



The Gospel of John

(New International Version)



What is it all about anyway?

The Gospel of John was written by a man whose name was John. This man was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. He wrote the story about the life of Jesus so that people would know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, who came to earth as a man. Jesus came to save us. He died for each one of us.

Every one of us is a sinner in need of a savior. This book will tell you how you can know Jesus.



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A lot of kids may think that the Bible is just a bunch of stories. But John wanted *YOU* to know that Jesus loves you. John wanted *YOU* to know that God has a plan for your life.

There is life in these words. Reading this book is not a story, but it is the start of a ***GREAT ADVENTURE!*** Are you ready?



God's Good News
for this generation!

The Gospel of John

John 1 In the Beginning

What's Inside....

- * Who is Jesus?
- * Why did Jesus come to earth?
- * What does it mean to be "born again"?
- * How can I trust in Jesus?
- * Will Jesus heal me?
- * Will Jesus take care of me?

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world

did not recognize him. ¹¹

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who



A lighthouse also shines in the darkness to show ships the way to safety.

received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed



Come in and
see what
all the
excitement is
about!

What does it mean?

Jesus is God. He has always existed. John, who was a disciple of Jesus calls Jesus the Word of God who became flesh. That means that Jesus came down from heaven to earth. He was born as a little baby and grew up to be a man. But

Jesus was still God. Jesus came to show us how to get to heaven.

Do you sometimes feel like life is dark and scary? Jesus came to give you light and to show you how to

live. Ask Jesus to give you light.

Jesus, I want your light to shine in my heart and in my life. Take away the darkness and let me know you. Amen.

John 1:15-27 John the Baptist

me because he was before me.”¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.



John the Baptist came to tell people Jesus was coming soon!

John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ

¹⁹ Now this was John’s testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹ They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”
“Are you the Prophet?”
He answered, “No.”

²² Finally they said, “Who are you? Give

us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent²⁵ questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

John 1:28-34

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Jesus the Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me

because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I

Jesus came to take away our sin. He wants to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

Jesus’ First Disciples

Make it real!

Have you ever heard the word *SIN*? Do you know what it means? Imagine a glass full of ice water on a hot day. It sure would taste good to have a drink. What would happen if you happened to drop a spoonful of mud in that glass of water? Would you still want to drink it? Sin is like the mud. When we lie, steal, cheat, or get angry, our lives can get really muddy real fast.

Jesus came to take away the sin in our lives. Instead of our lives looking like mud, Jesus wants to live in our hearts by giving us the Holy Spirit.

What are some things that make your life muddy? Take a minute and ask Jesus to take it away. Then ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit.



Jesus wants to give you the Holy Spirit too!

John 1:36-45 Jesus calls His disciples

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

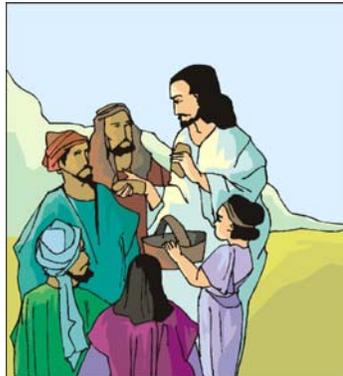
³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother,

was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).



Jesus called people to be close to Him. These people followed Him and were called disciples.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the

John 1:46-2:1

prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and

the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Jesus Changes Water to Wine

2 On the

**Jesus says:
"Follow Me"**

**Will You
Follow Jesus?**

How to follow the leader?

We all know how to play follow the leader. Even if we aren't playing games, we know how to follow. Can you think of a time when your friend heard some really good news? He heard the sound of the ice cream truck coming down the street. He ran and told you and you followed him to get some really good ice cream.



Friends will always tell each other Good News. Finding Jesus is really Good News!

Knowing Jesus is much better than ice cream. Jesus is forever. Every day Jesus wants to love you and help you. Will you follow him?

You can follow Jesus by reading the Bible and believing in Jesus. If you believe in Jesus, you will do what He says — Just like if you were playing follow the leader.

