

IN THE
BEGINNING
WAS THE...

WORD

A STUDY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 4 – The Word is...OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING)

FACILITATOR'S Note

MAIN POINT THIS WEEK: *Jesus has supernatural knowledge that only God can possess (1:48; 2:4, 19, 23–25; 3:14; 4:17–18; 6:51, 70; 8:28; 9:3; 10:15, 17–18; 11:4, 14; 12:24, 32; 13:10–11, 38; 21:18–19).*

Omniscience is the ability to know all things. This is an attribute that has only been assigned to God in human history. It is a supernatural ability to know the thoughts/hearts of humankind, know the past/present/future, know how all came to be and the intricacies involved in each created thing, and to know that which no human can fathom knowing. Today we will see that Jesus holds this sort of “knowing.” The things He claimed to know and demonstrated knowing could not be attributed to a mere human. The many claims He makes would demonstrate that He was a crazy man, a scam artist, or God Himself.

Today you will focus your class on Jesus as an omniscient (all knowing) God. This is either further evidence of Jesus being God, or evidence He was not who He said He was/is. As you can see, there are many passages to look through in this class. You will need to choose which ones you want to spend more time on. Each of them touches on a different “knowing” that Jesus had that could not be said of anyone without supernatural abilities. John uses this as further evidence that Jesus really is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Remember, this semester we hope to provide material that will provide knowledge (HEAD); then ask questions that will bring us understanding (HEART); and then motivate participants to go and live the Word in the world and demonstrate Godly wisdom (HANDS). Help them with that today.

HEAD  **→** **HEART**  **→** **HANDS** 

*As always, we would encourage you to begin preparing for each lesson by digging into the Word and specifically the text for each of the weeks. **This week the texts are: 1:48; 2:4, 19, 23–25; 3:14; 4:17–18; 6:51, 70; 8:28; 9:3; 10:15, 17–18; 11:4, 14; 12:24, 32; 13:10–11, 38; 21:18–19.** As you move through the Word, jot down any thoughts that come to you and particular passages that stand out and speak to you. We assure you that these will come into play as you facilitate this discussion. It is then that you should approach this lesson plan and use it (and others) only as a guide for the weeks to come. Your group is different than all the rest and so your lessons should be adapted accordingly.*

PRAYER



Begin your time with a prayer asking God for the guidance of His Holy Spirit as you and your class seek to encounter Him through His Holy Word. Ask Him to help you “know” Him in the way He made Himself known through Jesus, His Son.

FOCUS

- Understand that Jesus has supernatural “knowing” just like God.
- Understand that He has this knowledge because He is God.
- Understand that there is nothing that can be hidden from Jesus, as He knows us better than we know ourselves.

DISCUSSION STARTERS (OPTIONAL)

- If someone asked you to define the word “omniscient” how would you define it?
- Do you struggle with not being able to know everything that God knows? Why or why not?
- Today, people believe that humans are the end (in and of themselves) and that all knowledge can be attained given enough time. However, as Christians, we believe that only God knows all and is the true source of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. As Isaiah tells us, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV)

From the Gospel of John

- 1:48
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew when and where Nathaniel was before He even saw or met him.
 - There is nowhere you can hide from Jesus' knowing.
 - See Psalm 139:1-12
 - Contemporary Application
 - How does knowing that God/Jesus/Spirit "know" you this way make you feel?
 - Do you ever feel like you're trying to hide from God (like Adam and Eve)? Why do we do this?
- 2:4
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew His hour to be glorified and save humankind (the cross) had not yet come (see also 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1). He knew why He came!
 - Because of people's misconceptions of the Messiah, Jesus chose not to reveal who He was until His Father's appointed time.
 - This is often referred to as the Messianic Secret.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Are there times when you have kept certain things secret because you knew it was not time to reveal them yet? Examples?
- 2:19
 - Key Points
 - Jesus not only knows He will die, but he also knows that He has a part in raising Himself from the dead (as do the Father and the Spirit – see also Acts 2:24; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:14; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20).
 - Jesus even refers to Himself as "the resurrection and the life" (11:25).
 - Contemporary Application
 - Would you live differently if you knew when and how you would die? Explain.
- 2:23–25
 - Key Points
 - Jesus didn't trust people because He knew their hearts. As a matter of fact, He "knew all people."
 - You see this sort of "knowing" when He encounters Nicodemus in chapter 3 and the Samaritan Woman in chapter 4.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Jesus knew the most deep, dark things about all of us and yet He still chose to die and be raised in order to save us from ourselves.
 - What are the deep, dark things that Jesus knows about you (rhetorical)? Have you allowed Him to take them from you? Is this hard? Explain.

