

# Bible Discussion Groups

## Gospel of John

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John 1: 19-28

1. Who were "the Jews"? What was their interest in John the Baptist?
2. How did John respond to them? Did he understand his life's calling? How important is that to the Christian?
3. How does John view his relationship to Christ (the Messiah)?
4. What words or thoughts do you find interesting or meaningful in this section?

John 1:29-34

1. What insight did John gain this day?
2. What strikes you as unique about John's proclamation (v. 29-31)? How would you respond to a report of this event?
3. What is the function of a witness? Relate this to Jesus' command, "you shall be My witnesses."
4. What other observations are meaningful in this passage?

John 1:35-42

1. What is the significance of the title, the Lamb of God? What thoughts would this spark in the mind of the average Jew of that day?
2. What motivated these two to follow Jesus.
3. Evaluate Jesus' response to their question.
4. What was the significance of Jesus' renaming Simon?

John 1:43-51

1. How does Phillip's experience differ from Andrew's? Nathaniel's?
2. How does Nathaniel's attitude change in the narrative?
3. What new insights into Jesus are present?
4. What does verse 51 mean? What passage does He have in mind?

John 2: 1-11

1. Why do you suppose there is no mention of Joseph?
2. Why did Mary say to Jesus, "They have no wine"? Is His reply a rebuke? Explain "My hour has not yet come".
3. Look at John 20:30, 31. Why does John include signs in his gospel?
4. What is the significance of this first sign?
5. What questions or observations do you see in this passage?

John 2:12-22

1. As a bystander, describe your reaction to witnessing this event. What might be other reactions?
2. What characteristics of Jesus are shown here?
3. Why does Christian art so seldom show this aspect of Jesus?
4. Do you think Jesus expected the Jews to understand His words in v. 19, 20? Why were they said?
5. What method does Jesus use to teach His disciples?
6. Why is this effective? How can we use this method?

John 2:23-25

1. What does it mean to "believe in His name"?
2. Do verses 24, 25 help explain why Jesus is often indirect in revealing who He is?

John 3:1-8

1. What does this night-time visit tell you about Nicodemus?
2. Contrast Nicodemus' questioning of Jesus and the previous group that questioned John (chapter 1).
3. How does Nicodemus view Jesus? Can you think of groups that view Him this way today?
4. How would you have responded to Nicodemus' remark in verse 2? Relate Jesus' response to 2:25b.
5. Analyze Jesus' remark in v. 3. What is the meaning of "verily, verily"; "born again"; "can not see the kingdom of God"?
6. Why does Nicodemus misunderstand Jesus? What are the reasons people misunderstand us as we share the gospel?
7. What does the word "water" in verse 5 refer to?
8. How do verses 4 and 6 help decide this? How could this verse be distorted?
9. What do you think verse 8 means?
10. In summary: compare physical and spiritual birth.

John 3:9-15

1. Read Jesus' words in verses 10-15 as you think Jesus would have said them.
2. (Read Numbers 21:4-9 as background) what analogy is Jesus making here?
3. What other questions do you have from the verses?

John 3:16-21

1. Are verses 16 through 21 spoken by Nicodemus or are they a comment made by John? What leads you to your conclusion?
2. Verse 16 is said to be the greatest Bible verse. What do you find especially great about it?
3. What does verse 17 mean to you?
4. Do these verses teach that unbelievers to seek after God? How, then, do you explain the interest shown in God by some non Christians?

John 3:22-30

1. What disturbed John's disciples? (Look at John's response for a clue) Why wasn't John disturbed too?
2. What does verse 30 mean?
3. Is the principle of verse 30 valid today?
4. How is it abused by individuals and groups? What does this say about jealousy over another Christian's gifts, talents or ministry?
5. What does verse 27 mean, and how does it relate to the paragraph?

John 3:31-36

1. What is the main point of these verses?
2. What observations do you make from verses 34-36 concerning the Trinity? Which member is accented in this passage? Why?
3. Why do you think people are more familiar with John 3:16 than John 3:36? How can you harmonize God's love (3:16) with God's wrath (3:36)?
4. What motivation do you see for evangelism in this chapter?

John 4:1-6

1. Why did Jesus leave Judea? How did He know this was best?
2. Locate Judea, Samaria and Galilee on a map.
3. What does Jesus' weariness (v. 6) tell you about Him? What

comfort does knowing Jesus was human give you?

John 4:7-14

1. Who takes the initiative in this incident? Is this unusual? Why do you think verse 8 is included?
2. What was the woman's first impression of Jesus? Do you think this influenced her to continue the discussion?
3. How important are first impressions in sharing the gospel? What applications you draw from this?
4. Evaluate Jesus' presentation of everlasting life. What principles can be drawn from this?
5. What contrasts do you see between Nicodemus and the woman at the well? In Jesus' response to each?

