

IN THE  
BEGINNING  
WAS THE...

WORD

A STUDY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## LESSON 14 – Believers Must...CONFESS AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

### FACILITATOR'S Note

#### MAIN POINTS THIS WEEK:

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

Today's lesson will focus on the need to not only believe, but also confess that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. This belief and confession brings about our salvation. This salvation is not something that is future tense, but instead is a current reality that will be more fully known upon the return of the Savior. This message brings all of us great hope as we live our days. We should not be a people who are downcast nor depressed (no matter what life throws us). Why? Our momentary troubles are only that, momentary. For we live each day as saved people by the love and grace of our God. There is no greater blessing or reason to rejoice. Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, REJOICE!

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: 1:12; 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 4:23; 5:24; 6:29, 35, 39-40; 8:24; 10:10, 26-29; 11:25-27, 42; 12:44; 17:8, 21; 20:31**. 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.

## FOCUS

- Understand that salvation comes to those who believe and confess that Jesus is Lord.
- Understand that salvation is something we currently live in, but will be fully realized when Jesus comes again.
- Understand the hope that Jesus brings us by knowing that He will not lose those whom the Father has given Him.

## DISCUSSION STARTERS (OPTIONAL)

- Is the salvation that Jesus brings something that is in the future or now?
- How do we receive the salvation of the Lord?
- Is there anyway we can receive salvation other than Jesus? What does the world think?

# KNOWLEDGE HEAD

## From the Gospel of John

a) Salvation is obtained by believing in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.

- 1:12-13

- Key Points

- These verses address those who have “received” Jesus. This is not simply intellectual. This “receiving” goes beyond taking in information about Jesus to accepting and submitting to Him in personal relationship.
- “Believed in” is *pisteuō eis* in Greek. The Greek *pisteuō* is the verb form of the word *pistis* which is commonly translated as “faith”. Quite literally you could translate this statement as “faithed in”. So, those who believe in Jesus put their faith and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.
- “His name” refers to all that is true about Jesus, the totality of who He is. That is what a person is “faithing in”.
- This believing in Jesus is not limited to any nation or people, nor does it come by human effort. Instead, it is open to all who believe and faith in Jesus and who trust in Him to make them children of God. Not by their own efforts, but by God’s efforts through Jesus.
  - Faith in Jesus must precede becoming a member of God’s family. There is no other way!

- Contemporary Application

- How would you explain faith to someone using the image of “receiving” found in v. 12? What is the result of this type of faith?

- 3:15-16

- Key Points

- John 3:16 is literally the most famous verse of Scripture that sums up the Gospel. Interestingly, it has to be coupled with v. 15. The “For” connects the two verses, but they are rarely studied or seen that way. In fact, many translations put a break there.
- However, in v. 15 and the previous verses explain what happened in order to make it possible that someone “have eternal life” and that only through believing in Jesus as the Son of Man, the Messiah, can one have life everlasting. There is no other way!
- God make this all possible and He makes it possible for everyone (“whoever believes”), not just the Jews.
- This belief is a personal trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

- Contemporary Application

- Has John 3:16 had any impact on your decision to make Jesus your Lord and Savior? How?
- What brought about your first interest in Jesus?
- Does your faith story have any impact on sharing your faith with others? How?

- 5:24; 6:29, 35; 8:24; 20:31
  - Key Points
    - Read these five verses in succession (have five different people in class each take a verse). Ask this, "What is the common thread through these verses?"
      - One must believe in Jesus in order to have eternal life with God.
      - Without Jesus, we die the final death, the promised result of sin to Adam and Eve.
    - Ask, "What stands out in particular in these verses?"
      - You have to hear Jesus' words and believe that what He says concerning Himself is true.
      - Eternal life comes only through Jesus.
      - The "work of God" is that we come to believe in Jesus.
      - Belief in Jesus as the Messiah means being sustained spiritual forever.
      - The penalty of death for sins remains. Unless you believe in Jesus and that only He can save you, you will pay the penalty for your sins.
  - Contemporary Application
    - What is at stake in this whole discussion?
    - Why does everything hinge on believing in Jesus?
    - How can we keep from sharing this with others? Why do we keep it from them?
- 11:25–27
  - Key Points
    - Jesus points out here that He IS the resurrection and the life. He will not just bring about the resurrection not merely be the cause of the resurrection (both are true), but He IS the resurrection and the life. No resurrection from death to life will take place apart from Christ. This WE MUST BELIEVE!
    - Believing in Him (or "faithing" in Him as we discussed) mean committing to a personal relationship with Him built on trust that He is who He claims to be.
    - It's interesting that the word translated "in" (Gk. eis) also means "into". Here it has that power in that He is asking them to believe "into" Him so that they/we may be united with Christ and rest in Him alone.
    - One of the most striking things about these verses is that Jesus asks Martha specifically, "Do you believe this?" Martha's response is her confession of who she believes Jesus to be.
      - He is the Christ
      - He is the Son of God
      - He is the Messiah, the promised one "who is coming into the world" (see Psalm 118:26).
  - Contemporary Application
    - We are not only called to believe in Jesus, we are asked to confess Him.
    - Read Matt. 10:32-33 and Romans 10:8-13. How important is it that we confess Jesus as Lord? Why?
    - How should our daily lives be a constant confession of Jesus?
- 11:42; 12:44; 17:8, 21
  - Key Points
    - Again, have four people in your class read these verses in succession.