- 3:14; 8:28; 12:32
 - Key Points
 - Jesus speaks of being “lifted up” three times in John. These statements refer to His being “lifted up” on a cross (as Moses lifted the serpent in the dessert to heal the people), to His being “lifted up” at the resurrection, and to being “lifted up” in exaltation to glory in heaven (Acts 2:33; 5:31). Often John uses double meaning to make a point (4:10; 8:24; 11:50-51; 19:19).
- 4:17–18
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knows all our past and present mistakes and the toll they are taking on us.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Knowing that Jesus “knows” us in this way, how does it make you feel?
 - Do you feel closer to Jesus in some way or do you feel like He is just watching and waiting for you to make a mistake? Explain.
- 6:51
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knows that He is the way, the truth, and the life (14:6). He is the only one who can fill their/your spiritual hunger.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Do you find your spiritual nurturance in Jesus or do you find yourself looking for fulfillment in other places/people/things?
- 6:70; 13:10-11
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew who His twelve would be. This is a hard concept as it is apparent that He chose Judas in order to fulfill his role in the plan of salvation.
 - God’s omniscience allows Him to see the hearts of people and know whether they will be His or not. God knew beforehand that Pharaoh would harden his heart and He also knew that Judas would betray Jesus.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Does this take away our right to choose?
 - Did Pharaoh and Judas have a choice?
 - Is it hard to grasp that God knows all things because He does not see through the lens of time? God sees things all at once and therefore knows all things.
- 9:3
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew that the man’s blindness was not because of the man’s or his parent’s sin. But he was born blind because God would use it to display His mighty works.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Have you ever consider that your trials and struggles could be for the glory of God?
 - Do you think about that in the moment or is it revealed to you later?

- 10:15, 17–18
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knows the Father intimately because they are one. Because they are one, Jesus had the divine authority to lay down His life (death on the cross) and to “take it up again” (resurrection).
 - He knew before it happened how He would die and that He would be raised again.
- 11:4, 14
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew that Lazarus would be raised from the dead. Therefore, He had the ability to tell them beforehand that Lazarus’ illness would not lead to death, but to the display of God’s glory.
- 12:24
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knows full well that His death will bring others salvation and bear much fruit. He understood that it was necessary for Him to die in order to be raised again and for others to receive that same resurrection.
 - Contemporary Application
 - How does knowing this affect you and affect how you live your life?
- 13:38
 - Key Points
 - Jesus knew full well that Peter would deny Him. However, He also knew that Peter would return to Him (Luke 22:31-34) but that Judas would not return to Him (Mark 14:21).
 - Realize that Satan entered both Peter and Judas. Both betrayed Jesus. Both had a choice of how to proceed in the moment and how to respond after it. Jesus knew how both would respond in the moment and how they would respond after it.
 - This “knowing” does not negate choice. These passages are some of the many instances where we see God’s sovereignty (rule over all things) in the ordering of events, but also the human responsibility for those events (see also Gen. 50:18-21; Acts 2:23; 4:28; 18:9-11; 27:30; 2 Tim. 2:10).
 - If you have time to delve in this you can go to Romans 9:14-21. Here, Paul tries to help his readers that God is sovereign and omniscient. Because God has mercy or hardens the hearts on whom He chooses does not mean they do not have a choice. It means He knows their choice before they make it. Mercy and Hardening do not indicate a lack of free will, but the limitlessness of God’s rule and knowledge. That’s why Paul goes on to say that the vessel should not question why the potter has made them that way.
 - Remember, we all make choices everyday of who we will serve: Self or God. In that moment of choice we

demonstrate who are who are god is. More importantly is how we respond after that choice. It doesn't end with the choice, but is continued on after we make it. That's why it is so important to live a transformed life that is moving one from Self to God (even when we make wrong choices).

- Contemporary Application
 - Is this a hard concept to grasp and accept? Why or why not?
- 21:18–19
 - Key Points
 - Stretching out of hands was another way to represent crucifixion and through this statement Jesus was demonstrating but again the way in which He knew Peter would die.
 - Several sources point to Peter being martyred through crucifixion. Some of these state that he requested to be crucified upside-down so as not to die in the same way as his Lord. However, there is nothing to tell us that for certain.
 - Contemporary Application
 - Remember, Jesus knows how and when you will die too. However, that's not the point. The point is that He is calling us to "Follow Him" just like He told Peter.

UNDERSTANDING HEART

- What does all of this teach us?
- How should we see Jesus and understand Him according to these teachings?
- Can we agree with someone who says they believe in Jesus, but not that He was the Son of God or God Himself?

WISDOM HANDS

- How will you live this week knowing that Jesus knows you intimately and has done everything He could to save you?
- How can you help someone this week understand that Jesus isn't just a good teacher with great morals, but that He is the Messiah, Son of God, God Himself? Does sharing this with others make you nervous? Why or why not?

PRAYER



End your time together with a prayer. Thank Him for "knowing" us and the depths of our hearts, but still loving us enough to provide a way to return to Him. WOW! Praise Him!

