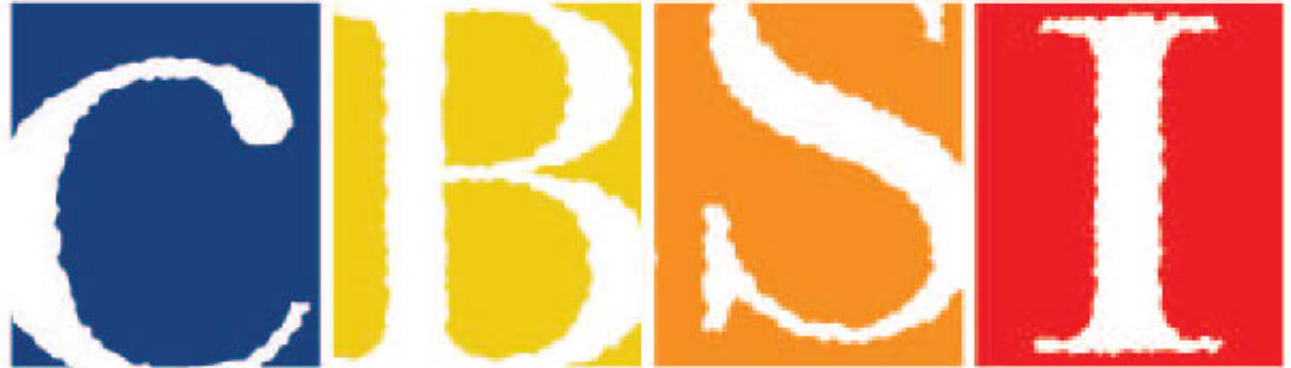


STUDENT



COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY INTERNATIONAL

*Everyone in the world...in the Word*

# **The Gospel of John**

Memorize the TRUTH!

# Gospel of John

Lesson 10  
The Son of God  
John 5:16-47

**“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” John 5:28-29**

## Jesus, the Son of God — John 5:16-47 Overview **Day 1**

1. Read through this entire passage and record the words or thoughts that catch your attention.
2. a. What did Jesus say that disturbed the Jewish leaders even more than their belief that He broke the Sabbath? vv. 16-18  
  
b. What did their law say about a person who made that claim? John 19:7

## Learn the TRUTH!

The Jewish leaders believed the Scriptures that promised a Messiah. Yet, when those Scriptures were fulfilled before their very eyes, they were not willing to believe. Ask God to reveal any way you may be skeptical of His Word. Step out in faith and believe that God's Word is true!

## Jesus Can Do Nothing Apart From the Father — John 5:16-27

## Day 2

3. What claims did Jesus make about His relationship with His Father?
4. a. How is our relationship with God, as His children, similar to Jesus' relationship with His Father?  
  
b. How is our relationship with God different?
5. Is it possible to believe in the God of the Bible but not in Jesus? Why or why not?

Luke 10:16

1 John 2:23

**Jesus Claims the Right to Judge** **Day 3**  
**John 5:28-30**

6. What time do you think Jesus is referring to?
7. Daniel wrote of a future judgment when every human will fall into one of two groups. Describe each group. Daniel 12:1-2
- John 3:16, 36
8. a. Why did Jesus claim He has the right to judge and that His judgment is just?
- b. Why did His accusers challenge His right to judge? Isaiah 33:22

**Jesus Knows Our Hearts** **Day 5**  
**John 5:31-47 continued**

13. a. What steps did Jesus say the Jews should take in their search for eternal life?
- b. What link is missing in their search?
14. a. What problem did Jesus point out in His accusers' hearts? vv. 41-44
- b. How did Jesus' motives differ from the motives of His accusers?

**Jesus Proves His Claim** **Day 4**  
**John 5:31-47**

9. What did Jewish law require concerning final evidence? Deuteronomy 19:15
10. Who bore witness to Christ's identity?  
vv. 32, 37  
vv. 33-35  
v. 36  
v. 39  
vv. 46-47
11. Why was John the Baptist such an influential witness?
12. a. What reasons did Jesus give for the Jews' inability to believe the witness of His Father about Him?
- b. How do these same obstacles keep people from believing in Jesus today?

**Live the TRUTH!**

We should seek to serve God out of a desire to please Him, not because of any reward we might receive. "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends" 2 Corinthians 10:18. Who are you trying to please -- God? Yourself? Others?

## Commentary Gospel of John Lesson 10

John's objective in writing his Gospel is to present Jesus as the Son of God (20:31). The other Gospel writers began with simple historical facts, but John introduces Jesus as the Word of God, the Logos, in human form, through whom all things were created. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, John presents the eternal pre-existence of Christ. This is the foundation on which the apostle Paul based his life-changing doctrines about Jesus. Paul wrote that God "appeared in a body" (1 Timothy 3:16) and that "God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Christ]" (Colossians 1:19). John uses narratives and Jesus' monologues to highlight His divine nature.