John 4:15-26

1. Why does Jesus shift the focus of the discussion in verse 16?
2. How does the woman shift the conversation? How does Jesus respond to this?
3. What can we learn about worship in verses 21 through 24? What does it mean to worship Him in "spirit and truth"? How is this done?
4. How does the conversation shift in verse 25?
5. How does Jesus respond?

John 4:27-30

1. What was the disciples' reaction when they returned? How were they (and how are we) bound to custom?
2. Analyze the woman's response in verses 28, 29.

John 4:31-38

1. What do verses 31 through 34 tell you about Jesus' priorities? What might happen if 10% of all Christians had this perspective? Why don't they?
2. Why is the figure of the harvest so appropriate to the subject at hand? How do we as Christians sow? reap?
3. Is this passage referring to missions or evangelism? Is there a difference? If so, what?
4. What other observations interest you?

John 4:39-42

1. How does the woman's understanding of whom Jesus is change

from v.9 to v.19 to v.29 to v. 42?

2. What interesting observations related to evangelism do you see?

#### John 4:43-54

1. What does the phrase in verse 44 mean in context?
2. Why were the Galileans so receptive?
3. How far had the royal official travelled to speak to Jesus? What does this tell about him?
4. What was the tone and intent of Jesus in verse 48? Is the seeking after signs a mark of maturity? What about Gideon's fleece?
5. Evaluate the maxim, "Seeing is believing," How could this be restated?
6. How might a man of lesser faith respond differently to Jesus' words in verse 50.
7. What is the result of this second sign? Is this result similar to the result first sign (changing of water to wine Chapter 2)?
8. What do you observe about faith in trials?
9. How can you apply this to your life?

#### John 5:1-9

1. What does verse 1 tell you about the nature of this miracle (time, place)?
2. How would you respond to seeing the scene at the pool described in verse 3?
3. What observations do you make about the incident of healing? What do you learn about Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus single out only one to heal? Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle?
5. How would you evaluate the statement, "It is not God's will for anyone to be sick."?

#### John 5:10-18

1. What was the cause of this man's infirmity? Is sickness always the result of sin? Cite Biblical examples.
2. What do you learn about "the Jews" from this section? Did they really understand the intent of the Sabbath?
3. Would the Jews agree with the statement, "Jesus never claimed to be God."?
4. What other observations do you make from this section?

John 5: 19-29

1. What evidences for the deity of Christ do you see in this passage?
2. How would you react to this discourse if you were a Pharisee? a curious Jew? a disciple?
3. What elements of the relationship of the Father and the Son do you discover in this paragraph?
4. What can we learn about eternal life from this passage?
5. How do you reconcile verse 29 with the doctrine of salvation by faith alone (cf. Jn. 1:14)?
6. What areas of application do you see here?

John 5:30-47

1. What witnesses to the Son are presented in this paragraph?
2. What is the relationship of the Son to the Scriptures and the Scriptures to the Son.
3. How is Jesus' concluding remark (v. 45-47) related to the situation?
4. Why don't Jews today see Jesus in the pages of Scripture? How should we witness to them?
5. What other questions or applications do you have?

John 6:1-14

1. What was the motive of those who were seeking Christ?
2. Can you think of examples of people who are like that today?
3. Why did Jesus ask Phillip the question in verse 5? How was this a "test" for Phillip?
4. What is the difference between a test and a temptation? How has God tested your faith?
5. What impresses you about Jesus' response to Andrew in verse 9?
6. What interesting observations can you make about this miracle?
7. How did the people respond to this sign? How do you think the disciples responded?

John 6: 15-21

1. What do you learn about Jesus from verse 15?
2. Locate Tiberius and Capernaum on a map? What is the distance between them?

3. The previous section recorded a test of faith.
4. Could this too be a test of faith? How is it a test? How did they do?
5. Now read Mark 6:45-52 which is a parallel account. What new insight do you gain? Why is it important to study parallel accounts to understand a passage?

#### John 6:22-40

1. Why does Jesus answer the question as He does in verse 26? What does this tell us about Jesus? The seekers?
2. Is the question of verse 28 a normal response to verse 27? What do you think they expect Jesus to say?
3. What observations could you make about salvation from verse 29 alone?
4. Do the multitudes understand Jesus? (cf. v.31) Why didn't they understand? What was the problem?
5. In what sense is Jesus the Bread come down Heaven? How do you think the Jews will respond to this?
6. What observations can you make about salvation from verses 36 through 40? What does it say about eternal security? What comfort do these verses give a Christian?

#### John 6:41-51

1. What disturbed the Jews about Jesus' statement?
2. What does Jesus mean by verse 45?
3. What other questions do you have about this passage?

