

## “VOICE OF JOHN” SERIES

(Gospel of John, 1<sup>st</sup> John, 2<sup>nd</sup> John, 3<sup>rd</sup> John, Revelation)

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

### study #3: “Belief-in-Jesus” Starts Overlapping People’s Other Beliefs

— covering **John chpts. 5-9** —

**ACTION 1.** After years of uselessly waiting for other people to help him, a sick man met Jesus and immediately became healed. Read **John 5:17-23** and **37-44** and then discuss:

- John the author nicknames the stuck religious leaders “The Jews”; describe what they chose to focus on during the sick man’s healing, and how did Jesus reply?
- how does Jesus describe “the different ways he and the Father are ONE”, and how does Jesus compare that with the way “The Jews” are?
- according to Jesus’ explanation, where do “the Scriptures” fit into all this... how exactly were The Jews both *overestimating* and also *underestimating* the Scriptures at the same time?

**ACTION 2.** The stuck religious leaders (nicknamed “The Jews”) were relying upon, or “eating up”, their empty traditions in order to *get God into themselves*. In **John 6:41-56** & **8:42-45**, read about how Jesus’s choice of words provoked them and their ideas, and then discuss: *what do you think is the most provocative thing Jesus said in all these verses?*

**ACTION 3.** As Jesus increasingly won over whole crowds, became the center of the Jewish Feasts, performed miracles, and said amazing things, people began debating *who Jesus really was and what to do with him*. Read **John 7:40-53** and then discuss:

- who are *all the different groups of people* mentioned in this text & how did they each view Jesus?
- It seems like people who started thinking for themselves quickly got attacked for “believing the wrong thing”; how does that start happening again here, and how is last week’s study on **John 3:1-2** related?

**ACTION 4.** Jesus healed a blind man and The Jews did not like it. Read **John 9:19-34** and in your group re-describe the hilarious way The Jews tried to get rid of the blind man’s story but kept running into a wall.

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

**GOLD CHALLENGE** ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **John 10-12**

**PENGUIN CHALLENGE** ... read **GC** + Torah-Law during series: **Gen 25-36** (*Epic #2 of 3: Jacob*)