

3 Studies in John For Groups, Individuals & 1:1

Welcome to "Come and Meet Jesus"

This series of studies accompanies the brief teaching series from John's Gospel at Trinity Mount Barker in 2016. Some of the questions in these studies were part of our teaching series from John in 2010.

These studies are intended to be done *before* the sermon on the same passage, although of course, you can do them any way that is helpful to you!

If you're using these studies in a **Bible Study Group**, try to make sure you've read the passage and done your preparation before you meet. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but also to the other members of your group.

If you're a **Bible Study Group Leader** please don't feel that your group needs to answer every question in every study. With such a wide variety of ages and personalities in our church, we have included a number of different types of questions, including some which reflect on the same points, just from slightly different perspectives. Please choose the questions most appropriate for your group.

If you're doing these studies **individually**, why not let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to change your heart and life so that you - with God's people - might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Reading

John - Tyndale New Testament Commentary John, the Shepherd King - RTBT The Message of John - The Bible Speaks Today Colin Kruse Paul Barnett Bruce Milne

John 2:1 - 11

Jesus and his Mother

What is the most exciting news you've ever had to tell someone?

Thinking of your friends, colleagues and family, if you asked the question, "Who is Jesus?" what kind of responses would you get?

How would you define a "miracle"?

Read John 2:1 - 11

What do Mary's actions in verses 3 and 5 indicate about her understanding of who Jesus is?

What do Jesus' words in response demonstrate about his understanding of his ministry? See also Amos 9:11 - 15.

What reasons might Jesus have for acting the way he does?

How is the disciples' response to Jesus' first "sign" similar or different to the responses to Jesus so far in John's gospel?
How has John used people's interactions with Jesus to add to our understanding of Jesus' identity?
Read John's explanation of Jesus' signs in John 20:30-31. In the light of this, what is the significance of this sign?
Imagine a friend asks you, "Who is Jesus?" How do you answer?
In what ways is Jesus' power as sovereign God seen today?

John 2:23 - 3:21

Jesus Meets a Religious Man

What reasons do people give today for not believing that Jesus is God come in the flesh?

What are some of the ways that people think they can get into a right relationship with God?

Read John 2:23 - 3:21

Can you think of anyone you know who approaches Jesus in the same kind of manner as Nicodemus does?

How are verses 23 - 25 of chapter 2 important for our understanding of Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus in chapter 3?

What does John say about the kind of faith in Jesus that is based on witnessing miracles?

Read Ezekiel 36:24 - 27 What do these words from the 5th Century BC tell us about God's plans for his people?
What does Nicodemus not understand about God's plans?
How does Jesus say that someone becomes a citizen of the Kingdom of God?
How does this differ to the way of access that most people expect or imagine?
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Read Numbers 21:4 - 9

How is this episode a precursor of the salvation that is found in Jesus?

Why are those who do not believe in Jesus standing "condemned already" (v 18)?

What is the evidence today that people "loved darkness instead of light" (v 19)?
What is the relationship between "light" and "truth"?
What stops people from entering the Kingdom of God?
How then can we be praying for our friends and family who don't know Jesus?
How does Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus help you think about your witness to people who are similar to him?

John 4:1 - 42

Jesus and a Scandalous Woman

How did you feel when you first heard or understood the gospel of Jesus?

Who was the first person you wanted to tell about your new discovery?

Who are the people you know who seem most difficult to reach with the gospel of Jesus today?
What makes them seem so distant?

Read John 4:1 - 42

What reasons might Jesus have for leaving Judea and going back to Galilee (v 3)?

What are the similarities between Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and his encounter with Nicodemus? What are the differences?

In John's gospel, the Samaritan woman is the first person to whom Jesus chooses to reveal his identity. What is the significance of this choice and what does it tell us about Jesus' mission?
Considering what we've seen in John's gospel so far, what does it mean to worship "in spirit and truth" (v 23)?
What do the disciples seem not to have grasped about Jesus mission (v 27 - 38)?
Where else in the gospel so far has Jesus used someone's misunderstanding as a launching point for teaching? What makes this such an effective teaching method?
Write the agricultural illustration in verses 35 - 36 in your own words.

What is it about Jesus that leads people to respond in this episode? See verses 29, 39, 41, 42, etc.
Why is it significant that, of all people, it is the Samaritans who call Jesus "the Saviour of the world" (v 42)?
What has John added to our understanding of Jesus through his description of this encounter?
Who are the non-Christians with whom you find it easiest to talk about Jesus? With whom do you find it most difficult?
What encouragement for sharing your faith with others can you find in this episode?

Which verse or phrase from this chapter could you use as a "rallying cry" for evangelism today?



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