Remember good followers are good listeners. Take time to listen to what Jesus says.

John 2:2-2:11 Jesus changes water to wine

third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet



It was His first miracle. Water was changed to wine.

come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 2:12-2:18 Jesus clears the Temple

Jesus Clears the Temple

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables

exchanging money.¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their

tables.¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. You can too!

You are special to Jesus!

Jesus did something very special. Do you remember what? He changed water into wine at a wedding. It was the first time he performed a miracle.

Jesus cared enough about the people at the wedding to do something special for them. He cares for you too! You are special to Jesus! He loves you!

Is there something you need? Why not ask Jesus to help you?

Jesus, I really need some help today. I believe that you love me and care for me. Please take care of my need too. Amen.



Did you pray that prayer? If you did, then watch how Jesus will take care of you too! You are special to Jesus!

Jesus wants to do something special in your life too!

John 2:19-3:4 Jesus cleans the temple

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But

Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. ²⁵ He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish



Jesus cleared the Temple. God's house is a place for prayer.

ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked.

John 3:5-13 Being born of water and spirit

"Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it

comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things

and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the

Jesus knows what is in each person's heart.

What does it mean?

The temple was the place where God was. God wanted the temple to be a place where He could talk with people. It was a place to pray and meet with God. When Jesus came to the temple, He saw people had filled the temple with everything but the desire to meet with God.



There are times when we need to clean up our hearts to prepare a place for Jesus.

God wants your heart to be His temple. He wants you to be able to meet and talk with Him all the time.

If your life is full of everything but God, maybe its time for some heart cleanup.

Maybe its time to get rid of the junk so you can hear God too! Jesus can help clean up your heart. Just ask Him.

Jesus, come and clean my heart. Get rid of the junk so I can talk with you and hear you. Teach me to keep my heart clean –just the way you want it!

Today God wants to live in you.

John 3:14-23 Jesus loves you

Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** ¹⁷

For God did not send



Everyone knows how to be born once. How can you be born twice?

his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does

evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

John the Baptist's Testimony About Jesus

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, be-

John 3:24-31

cause there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the

matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”

²⁷ To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹ The bride be-

longs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

³¹ “The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The

Jesus wants you to live! He wants you to be BORN AGAIN!

How can I be born again?

Everyone can be born again. If you have been born once, you can be born twice. In fact, if you want to live forever in heaven with Jesus, you **MUST** be born again.

It is really not hard. All you need to do is believe that God loves you. He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for your sin. Jesus died in your place. You can believe in Jesus.

If you believe in Jesus, you will trust Him, follow Him, live for Him and love Him every day.



Jesus wants your heart—your spirit man to be alive. That will make you happy!

Do you want to be born again? Then pray.

Dear Jesus, I want to be born again. I believe that you love me and died for me so that I can live forever. I will trust you and follow you every day. Amen.

Now let God fill your heart with **JOY!**

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Nicodemus learned that he must believe in Jesus to be saved from sins. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:32 - 4:9 Jesus has living water

one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his



Jesus brought living water to a women at the well.

hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, ² although in fact it was not Jesus who bap-

tized, but his disciples. ³ When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him,

John 4:10-15 And talks to a Samaritan woman

"You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is

deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

**Thirsty?
Try Jesus!**

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your hus-

What kind of springs will Jesus give me?



Jesus wants to make springs of life bounce and bubble up from your life

When some kids think of springs, they think of things that bounce. God isn't going to turn you into a spring boy or girl. He wants to put the bounce of love and joy inside of you. And when you

have joy inside, everyone on the outside will know it.

Have you ever started laughing in a room and soon everyone in the room was laughing? It's the same with Jesus. When He puts His life In you, everyone around you will want it too.

Do you want the life of Jesus in you?

Then do what the woman at the well did—just ask Jesus.

Jesus, I ask you to come into my heart and fill me with joy. Put springs of life inside of me. Let joy fill my life. Amen.