

*Christ Church
Theme Verse 2025*

**CHRIST CHURCH
HOME GROUPS
AUTUMN/WINTER 2025
HOW JOHN PORTRAYS
JESUS**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

This term we are looking at how the Gospel of John portrays Jesus. We will look at the first eight chapters and next year the rest of the Gospel.

John's Gospel is a very rich text with deep reflection on who Jesus is, but it was written for one purpose. That you many know The Life and have life everlasting as John says in chapter 20 v 31

With out giving you too many clues to the text, our chapters this term, start with Jesus who is the Word and end with how you may know his words are true.

Along the way there are 'signs' and 'themes' that point to who Jesus is, word, water, wine, light, darkness, bread, among others... John's portrait appeals to our senses by asking us what we see, hear, taste, feel and think, about how we are satisfied by Jesus. Keep an eye out for these, they help us build a big picture of Jesus.

There are also interactions and responses that are meant to make us think about how we respond to Jesus today

So, dig in and enjoy

John Chapter One: Encountering The Word

1 Read John 1:1-18, what is the title that John gives to Jesus in vv1,14? Why do you think John uses this title of Jesus is it one we could use today?

2 What facts does John use in vv 1-5 to highlight the truth of who Jesus is? Which of these are most helpful to you?

3 What are the contrasts that John draws about people in vv 9-13
What facts about Jesus should have brought the majority to receive him in vv9-11?

4 How would you explain to someone both, the meaning and results of receiving Jesus in vv12-13?

5 What aspects of God's character are revealed to us through Jesus in vv14-18? How do these build on what we have read before, and which are new ideas?

6 Read vv19-34, what did John the Baptist do to ensure people looked at Jesus and not him?

7 How would you summarise John's message about Jesus?

8 Read vv35-51 How do each of the characters mentioned respond to the testimony about Jesus?

9 How many names or descriptions of Jesus mentioned in this chapter? Which of these are most significant to you? What do they evoke in you?

10 If you could go back in time to the events about Jesus in this chapter, which of these would you like to investigate further?

John Chapter Two: Signs of God

1 Read John 2:1-11. When the wine ran out Mary asked Jesus to help; what do you think she expected him to do as, as yet he hadn't done any miracles? What do you think she thought of her Son?

2 What did Jesus mean by his reply in v4? How does it strike you?

3 Jesus could have created wine in the empty jars; why do you think Jesus asked the servant to fill the jars with water first in v7? How does this apply in your own life?

4 How did the disciples respond in v11, how would you have responded?

5 What does this miracle display in v11? Do you think there is any connection between this and our human needs? When you have asked for help has this been a consideration also?

6 Read vv12-25. Do you think of Jesus as meek and mild? Jesus called himself '*humble of heart*' and he said '*the meek inherit the earth*'. What do these verses portray about Jesus and do they contradict meekness? How do these qualities hold together in Jesus' life and in ours?

7 What did Jesus say about the Temple in v16? Have you seen this in the Gospels before?

8 What is asked in v18 to prove Jesus's authority and how does Jesus respond in vv19-22?

9 Why didn't the disciples immediately understand what Jesus is saying about the temple in v19, 22? How can we be like this?

10 What didn't Jesus do in vv23-25 and what can we learn about how to react to others from this?

11 What does this passage say about Jesus' concern for his Father; how is that a model for us to follow?

12 What does this passage say to us about change, newness, cleansing, renewal? What does it say about Jesus being the only answer to these? How does God's glory become the only goal in our lives?

Bible Study John Three: Starting Afresh

1 Read Jn 3:1-21, What is your impression of Nicodemus, how would you describe him? Why does he come at night?

2 What is Nicodemus' question in v 2 and how does Jesus answer in v3? Why do you think Jesus answered in this way as it doesn't seem to be an answer to his question?

3 In what way is the works of the Spirit like the wind (v 8) what other imagery is mentioned have a look at Ezk 36:25-26 and Isaiah 44:3?

4 Why is Nicodemus amazed in v 9 and Jesus amazed in vv10-12? Can we be amazed at Jesus like this and can Jesus be amazed at us?

5 What does Jesus allude to in vv14-15? See Numbers 21:4-9 How does that speak to us today? '*Faith is placing Christ before Ones eyes and beholding in him the heart of God poured out in love*' (John Calvin)

6 What impresses you about God in vv16-17?

Bible Study John Four: Connecting with people

7 What do you learn about yourself in these verses as you a part of the world?

8 Read vv 18-21, what do these tell us about the plight of humanity and its cure? We are told Nicodemus came in the darkness; do you find this meaningful in your own life?

9 Read vv 22-36, what do John the Baptist disciples say in vv22-26, and why do you think this is so?

10 How would you summarise John's view of Jesus in vv27-36?

11 Do you think the 'new birth' and the superiority of Jesus is present in our church or in what way does it need to be? How does '*he must increase we must decrease*' apply to us?

Often, we describe a newborn as a little miracle and such we are when we are born again!

1 Read John 4:1-26. What do you think is the significance of Samaria in explaining why Jesus went there?

2 What is the surprise in v9? How might we be surprised and or prejudiced in the same way today?

3 What is offered in vv10-15 and how does the woman's view contrast with what Jesus offers?

4 What does Jesus bring up in vv16-18? Why do you think he does this?

5 What does the woman do in response to Jesus and how does Jesus respond in vv19-24? Can we do this when Jesus starts to deal with an issue in our lives?

6 What is God actively looking for in vv23-24? Is that a particular time (Sunday?) or place (Christ Church?) or something else? Think back to chapter Two.

