

### Invitation Materials

Author:

- 1 Traditionally, John, “the beloved disciple” (21:20-24), who is also credited with writing three epistles and the Book of Revelation.

Date:

Uncertain, estimates range from A.D. 70 to mid 90s.

Theme:

Jesus is the giver of life.

### Historical Background:

- 1 Of all the Gospels, John is most clearly not meant to be a chronological account of Jesus’ life.
- 2 It is a meditation on the significance of Jesus’ death - a reality which is present right from the beginning of the Gospel (e.g., 1:29)

### Characteristics

- 1 The action centers in Jerusalem rather than in Galilee as in Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- 2 Jesus’ teaching is given in long discourses instead of parables.
- 3 The call to faith and the promise of eternal life are repeatedly stressed.
- 4 Stories not in the synoptic Gospels about people like Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and Lazarus are highlighted.
- 5 The “I Am” statements of Jesus, as well as the prologue (1:1-18) are unique.
- 6 Irony, words with double meanings, and metaphors invite the reader to reflect the richness and depth of Jesus.
- 7 Chapters 1-12 focus on a few public miracles which are expressly meant as “signs” pointing to Jesus’ identity, while in chapters 13-21, Jesus is basically alone with his disciples teaching them about his mission, the Holy Spirit, and his command to love.
- 8 Years of studying John “do not leave one with a feeling of having mastered it, but rather with the conviction that it is still strange, restless, and unfamiliar.” Morris.

### Outline

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1:1-51     | The Word          |
| 2:1-25     | New Wine          |
| 3:1-36     | The Life-Giver    |
| 4:1-54     | Living Water      |
| 5:1-47     | Equal with God    |
| 6:1-71     | The Bread of Life |
| 7:1-8:59   | I Am              |
| 9:1-10:42  | The Good Shepherd |
| 11:1-12:50 | The Resurrection  |
| 13:1-14:31 | Do As I Have Done |
| 15:1-17:26 | The Vine          |
| 18:1-19:42 | Jesus’ Death      |
| 20:1-21:25 | My Lord and God!  |

## Discussion Questions

### Open

- 1 When you get a new car, appliance, tool or toy, are you the type that reads the instructions carefully before attempting to use it, or you only need those when it breaks?

### Dig

- 1 Skim 1:1-18, what facts does John emphasize here?
- 2 Skim through the paragraph titles in 1:19-12:50, what miracle or character especially strikes you? Why?
- 3 Read Jesus' seven "I am" statements (6:35; 8:12; 8:58; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6). How do you feel?

### Reflect

- 1 What do you expect will change in your life if you reread "the owner's instruction manual" and got to know his Son better?

Invitation materials and discussion questions are taken from Serendipity Bible