

BOOK OF JOHN

BUILDER OF FAITH

The apostle John gives the testimony of many witnesses as evidence that Jesus is the Son of God. It is the purpose of this study to consider these testimonies and the circumstances surrounding them.

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that you might believe....”
(John 20:30-31)

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LESSON #1: THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

After studying John 1:19-34, answer the following questions

1. Who did John say that he was, according to verse 23?
2. To whom did John make this statement, according to verse 19?
3. John in verse 23 is quoting a prophecy of himself from Isaiah 40:3-5. Looking back at this Isaiah passage, find what John was to do with the valleys; with the mountains and hills; with that which is crooked; with the rough places.
4. Combining what you learn from these passages and from John 1:6-8 and Matt. 3:1-6, state briefly what you see as the purpose of John the Baptist.
5. What did John say of the One who would be coming after him, according to verses 26-27?
6. What sign was given to John by which he could positively identify the Christ?
7. Does the expression, “I knew (recognized) Him not,” mean that John was not acquainted with Jesus?

What do you think the expression means?
8. According to Matt. 3:14, what did John say of Jesus before he received the positive sign of His Messiahship?
9. What was John’s testimony, according to John 1:34?
10. **Special Challenge:** Consider Malachi 4:5-6; John 1:21; Matt. 11:13-14; Matt. 17:10-13; and Luke 1:17. How do you explain John’s saying that he was not Elijah (Elias) and Jesus’ saying that he was?

LESSON #2: THE TESTIMONY OF THE EARLIEST DISCIPLES

After studying John 1:35-51, answer the following questions

1. What expression did John use in introducing two of his disciples to Jesus, according to verses 35-36? Consider also verse 29.
2. Why would the term “Lamb of God” be a fitting description of Jesus?
3. What did the two men experience, according to verses 38-39?
4. What was Andrew’s testimony of Jesus?

To whom was this testimony given?

5. **Thought Question:** Simon Peter became better known and was possibly a more productive man overall than was Andrew, but it was Andrew that brought Peter to Jesus. Make a list of “lesser known” people of the Bible who performed some outstanding service for the Lord.
6. Find other occasions when Andrew brought people to Jesus.
7. What was Philip’s testimony concerning Jesus?

To whom was this testimony given?
8. What was Nathanael’s reply?

Consider Philip’s answer, “Come and see.” Do you consider this to be a wise answer?

Why?
9. What was Nathanael’s conclusion concerning Jesus?

On what did he base his conclusion?
10. What do you think verse 51 means?
11. **Special Challenge:** It is likely that Nathanael is referred to by another name in the Bible. What is that other name?

LESSON #3: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SAMARITANS

Read John 4:1-42 and answer the following questions

1. With what request did Jesus begin His conversation with the Samaritan woman?
2. Consider verses 6-9. What obstacles did Jesus have to overcome to begin this conversation?
3. What kind of water was Jesus offering this woman in verses 10-15?
What kind was she thinking of?
4. What moral problem did this woman have?
5. What led her to conclude that Jesus was a prophet?
6. Briefly summarize Jesus' teaching concerning acceptable worship.
7. Consider verse 29. What was the Samaritan woman's testimony concerning Jesus?
To whom was her testimony given?
8. Consider verses 39-42. What had brought the people of Sychar to believe in Jesus?
9. **Special Challenge:** Using a Bible dictionary, give the origin of the Samaritans.
10. **Special Challenge:** List some practical lessons we can learn from this passage to help us in teaching others.

LESSON #4: THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES

After reading John 6:1-71, answer the following questions

1. Where did the loaves and fish come from that were used to feed the 5,000?
2. How was the food distributed?
What was done with the fragments?
3. Who were the men (people) of verse 14?
What was their conclusion concerning Jesus?
4. What other miracle took place soon after this, according to verses 15-21?
5. What mistake did the multitude make after having eaten of the loaves and fish, according to verses 26-27?
6. Throughout this chapter Jesus proclaimed Himself as the “bread of life” - verses 35,41,48, and 51. What does this expression mean?
7. What was the reaction of many of His disciples to this discussion, according to verses 60 and 66?
8. What was Peter’s testimony concerning Jesus on this occasion?
Do you think he was speaking only for himself or for the apostles generally?
9. **Thought Question:** In analyzing this chapter, what do you see as the primary difference between the multitudes and the apostles, leading the multitudes to forsake Jesus and the apostles to cling more closely to Him?
10. **Special Challenge:** What evidence did Jesus provide - recorded in this very chapter - that should have convinced all that indeed He is the “bread of life”?

Can you think of other direct links between miracles that He performed and claims He made for Himself?

LESSON #5: THE TESTIMONY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

After reading John 9:1-38, answer the following questions

1. What did Jesus require of the blind man if he was to receive his sight?
2. It is repeatedly stated in this chapter that Jesus opened this man's eyes. List the verses that state this fact.

If Jesus opened the man's eyes, what part did the water of the pool of Siloam play in his healing?
3. What division regarding Jesus resulted from this miracle?
4. Why would the man's parents not confess Jesus?
5. What advice did the Jews give this man, according to verse 24?
6. Briefly summarize the man's answer to them as recorded in verses 30-33.
7. Throughout this chapter we see progression in this man's faith in Jesus. Consider verses 11, 17, 33, and 38. Give a phrase from each verse that the man uses in describing Jesus.
8. Look back at chapter 4, verses 9, 12, 19, and 29. Give similar phrases used by the Samaritan woman that indicate progression in her faith.
9. **Special Challenge:** A study of John, chapter 9, reveals several problems in attitude, both in the Jews and the parents, that hindered them from believing in Jesus. List as many as you can find.