6 Read John 4:27-54. How is the disciples' confusion about food in vv31-33 similar to the woman's confusion about living water?

7 What lessons does Jesus draw in vv34-38 and how do they apply to us?

8 What is surprising about the response in v44?

9 How does the man demonstrate his faith in 4:40 and what is the outcome in v53.

10 What is this called in v54? This is significant as we interpret Jesus' healings they point to who he is at that time. This comes up over and over in John's Gospel. Jesus is the Same Yesterday Today and Forever .. he is the same Messiah. Can we pray as in 49 (look it up again) for our own circumstances. Don't be polite in prayer be persistent and insistent

Bible Study John Five: God on Trial

1 Read John 5, How would you describe the scene and the feelings and attitudes expressed in vv1-15?

2 What was the man's attitude before his healing and afterwards? How long was he waiting for healing and how long does he have to wait once Jesus is there? What does the man's answer in v7 reveal about his relational situation?

3 What do the leaders want to uphold in vv 9-15 and what do they miss? Can we fall into this trap as well? What is sobering about Jesus' words in v14? In what way has Jesus made you whole and well? Are you a Pharisee?

4 In vv16-47, what does Jesus say is ended and what continues? How does this inflame his enemies? What would happen to the universe if God ever stopped working in v17? What is Scandalous about Jesus' reply in v 18?

5 What do vv19-23 tell us about the Father's relationship to the Son and the Son's to his Father? Think about their activity v19, their love v20, their power 21, their judgment, their identity 23. How does this challenge or comfort you? How important is this for our church and the world?

6 What is the importance of our response to Jesus in vv24-30? Do we feel how important this is to us? Why does Jesus' use the phrase 'Son of Man' in v27 do you think, have a look at Dan 7:13-14?

7 What three witnesses does Jesus use as evidence that's he is God in vv31-40? Do you think this is important and would it work today? C. S. Lewis said Jesus is *either Liar, Lord or Lunatic*, do you agree with this?

8 In vv 39-47 What accusation does Jesus make toward those who attack him, do you think he would make the same against you? How do vv 39-40 challenge us in bible reading and even now as you study?

9 How can we rest on Jesus' authority and testimony and avoid falling into the same trap as his enemies?

Bible Study John Six: Living Bread

1 Read John 6:1-15 How would you characterise the disciple's response to the problem presented in vv 5-9?

2 Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples for advice considering the fact that he knew what he was going to do in v6?

3 How do you think the disciples felt as they gathered up the pieces left over v12-13?

4 What insight does this passage give you into how Christ may be at work in difficult situations in your life?

5 Read vv6:16-42, how would your perception of Jesus changed if you had been there and saw him walking on water?

6 What happens the next day in vv22-25 and how does he try to redirect their thinking in vv26-33?

7 How does the miracle in vv1-13 relate to what Jesus' claims in v35?

8 What do the crowd say in vv41-42, and do you think they finally understood what Jesus was saying?

Bible Study John Seven: Confusion about Refreshment

9 Read vv 43-59, what do the crowd think in response in v52?

What do you think Jesus means in vv53-59?

10 Read vv 60-71 what does Jesus emphasise here and what are the disciples' responses? What do you find hard about Jesus and his teaching?

11 What are the two appetites that Jesus contrasts in this passage and how do we see this in our churches, our lives or culture?

1 Read Jn 7:1-13. How would you characterise the statements made by Jesus' brothers?

2 What does Jesus wait to do in v10 and why do you think this is so? Do we ever face this in our own circle?

3 Read vv14-52 What do people challenge Jesus about and how does Jesus respond in vv16-18?

4 What opinions or questions do people have about Jesus in vv20-36? How does Jesus respond to each one?

5 What are the significance of Jesus' remarks in vv37-39 and how does that apply to us today? Is Jesus source of refreshment to you?

6 What reactions to Jesus stand out to you from this passage and how do you see them expressed today?

7 How might we respond within our own settings, based on Jesus' example?

8 What do you think is the relationship between the truth that Jesus teaches and the refreshment he offers?

Bible Study John Eight: Who is Caught?

What can we learn about Jesus' attitude to us from this passage and how may that be helpful? What does Jesus do with failures?

1 Read 7:53-8:11 -How would you describe the emotional tone of this encounter?

2 What do we know about the character and motives of those who bring this woman to Jesus?

3 How do you think the woman feels when she is made to stand before the group? What is your reaction to this?

4 What elements of justice and injustice are there in this encounter?

5 Why do you think Jesus was writing in the dirt? Think about to last week about Jesus offering water and compare Jer 17:13 with Jesus action here.

6 What do the leaders do in vv7-9 and why do you think they did this?

7 How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward the woman in vv10-11?

8 What do you think Jesus is doing in his approach to her?

Bible Study John 8:12-59 Shine, Jesus, Shine

1 Read John 8:12-30 What is Jesus' claim about himself and its effect on his followers in v12?

2 What do the pharisee say in v13, and how does Jesus' answer in vv14-18?

3 What does Jesus claim next and how does this heighten the tension vv19-30?

4 Why do you think Jesus is so blunt here?

5 Read Jn 8:31-59, what is Jesus' other startling claim in vv31-32? What does it mean today? Is it accepted by our culture?

6 What does Jesus say in vv34-36 and how do you think that would have been received then and now? Can you think of how thing may apply to our own lives, close circle and community?

7 What do Jesus' opponents rely on in vv39-47 and what does Jesus say in response to them?

8 What happens in vv48-59 and what motivates Jesus' enemies here?

9 How does Jesus' interaction here challenges us today with ourselves and our interactions with unbelievers today?