

“VOICE OF JOHN” SERIES

(Gospel of John, 1st John, 2nd John, 3rd John, Revelation)

JUST LIKE LIFE AND LOVE ITSELF, JESUS IS THE VERY BEGINNING AND ENDING OF YOUR INTENDED STORY

study #1: Introducing Jesus

— covering **John 1:1-18** —

ACTION 1. As a group together read **John 1:1-18** and then discuss:

- what do you think are the main points the author is trying to make in these introductory words?
- what does the author *mean* by these big ideas—**Word, Life, Light, Glory**—& how do they all relate?
- looking especially at **verses 1-3** and **18**, how would you describe all the ways The Father and The Son work together to impact the rest of all creation? (describe their different or shared roles)
- of this book’s first 18 verses, which one is your favorite, and why?

ACTION 2. What do you already know about John, the author of this book? Discuss: *which of these 3 facts about him most interests you or which is most helpful to getting a “feel” for the book we are about to study?*

#1. John (along with Andrew) had previously been a disciple of John the Baptist—until John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to him and caused him to start following Jesus instead. Thus, John had early-on experience and training.

#2. Jesus nicknamed John and his brother James “The Sons of Thunder” (why would YOU nickname a couple guys THAT?) One time, they asked Jesus to let them pray fire down on opponents (A: “No”), and another time they got their mom to request reserved-seats in heaven closest to Jesus (A: “No”).

#3. John wrote about himself being “the one” among the disciples “who Jesus loved” and about being the one closest to *not-fleeing* during Jesus’ arrest. John was allowed to die very last among all the apostles & he wrote 4 *more* NT books.

ACTION 3. At both the start and the end of this whole account of Jesus, John reveals **the bottom-line goal** he has for its readers. Read **John 1:12** and also **20:30-31** and then discuss: what response is the reader intended to have?

ACTION 4. As a group together, *read again* today’s full passage of **John 1:1-18** and then discuss:

- what **NEW** nugget of truth, or curiosity, or question, or “aha” did you pick up reading this the 2nd time?
- John geniusly wrote this account so that *for some people* his writing would “feel” extraordinarily Complex and that *for others* it would for “feel” extraordinarily Simple—which do YOU feel in reading it?

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **John 1:19 – 4:54**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... read **GC** + Torah-Law during series: **Gen 1-11** (*The Way the World Is*)

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