John chose the seven miracles he recorded in his account as signs that confirm Jesus as the promised Messiah, the Son of God. Like the signs that confirm Christ's nature and effectiveness, the teaching and testimony of Jesus make the audience aware of His incredible authority. Those who recognize the deity of Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior will experience the miracle of His life-transforming power in their lives. John's sensitivity to and intimacy with Jesus enabled him to comprehend and express to his readers, to some degree, the thoughts and feelings of the Lord.

An extraordinary quality of John's account is that every recorded word of Jesus has value. Each line or sentence He speaks illuminates our minds, revives our souls, causes our hearts to rejoice, and transforms our stubborn wills. Those who have experienced this transformation can testify that His words are more desirable than riches or anything else (Psalm 19:7-10).

In the first part of Chapter 5, John records the healing of the man who was an invalid for thirty-eight years. Because this healing occurred on the Sabbath, some of the more legalistic Jews persecute Jesus. In response to their accusations, Jesus tells them of His intimate relationship with God, calling Him "My Father" (5:17). The Jews consider this remark blasphemous; they believe Jesus is saying He is equal with God. But it is true. Jesus is the Incarnate Word — God who has taken on human flesh. Even so, Jesus lived a life of sensitivity and submission to God. He does not hesitate to declare His total dependency, telling the Jews He can do nothing by Himself but "only what He sees his Father doing" (5:19; see also 5:30; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10).

Because of Jesus' constant commitment to and communion with His Father, their unity is complete. The incredible intimacy of God the Father with the Son, and of the Son with believers, is beyond our human reasoning!

John notes the result of a complete and consistent union between the Son and the Father: The visible (Christ) projects the invisible (God). Because the Father is Almighty God, He will demonstrate even greater works than healing through the Son; the Father will even raise the dead through His Son, according to verses 20-21. Incidences of resurrection include Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43); the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:12-15); and Lazarus (John 11:1-46). The Father also will judge through the Son (see Matthew 25:31-45; John 8:1-11). In addition, the Father receives honor through the Son. The crowd gives glory to God when they see the invalid healed (Matthew 9:1-8). Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father.

### Check It Out:

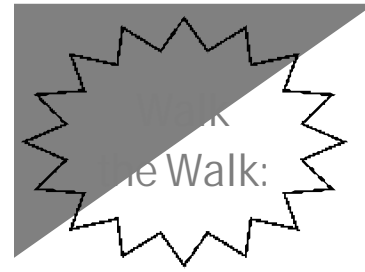
Think about your life. Do you have a sensitive and obedient attitude toward God? If you have been born spiritually into His family, you are His child! Do you relate to God the Father as Jesus would? Are you motivated by your own will and desires, or do you seek His will when making decisions, talking over all your needs with Him? Are you the final authority in your life, or do you acknowledge God as the loving Designer of your life, the One who knows what is best for His creation?

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6). In your recent decisions, have you been sensitive to God's direction? As Jesus fills you with His Spirit, your sensitivity and obedience to Him will grow. It is never too soon to start — in fact, the younger you are, the easier it will be to learn how to rely upon Him for direction in all areas of your life.

Jesus reveals the secret of a life filled with zest and purpose, unhampered by fear: "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned ... . A time is coming ... when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:24-26). John shares the good news (gospel) of eternal life here and tells of the bodily resurrection to come. Because physical death is a reality, the promise and the power of the Resurrection, as demonstrated through Jesus' own experience, constitute our great hope as well as our consolation.

Having introduced the unity of God the Father and God the Son, Jesus tries to convince His Jewish audience of His divinity, again emphasizing His total dependence on the Father who commissioned Him. He reminds them that the Law of Moses required two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15), whereas there are five witnesses to Him: God the Father (John 5:32, 37), John the Baptist (5:33, 35), His works (5:36), the Scriptures (5:39), and Moses (5:46-47).

As Chapter 5 concludes, we are reminded of the signposts through the ages that pointed to Jesus. To fully convince us of His love and plan for redemption, God used all possible means. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways," according to Hebrews 1:1. But now, God has spoken to us by His Son, whom God Himself testified to, whom John the Baptist referred to as the Lamb of God, who is confirmed by Jesus' own miraculous works, prophesied in the Old Testament, and introduced by Moses (whom God used to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt). Who can ignore or reject such testimonies?



**Jesus points out one of the most common sources of unbelief – our ego. Why were so many Jewish leaders unwilling to believe in Christ? Jesus said it was because they sought man's glory rather than God's glory. "Many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God" (John 12:42-43).**

**Similar motives may keep us from believing in Jesus. Our priorities and values can be easily misplaced in modern society. We may be afraid of ridicule from others. Like the Pharisees, we may care more about receiving praise from men than praise from God.**

**Above all, God desires that we believe that Jesus is the Christ, His Son and that we make Him our priority. Why? John 20:31 reveals the reason: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:31). Do you have this promised life in His name? This is His desire for you!**