



JOHN

SEPTEMBER 2018

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

INTRODUCTION

John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus and the brother of James, wrote John's Gospel. As he writes he doesn't refer to himself by name, rather he calls himself the 'disciple whom Jesus loved'. He was clearly someone amazed by the grace of God and that Jesus could love someone like him.

Whereas Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels have many similarities, John's account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection is very different. As we read we discover much about the mystery of Jesus' relationship with the Father and of his deep love, care and will for his church.

OUTLINE

1. MEET JESUS: JOHN 1:1-34

In this first section of John's Gospel we are introduced to Jesus. It is clear from the very first sentence that he is someone unique and beyond our understanding.

John leaves us in wonder as we read about Jesus, the Son of God who came into this world (1:14) to bring us to God. These truths are then reiterated in the words of John the Baptist.

Don't rush through this section as we are told massive things about Jesus in only a few words.

2. CAUSING A STIR: JOHN 1:35 - 11:57

One of the problems that people had with Jesus was that he didn't fit the mold. These chapters remind us that if you are looking for someone who will tow the party line, Jesus is not your man.

Jesus isn't someone who is predictable. We see his first miracle was making wine. His first ministry visit to Jerusalem ended with him clearing the temple. He also had no qualms about being seen with a Samaritan woman.

Jesus isn't someone to be intimidated by others. He heals on the Sabbath knowing the uproar it would cause. He also lets thousands

walk away because they don't like the things he is teaching.

Jesus is not afraid of controversy. Over and over he claims to be the eternal Son of God. So clear are his words that C.S. Lewis said we can only draw one of three conclusions. Jesus was a liar, a lunatic or the Lord himself.

3. A LONG GOODBYE: JOHN 12-19

These chapters deal with the final week before Jesus' death on the cross. The largest part is given to his teaching and prayer on the night before his death when he shared the Passover with his disciples.

We are given an insight into the heart of Jesus and his care and concern for his disciples. This is demonstrated in his actions (13:1-17), comfort (14:1-14), promise of the Holy Spirit (14:15-31, 16:5-16) and his prayer for his disciples and for the church to come (17:6-26).

This section ends with the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. The words of Jesus in John 19:30 serve as a statement of completion. Sin has been dealt with and salvation has been purchased through the blood of Jesus.

4. HOPE AND EXPECTATION: JOHN 20-21

As with the other Gospels, John ends with the resurrection of Jesus and his instruction to his disciples to carry out the ministry he has given to them.

In chapter 20 we see doubters becoming believers; first Peter and John, then Mary Magdalene and last of all Thomas. The chapter ends with an invitation and challenge for all to come and believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Chapter 21 is overflowing with the grace of Jesus as Peter, who had denied him 3 times, is lovingly restored in relationship and ministry. Jesus' words to Peter are clear 'you follow me' (21:22) and they are his words to every one of us. John ends with this challenge.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)