#### John 6:52-71

1. Why doesn't Jesus explain His analogy since He knows they are confused?
2. Do verses 53-58 require Communion for salvation? Why? or why not?
3. What new group begins to grumble? How does Jesus respond? What applications do you see here?
4. Why do we see the reaction of verse 66?
5. How is the response of the twelve different? How would you describe their feelings at this point? Can you identify with them? What points of application arise out of this passage?

#### John 7:1-10

1. Why were the Jews of Judea seeking to kill Jesus? (cf. Jn.

5:18).

2. Why did Jesus' brothers desire Him to go to Jerusalem? What did they expect to happen? How do they view Him?
3. How would you paraphrase verse 4a? What is wrong with the reasoning of his brothers?
4. What is Jesus' stated reason for not going as his brothers suggest? What does He mean by "my hour"?
5. Is there a contradiction between verses 8 and 10?
6. What feast will be the occasion for His display as Messiah?
7. How do you evaluate the spirituality of the brothers? What was their problem?
8. How often does God's plan conflict with ours? What can we learn from this passage by way of application?

John 7:11-23

1. What was the atmosphere that surrounded them? What different attitudes toward Jesus do you see in this section?
2. Are Jesus' actions in this section more in His ministry as the Prophet or the Messiah? Does this help clarify the apparent diction of verses 8 and 10?
3. How do the people respond to His teaching?
4. What parts of Jesus' words here are most meaningful to you?

John 7:25-36

1. How many attitudes toward Jesus can you see in this paragraph? Are these attitudes still with them? (cite examples)
2. Why does Jesus stop His teaching to answer the questions about being raised?
3. What do you learn about God from verse 30? What applications can you draw from this?
4. What did Jesus mean by verses 34 and 35? What did the Jews think He meant? Why do you think He was so frequently misunderstood?

John 7:34-52

1. What feast is being celebrated in this passage?
2. Read Lev. 23:34-36 and Neh. 8:13-18 for background.
3. What are the responses to these words of Christ?
4. What were the officers' reactions to Jesus?
5. What new information do you gain about Nicodemus?

6. How many reactions to Jesus can you recall from this chapter alone?

John 7: 53-8: 11

*Note: There is reasonable doubt whether John wrote this section, although most scholars feel it to be an actual incident in the life of our Lord. Therefore, one should proceed with caution in building doctrinal and practical principles from the section.*

*Reasons for doubt of authenticity are:*

- (1) Many of the oldest and best omit the section*
- (2) Some place this section at other places in John and one places it in Luke*
- (3) The vocabulary and style is significantly different from other writings of John*
- (4) The verses fit awkwardly in the narrative providing difficulties that are removed when omitted.*

*To sum up: It is quite likely that this section is an event from the life of Jesus that was passed on by word of mouth and in the second or third century inserted into John's gospel.*

1. What seems peculiar about the case brought to Jesus in verses 4 and 5? (Read Lev. 20:10 and Dt. 22:22-24 for insight) What does this tell you about how the scribes and the Pharisees used the Bible?
2. How was this a "test" for Jesus?
3. What about Jesus' one sentence answer was so effective?
4. Put yourself into the woman's place; what feelings do you have at each point in the account?
5. Evaluate F. L. Godet's comment on Jesus' response to the woman: "The sinful woman who is in question here did not come to Jesus by reason of a move of repentance and faith. By not condemning her, Jesus simply grants her the opportunity for repenting and believing. It is a promise of forbearance not forgiveness." (cf. Ro. 3:23-25)

John 8:12-30

1. If the previous section is not original, what is the context for these verses?
2. How is Jesus "the light of the world"? What does He mean by saying "the light of life"?
3. What does Jesus mean in verse 23 when He is not of this

world?

4. What significant observations do you make in verse 24?
5. What examples do you see to follow in these verses?

John 8:31-47

1. What mark of a disciple is mentioned in verse 31? What does it mean to abide in His word? How can we do this?
2. Verse 32 is a very popular verse, what does it mean? What effect does sin have on a believer's life?
3. What is the point of all the discussion about Abraham in verses 33, 37-40?
4. What tactic are the Jews using in Verse 41?
5. How does Jesus turn the tables on them in verses 42-44?
6. What do you learn about Satan in verse 44?
7. How can you apply this understanding in your daily life?
8. What does verse 47 mean? How does this relate to personal evangelism? Compare this verse with 1 Corinthians 2:14.

John 8:48-59

1. What reaction do the Jews have to verse 51?
2. What reaction do you have?
3. What does Jesus mean by verse 54? How does this refute the non-Christian who views Jesus as merely a good man and/or a teacher of virtue?
4. How is Jesus an example for us in verse 55?
5. What strikes you as significant in vv. 56-8? 5- Why did they pick up stones in verse 58?

From this point you may write your own questions for the sections ahead....