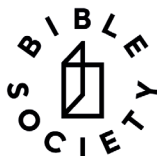


John tells us the
Good News
about Jesus



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A word list at the end explains words with a star* by them

About this book

John's Gospel is one of the four Gospels. 'Gospel' means 'good news'. The Gospels are the books that tell us about Jesus' life on earth. John was one of the three disciples* who knew the Lord Jesus Christ best. John called himself 'the disciple* that Jesus loved'. We think that John wrote his Gospel in the city called Ephesus. He wrote it some years after Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote their Gospels. He wrote it about 70 years after Christ's birth.

John's Gospel is different from the other three Gospels. It does not describe many things that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke do describe. But it does include many things that are not in the other Gospels. John tells us much more about who Jesus was. John shows us Jesus as the Son of God – the only person who can cause us to live. John teaches us more about God's Spirit, too.

At the beginning of his Gospel, John calls Jesus 'the Word'.

JOHN

1

The Word became human

¹In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God. The Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³God made all things by the Word. God did not make anything without him. ⁴It is the Word who causes us to live. And because of this, he was the light to all people. ⁵The light shines in the dark, and the dark cannot put out the light.

⁶God sent a man. His name was John. ⁷He came to tell people about the light. God wanted everyone to believe what John said. ⁸John himself was not that light. God sent him to tell people about the light. ⁹The true light, that gives light to every person, was coming into the world.

¹⁰The Word was in the world. God made the world by him. But the world did not know who he was. ¹¹He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. ¹²But some people did accept him. Some people did believe who he was. So, he gave authority to those people so that they could become God's children. ¹³These children were not born in the usual human way. They were not born because of what any people wanted. They were not born because of what any man decided. No! They were born from God. ¹⁴The Word became human. He lived among us. We saw how great and how good he is. He is great and good as only the Father's one true Son can be. He is completely kind. He is full of what is true.

¹⁵John told people about the Word. He shouted, 'This is the man that I told you about. He comes after me. But he is

greater than I am. He was there before I was born.’ ¹⁶The Word is full of everything that we need. All of us have received from him. We have received one good thing after another good thing. ¹⁷God gave his rules by Moses. But God has been kind to us by Jesus Christ. God has brought his true message to us by Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No person has ever seen God. But God’s only true Son, who is so very near to the Father, has shown God to us.

John the Baptist* was not Christ*

¹⁹The Jews* leaders sent priests* and Levites* from Jerusalem to ask John, ‘Who are you?’ This is what he said. ²⁰John did not refuse to answer. He said, ‘I am not the Christ*.’ ²¹So they asked him, ‘So who are you? Are you Elijah?’ John said, ‘No, I am not.’ They asked, ‘Are you the Prophet*?’ John answered, ‘No.’ ²²Then they said, ‘Tell us who you are. We must say something to the people who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³He said, ‘I am the voice that shouts in the wild places*. I shout, “Make a straight path for the LORD to come.” That is what the prophet* Isaiah said.’ ²⁴The men who came to ask these questions were Pharisees*. ²⁵They said to John, ‘Why do you baptise* people, if you are neither the Christ* nor Elijah nor the Prophet*?’

²⁶John replied, ‘I baptise* people with water. But there is someone here among you that you do not know. ²⁷It is he who comes after me. I am not good enough even to take off his shoes.’ ²⁸All these things happened at a place east from the Jordan river. It was a village called Bethany. John was baptising* people there.

²⁹The next day, John saw Jesus, who was coming towards him. John said, ‘Look! Here is God’s Lamb (young sheep), who takes away the world’s sin*. ³⁰This is the man that I told you about. I told you, “It is he who comes after me. But he is greater than I am. He was already there before I was born.” ³¹I did not know him. But I had to show Israel’s people who he was. That is why I am baptising* people with water.’ ³²John told

them, 'I saw God's Spirit come down from the sky. He came like a dove (a kind of bird) and he stayed on Jesus. ³³I would not have known who Jesus was. But God had sent me to baptise* people with water. And God told me, "You will see the Spirit come down. He will stay on someone. That is the person who will baptise* people with my Holy (completely good) Spirit." ³⁴Now I have seen this. So, I can tell you that this is God's Son.'

Jesus' first disciples*

³⁵John and two of his disciples* were standing there the next day. ³⁶John saw Jesus, who was walking past them. John said, 'Look! There is God's Lamb (young sheep).' ³⁷When the two disciples* heard this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Then Jesus turned round. He saw that they were following him. He asked them, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi (which means Teacher), where are you staying?' ³⁹Jesus replied, 'Come, and you will see.' So, they went with him. And they saw where he was staying. It was about 10 in the morning. And they stayed with him that day.

⁴⁰Andrew was one of the two disciples* who had followed Jesus. They had heard what John had said about Jesus. Andrew was Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹The first thing that Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon. Andrew said to Simon, 'We have found the Messiah*.' (Messiah means Christ*.) ⁴²Then he brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and he said, 'You are Simon, John's son. Your name will be Cephas.' This name is the same as Peter, which means 'rock'.

⁴³The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He met Philip, and Jesus said to Philip, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, came from the town called Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip went to find Nathanael. He told Nathanael, 'We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the book of God's rules. The prophets* wrote about him, too. He is Jesus, who is Joseph's son, from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said, 'I did not think that

anything good could come from Nazareth!’ Philip replied, ‘Come and see.’

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael, who was coming towards him. Jesus said, ‘Here is a completely honest man. That is what a person from Israel should really be like.’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked, ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you before Philip asked you to come. I saw you when you were under the fig (fruit) tree.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael said, ‘Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.’ ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, ‘I told you that I saw you under the fig (fruit) tree. And you believe me because I told you that. But you will see much greater things than that.’ ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, ‘I am telling you what is true. You will see heaven (the sky) open. You will see God’s angels*. They will be going up and they will be coming down on the Son of Man.’

2

The marriage at Cana

¹Two days after that, there was a marriage. It was in the town called Cana, in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there. ²People had asked Jesus and his disciples* to come to the party also. ³When people had drunk all the wine*, Jesus’ mother said to him, ‘They have no more wine*.’ ⁴Jesus replied, ‘Woman, why do you tell me this? It is not my time yet.’ ⁵His mother said to the servants, ‘Do anything that he wants you to do.’

⁶There were 6 big pots there, which people had made from stone. Each pot could contain 20 to 30 gallons of water. These pots contained water so that the Jews* could wash themselves. The Jews* had special rules about when they must wash themselves. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the pots with water.’ So they filled the pots to the top. ⁸Then he said, ‘Now take some of the water from the pots and give it to the master of the party.’ So they took the water. ⁹And the master of the party tasted the water. But the water had become wine*. The master did not know where the wine* had come from. But the