CLASS OUTLINE

"...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31) The Gospel of John was written so that those who read its message may believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, THE CHRIST. The following outline holds the major themes expounded on in the Gospel of John in order that its readers may believe in Jesus and have eternal life. (Adapted from the "Key Themes" outline in the ESV Study Bible):

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (January 4)
2. THE WORD IS...
GOD (January 11)
 - a. Jesus is GOD
 - b. 1:1–2, 18; 5:17–18; 8:58–59; 10:30–33; 20:28
3. THE WORD IS...
BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD (January 18)
 - a. Jesus existed before the creation of all there is.
 - b. 1:1–2; 8:58; 17:5, 24
4. THE WORD IS...
OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING) (January 25)
 - a. Jesus has supernatural knowledge that only God can possess.
 - b. 1:48; 2:4, 19, 23–25; 3:14; 4:17–18; 6:51, 70; 8:28; 9:3; 10:15, 17–18; 11:4, 14; 12:24, 32; 13:10–11, 38; 21:18–19
5. THE WORD IS...
THE MESSIAH AND SON OF GOD (February 1)
 - a. Jesus is the promised Messiah and Son of God prophesied in Old Testament.
 - b. 1:36, 41, 49; 3:18; 4:25, 29; 5:25; 7:26, 27, 31, 41, 42; 9:22; 10:24, 36; 11:4, 27; 12:34; 19:7; 20:30–31
6. THE WORD IS...
THE "I AM" (February 8)
 - a. Jesus is the "I AM" from the Old Testament. He is Yahweh/Jehovah.
 - b. 4:26; 6:20, 35, 48, 51; 8:12, 18, 24, 28, 58; 9:5; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 13:19; 14:6; 15:1; 18:5–6 (cf. Ex. 3:14–15; Isa. 41:4; 43:10–13, 25; 45:18; 51:12; 52:6)
7. THE WORD IS...
THE SON WHO WAS SENT BY AND REFLECTS THE FATHER (February 15)
 - a. Jesus was sent by God and reflects the very essence of the Father.
 - b. 3:17, 35–36; 5:19–26; 6:40; 8:35–36; 14:13; 17:1
8. THE WORD IS...
THE FULFILLMENT OF JEWISH FESTIVALS/INSTITUTIONS (February 22)
 - a. Jesus fulfills the Jewish festivals and institutions found in the Law (even the temple itself).
 - b. 1:29, 36; 2:14–22, esp. v. 21; 4:23–24; 8:12; 9:5; 19:14
9. THE WORD IS...
THE GIVER OF ETERNAL LIFE (March 1)
 - a. Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe in Him.
 - b. 1:4; 3:15–16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 26, 39–40; 6:27, 33, 35, 40, 47–48, 51, 53–54, 68; 8:12; 10:10, 25, 28; 11:25; 12:25, 50; 14:6; 17:2–3; 20:31

10. THE WORD IS...

A MIRACLE WORKER (March 8)

- a. Jesus performs signs and wonders that demonstrate that He is the promised Messiah.
- b. 2:1–11, 13–22; 4:46–54; 5:1–15; 6:1–15; 9:1–41; 11:1–44

11. THE WORD IS...

TESTIFIED BY OTHERS TO BE THE MESSIAH (March 15)

- a. Witnesses testify that Jesus is the Messiah.
- b. 1:7–8, 15, 19, 32, 34; 3:11, 32–33; 4:39; 5:31–39; 8:14, 18; 10:25; 15:26–27; 18:37; 19:35; 21:24

12. THE WORD IS...

UNIFIED WITH FATHER AND SPIRIT IN THEIR WORK OF REVELATION AND REDEMPTION (March 22)

- a. Father, Son, and Spirit are united in their work.
- b. 14:17–18, 23, 26; 15:26; 20:21–22

13. THE WORD IS...

THE BASIS OF SALVATION (March 29)

- a. It is by Jesus' death that God brings His people salvation.
 - i. 1:29; 3:14–15; 6:51–58; 10:15; 11:50–52; 12:24; 15:13
- b. God is sovereign in salvation.
 - i. 3:21; 5:21; 6:37–45, 64–65; 10:16, 26–30; 15:16; 17:2, 6, 9

14. BELIEVERS MUST...

CONFESS AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH (April 12)

- a. Salvation is obtained by believing in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.
 - i. 1:12; 3:15, 16; 5:24; 6:29, 35; 8:24; 11:25–27, 42; 12:44; 17:8, 21; 20:31
- b. The benefits of salvation can be experienced here and now (in this evil age), but will be fully known when He returns.
 - i. 3:18, 36; 4:23; 5:24; 6:39–40; 10:10, 26–29; 11:25–26

15. BELIEVERS MUST...

CONTINUE JESUS' WORK AND MISSION (April 19)

- a. Believers are called upon to continue the work of the Savior in order that all men may know and be saved.
- b. 4:38; 15:16; 17:18; 20:21–22

16. CONCLUSION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (April 26)