- Ask, "What do these verses claim about Jesus?"
  - He was sent by God the Father
  - What He speaks comes from God's mouth
  - That the Son and the Father are one
- Contemporary Application
  - Why is knowing and believing this important?

b) The benefits of salvation can be experienced here and now (in this evil age), but will be fully known when He returns.

- 3:18, 36; 4:23; 5:24; 6:39–40; 10:10, 26–29; 11:25–26
  - Key Points
    - In 3:18, Jesus says that those who choose not to believe in Him stand "condemned already." This demonstrates that the kingdom has already begun, but has not yet been fulfilled (already, but not yet). This applies even to those who hear the message and do not believe in Jesus.
    - 3:36 shows us that eternal life is something we *already* have. The use of the present tense for "has" makes this clear. Eternal life is not merely a future expectation, but also a present reality.
      - God's wrath is the same. It is not only something that will happen down the road to those who do not believe, but God's wrath "remains" (present tense) on those individuals.
      - God's grace has not come upon them by their choice and therefore they remain under His wrath due to the penalty of their sin. This is the case unless they believe in Jesus and give their life over to Him that He may set them free from the penalty of sin and God's wrath.
      - Recognize that belief is coupled with obedience in this verse. True belief in Jesus compels the believer to obey. Belief precipitates obedience.
    - 4:23 points out that the hour is not only coming, but is not here. This emphasizes the concept of the "already, but not yet." Salvation is here, but will find its fulfillment when the hour comes.
    - In 5:24, Jesus makes it clear once again that a person who believes "has" (present) eternal life. Not only that, but He also says that person has "passed" from death to life. So, they are currently living in the new life given through the salvation they have received from Jesus.
    - 6:39-40 highlights that those whom God the Father has given to the Son "have" eternal life and will be raised again on the last day.
    - 10:10 is a great verse of hope. Why? Because Jesus' promise of abundant living is in the here and now and not just when we meet Him in the clouds.
      - This is like the abundant blessings of the OT prophecies (Ezekiel 34:12-15, 25-31).
      - Because salvation is in the already, Jesus calls His disciples to live a full, rich, and joyful life that is overflowing with God's blessings and lived in continual fellowship with the family of believers.

- We should not allow the momentary troubles of this world keep us in a miserable existence, but instead we should live as those who are saved by grace and therefore living each day as such.
  - If we approach each day in a depressed and negative state, are we living as one who has been redeemed and saved by the blood and love of the Savior? Discuss.
- Vv. 26-29 continue this message of hope as those who believe cannot be snatched out of the Father's hands.
  - 11:25-26 once again points out that those who have been given salvation live currently in that salvation and will never die.
- Contemporary Application
  - On a scale from 1 (none) to 10 (completely), how confident are you that you will live eternally with God?
  - If you are confident that you will, how do you know? If you are not confident that you will, why?
  - Do we live our lives as people who have received and are currently living out our salvation, or do we approach life with a constant sense of possibly losing our salvation and therefore act as if it is only something we receive in the future? Explain and Discuss.

## UNDERSTANDING HEART

- How do we receive salvation and can it come through any other means than Jesus?
- How important is it that we believe AND confess Jesus as Lord and Savior?
- Is salvation something we receive now, or is it something that we will receive when Jesus returns?
- How should we live our lives in light of today's conversation? Discuss together.

## WISDOM HANDS

- Share with someone this week how thankful you are for the gift of salvation that Jesus has given. Share with them that you are committing to live each day in appreciation for that gift that you are now enjoying and will know more fully when He returns.
- Help them understand the hope that Jesus brings to all of us, if we will just believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and Savior. We CANNOT keep this message to ourselves!

## PRAYER



End your time together with a prayer. Thank Him for His salvation given to us through His Son and that we are currently enjoying!

# 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)