."*

1. What is your opinion of Nicodemus? Was he very religious? Did he respect and admire Jesus? Why did he visit Jesus after dark?

**John 3:3.** *Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."*

2. Jesus:

- thanked Nicodemus for his kind words.
- warned Nicodemus that unless one is "born again" he cannot be saved.

**John 3:4.** *"How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"*

3. Nicodemus thought Jesus was speaking of:

- a second physical birth.
- a spiritual birth.

**John 3:5-7.** *"I am telling the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but he is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again."*

4. Jesus explained that we must be born of h\_\_\_\_\_ parents and we also must be born of God's S\_\_\_\_\_.

**John 3:8.** *The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

5. Jesus indicates that the spiritual birth is:

- something mysterious, like the wind.
- for all religious people.

**John 3:9-13.** *"How can this be?" asked Nicodemus. Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. You do not believe me, then, when I tell you about things of heaven? And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven."*

6. Jesus taught with great authority because:

- He is the only one who came from heaven.
- He studied a great deal.

**John 3:14-15.** *As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

(See **Numbers 21:9** to learn more about the bronze snake.)

7. Who is the only person worthy of our faith and hope of salvation?

- Jesus Christ, the Son of Man
- a pastor or priest or great religious leader

**John 3:16. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.**

8. Mark the right answers:

- Christ came because God loves us.
- God “gave his only Son” as the sacrifice for our sins.
- We are saved by being religious or good.
- We are saved by trusting in Jesus, giving our lives to Him.
- Whoever believes in Jesus will not die eternally.

**John 3:17. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior.**

9. Why did God send His Son into the world?

- In order to condemn the sinful world
- In order to save the world from sin

**John 3:18. Whoever believes in the Son is not judged; but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in God’s only Son.**

10. Discussion: How does one avoid the rightful judgment of God? Are all people saved? Who are those who are condemned by God?

11. Opinions: The kind of faith that brings eternal life is:

- to trust with all your heart, surrendering your life to Christ.
- simply to believe that Jesus is God’s Son.

**John 3:36. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not have life, but will remain under God’s punishment.**

12. Mark the correct answers:

- He who has given himself to Jesus in faith has already been saved.
- Whoever does not believe will receive eternal punishment.
- Jesus promised that if we do not believe now, we will have another opportunity after we die.
- People who haven’t given their lives to Jesus will experience God’s wrath.

**Personal Evaluation:**

Mark the phrases that best express your personal feelings.

- Like Nicodemus, I am surprised by Jesus’ teachings on how to receive eternal life.
- I still have many doubts about Jesus.
- I am beginning to understand that salvation comes from complete trust in Jesus.
- I understand that I have to trust my life to Jesus, but I lack will or faith to do so.
- I believe Christ died for me, and I receive Him once and forever as my Lord and Savior.
- I have already accepted Jesus and I give thanks for the eternal life He has given me.



## The Unbelieving Disciples

Many times Jesus told his disciples that it was necessary that He die at the hands of His enemies, but that He would arise from the dead. Even so, the disciples were unable to understand or believe what He told them. Therefore, when Jesus died on the cross, His followers lost all hope.

Even when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, according to His promise, the disciples continued to disbelieve. Only when Jesus physically presented Himself to them could they believe that He had overcome the power of death.

Jesus has promised very special blessings to those who believe in Him without having seen Him. The great truth is that Jesus Christ is alive and ***“is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Him, because He lives forever to plead with God for them.”*** Hebrews 7:25

***Bible Text: John 20:1-21, 24-31***

***John 20:1-2. Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”***

1. When Mary Magdalene reported to the disciples, she thought:

- that someone had stolen Jesus’ body.
- that surely Jesus had risen from the dead.

***John 20:3-7. Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen clothes, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen clothes lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus’ head. It was not lying with the linen clothes but was rolled up by itself.***

2. Discussion: What were the signs that indicated Jesus had risen from the dead?

***John 20:8-10. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.***

3. The two disciples:

- still did not understand the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus had to rise from the dead.
- looked for Jesus’ body in the tombs.

***John 20:11-13. Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her. She answered, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!”***

4. Discussion: Did Mary believe yet that Jesus had arisen? What proof is there that she loved Jesus Christ?

***John 20:14-15. Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know it was Jesus. “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her, “Who is it that you are looking for?” She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”***

5. Mary Magdalene:

- immediately recognized Jesus.
- personally offered to carry away Jesus’ body if it were given to her.

***John 20:16-18. Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (This means “teacher.”) “Do not hold on to me,” Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.” So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.***

6. Mark the right answers.

- Mary could not believe that it was Jesus who was speaking to her.
- Jesus now refers to his followers as “my brothers.”
- Jesus asked Mary to take the good news to the disciples.

**John 20:19-20.** *It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord.*

7. Discussion: How did Jesus finally prove to his disciples that He had truly risen from the dead?

**John 20:21.** *Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.”*

8. Jesus now commissioned his followers, saying, “As the Father sent me, so \_\_\_\_\_.”

**John 20:24-25.** *One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

9. Thomas said that he:

- could not believe, unless he himself could see and touch the body of Jesus.
- believed everything the disciples told him about Jesus’ resurrection.

**John 20:26-27.** *A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!”*

10. Your opinions: Why did Jesus return: to condemn Thomas for his lack of faith or to help Thomas to believe? Why do you think so?

**John 20:28.** *Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”*

11. Then, Thomas:

- asked to examine Jesus’ wounds.
- confessed Jesus as his King and God.

**John 20:29.** *Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”*

12. Discussion: For whom did Jesus promise a special blessing?

**John 20:30-31.** *In his disciples’ presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.*

13. The book of John is written in order that:

- we might be better philosophers.
- we might have eternal life, trusting only in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

#### **FINAL EVALUATION:**

Mark the phrases that best express your personal feelings.

- The studies of the book of John have helped me with my faith in Jesus Christ.
- I ask God to give me more faith, until the moment when I can give my life to Jesus.
- Even before these studies, I trusted Jesus as my one and only Savior.
- As a result of the study, I give my life to Jesus Christ, trusting Him alone for my salvation.