LESSON #6: THE TESTIMONY OF MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS

After reading John 11:1-45, answer the following questions

1. Consider the statement of verse 4. Observe the setting. Who all likely heard this statement from the lips of Jesus?
2. How long did Jesus wait before going to Bethany?

How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived?
3. Martha demonstrated remarkable faith in her conversation with Jesus, recorded in verses 20-27. Make a list of facts believed by Martha as stated in these verses.
4. Where was Mary during the time of Jesus' conversation with Martha?

What were Mary's words as she fell at Jesus' feet?
5. Consider Luke 7:1-10. In what way did the centurion of Capernaum demonstrate greater faith than did Mary and Martha?
6. What was Martha's reaction when Jesus said to remove the stone?
7. In verse 25 Jesus proclaimed Himself to be "the resurrection and the life." In what dramatic way did Lazarus testify to the truthfulness of this fact?
8. Consider John 5:28-29. In what way will all the dead eventually testify to the truthfulness of this fact?
9. **Special Challenge:** Make a list of all that you can find who were raised from the dead, as recorded in the scriptures.

What was the primary difference between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of these?

LESSON #7: THE TESTIMONY OF THE JEWISH LEADERS

Answer the following questions after reading the scriptures indicated

1. Consider John 11:46-54. What confession did the council make concerning Jesus, according to verse 47?
2. **Thought Question:** Why would this council consider the popularity of Jesus a potential threat from the Romans as suggested in these same verses?
3. Consider John 8:46-59. What challenge did Jesus place before the Jews in verse 46?
4. What accusations did they bring against Him in these same verses? Briefly state your opinion of the strength of these accusations.
5. Consider John 7:32,45-53. What was the officers' testimony concerning Jesus?
6. How did the Pharisees react to their testimony?
7. Nicodemus was an exception among these rulers. Discuss the actions of Nicodemus as recorded in John 3:1-2; 7:50-51; 19:38-42.
8. What other man proved to be an exception, according to John 19:38-42?
9. **Special Challenge:** List as many reasons as you can think of why the Jewish rulers hated Jesus. Give a scripture reference if possible.

**LESSON #8: THE TESTIMONY OF THE “DISCIPLE
WHOM JESUS LOVED”**

After reading John 19:23-37, answer the following questions

1. Why was the “disciple whom Jesus loved” uniquely qualified to testify as to what happened at the cross?
2. Tell of the dividing of Jesus’ garments among the soldiers. What Old Testament scripture was fulfilled by the soldiers’ actions?
3. What provision did Jesus make for the care of His mother?
4. What two things did the soldiers do in fulfillment of prophecy after Jesus’ death?
5. Consider verse 35. In what way did the writer emphasize the truth of his testimony?

After reading John 20:1-10, answer the following questions

6. How did Peter and the “disciple whom Jesus loved” learn of the empty tomb?
7. Describe what the disciples found when they entered the tomb.
8. Consider verse 8. What was the conclusion of “that other disciple”?
9. Consider John 20:30-31; also John 21:24-25. What does the writer say concerning the signs and works of Jesus?

What was His purpose in writing?

10. **Special Challenge:** After considering John 13:23-26; 19:25-27; 20:1-2; 21:20-24, give evidence that the “disciple whom Jesus loved” was the writer of the book of John.

LESSON #9: THE TESTIMONY OF MARY MAGDALENE AND THOMAS

After reading John 20:1-29, answer the following questions

1. What did Mary experience early on the day of Jesus' resurrection, according to verses 1-2?
2. What was Mary's mistake when she first saw Jesus?
3. At what point did she recognize Jesus?
4. Consider verse 17. Comparing translations, what do you find instead of the King James' "Touch me not"?

What do you think Jesus is saying to Mary in these words?

5. Consider verses 19-20. What evidence did Jesus give the disciples to enable them to positively identify Him as the One who was crucified?
6. Why did Thomas not share their faith?
7. What was Thomas' reply after he had examined Jesus?
8. Upon whom did Jesus pronounce a blessing in verse 29?
9. **Special Challenge:** The apostles were Jesus' specially selected "witnesses" of the resurrection. Find references in Acts, chapters 1-5, that refer to them as witnesses.
10. **Special Challenge:** If it can be reasonably shown that the apostles were neither mistaken nor dishonest, their testimony as witnesses stands. Give evidence that they were not mistaken.

Give evidence that they were not dishonest.

LESSON #10: THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

After reading John 10:1-42, answer the following questions

1. In verse 7, Jesus says, “I am the door of the sheep.” Explain how Jesus serves as a door.
2. In verse 11, He refers to Himself as the “good shepherd.” What are the actions of the good shepherd as stated in this chapter?
3. In what ways does the good shepherd differ from a thief, according to verses 1-10?
4. In what way does He differ from a hireling?
5. Consider verse 18. What power did the Father give Jesus in regards to His life?
6. What are the characteristics of the good shepherd’s sheep as stated in the chapter?
7. How is the security which they enjoy described in verses 28-29?
8. Why were the Jews about to stone Jesus, according to verses 31-33?
9. Consider verses 36-38. What evidence did Jesus give as proof that He was all that He claimed to be?
10. **Special Challenge:** Make a list of the miracles of Jesus recorded in the book of John.