

# Gleanings of Grace

## John 1

### Lesson 4

The Gospel of John begins, not with an introduction, but a summation of the attributes of Jesus Christ. The remainder of the gospel reveals evidences in the life of Jesus that support the statements in this first chapter. May your knowledge and faith in Him be strengthened as you bask in the wonders of Jesus, our God who became flesh.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read John 1**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God the Father, Holy Spirit, and John the Baptist*.  
Key Words: *Jesus* (including *Word* and *the Prophet*), *God, Holy Spirit, and John*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verse 31. Mark the word. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used 8 times in John 1. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

## Background:

1. The apostle John revealed his purpose by what he chose to record in his gospel. According to John 20:30,31 what was it?
  
2. John opened his first epistle (1 John) by making declarations that only those who had walked closely with Jesus on earth could make. Summarize what he testified in 1 John 1:1-3.
  - a. Although John and the disciples experienced the physical presence of Jesus, what did Jesus declare to Thomas about we who would believe in Jesus though we *have not seen* Him? John 20:29
    - 1.) Share a time when you personally experienced the *touch* of Jesus.
  
3. Considering how important it was to accurately describe the Messiah, John made some provoking statements about Jesus; statements that have stirred people throughout history; statements that those who belong to Him believe and those who do not know Him do not believe. Scan through John 1 and list a few of the bold statements that John made about Jesus that separates Him from all mankind.

## Read John 1:1-5 - The Word

1. Carefully write the first three words of Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1.
  - a. Who was *in the beginning*?
    - 1.) Although John did not immediately identify the *Word* as Jesus, he identified Him as such in John 1:14. Add to your understanding by recording the last phrase of Revelation 19:13, as John wrote of the day that Jesus will return.
  
2. What does John 1:1-3 declare about Jesus?
  - a. Who does Genesis 1:1 declare to be the Creator?

- b. Although this verse can be mind boggling, it established that Jesus has always been, that He is God, and that God exists as more than one Person. Everything that can be said about God, the Father, can be said about Jesus. What are some attributes that we tend to relate to God the Father, that the Bible declares also belong to Jesus?
3. John 1:3 describes the extent of Jesus' creation. What does it say?
4. Ponder the words of John 1:4,5. What do John 5:26 and John 11:25 declare that amplifies upon the truth that *in Him was life*?
  - a. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 8:12?
    - 1.) When the earth was created, there was *darkness* (Genesis 1:2). God removed that *darkness* when He said, *Let there be light* (Genesis 1:3). He then came to remove the *darkness* in the lives of men. In what ways has Jesus taken you from *darkness* to *light*?
5. Yet, verse 5 declares, *the darkness did not comprehend it*. What did Jesus say about this in John 3:18,19?
  - a. Using your own words, describe this *darkness*.

### **Read John 1:6-13 - The Light of the World**

1. Much of John 1 is about another John. John, the apostle, wrote this gospel. John the Baptist was the messenger who first proclaimed the Messiah. According to John 1:7, what was John the Baptist's purpose?
  - a. Using a Bible dictionary, define the word *believe*.
    - 1.) According to John 3:16,17, what difference does *believing* make?
2. What do we learn about Jesus from John 1:10,11?

- a. What do you think it was like for Jesus to put on flesh and come into a world where so many rejected Him?
3. Although many did not/do not *receive Him*, what *right* is granted to those who *believe in His name*? John 1:12
    - a. The words *receive Him* and *believe in His name* share the same meaning. What does it mean to *receive* Jesus?
    - b. Using Romans 8:14-17, record some of the privileges of being a *child of God*.

Challenge: Add other verses that speak of these privileges.

4. A new *birth* takes place when we *receive* Jesus. It is *not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man*. From whom does this *birth* come? John 1:13
  - a. John 3 recounts the story of Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, coming to Jesus *by night*. Nicodemus acknowledged to Jesus in verse 2...*no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him*. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he *must do*? John 3:5-7

### Read John 1:14-18 - The Word Became Flesh

1. This section begins with a startling statement: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*. Using Philippians 2:7,8, describe the cost to Jesus to *become flesh*.
2. According to John 1:14, John (among others) *beheld His glory*. Summarize these two instances when this occurred.
 

Matthew 17:1-2

Luke 24:50-53

  - a. We often think of the word *glory* in terms of magnificence and shining light. A better understanding would be to see Jesus as He is. Who does John 1:14 says His *glory* is like?

1.) What two attributes did John highlight?

- a.) Since *grace and truth* are attributes of God, we who are His *children*, have also *seen His glory*. What are some other attributes of God that you have *seen*?

3. Jesus is *full of grace and truth*. What have you personally discovered about His:

*grace*

*truth*

### **Read John 1:19-34 - The Lamb of God**

1. *The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John the Baptist, "Who are you?"* John 1:20,21 reveal that John denied being any of the people they asked about. Read the verses below and record what you find that confirm John was not the following:

*The Christ* According to John 4:25, what would John be able to do if He was *the Christ*?

*Elijah* According to Malachi 4:5, if John were *Elijah*, what would his coming precede?

*the Prophet* According to Deuteronomy 18:15, if John were *the Prophet*, who would He be?

- a. Denying to be any of the these, who did John say he was? John 1:23

- 1.) Although we do not have the specific calling of John the Baptist, in what ways might we *make straight the way of the LORD*?

2. *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him.* What did John declare about Jesus? John 1:29,30

- a. How did John know this about Jesus? John 1:31-34; Mark 1:10,11

- 1.) Explain, as you would to a non-believer, how you know these things to be true.

### **Read John 1:35-51 - The Messiah/The Son of God**

1. The following day, John again pointed to Jesus and declared Him to be *the Lamb of God*. The result was that two of John's disciples left him to follow Jesus. What does John 3:29,30 reveal about John's attitude?

a. What do you think that was like for John?

1.) In what way are you challenged by John's example?

2. *Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"* (John 1:38). What would be your answer, if Jesus asked you that question?

3. One of John's followers, Andrew, who left him to follow Jesus, found in Jesus what John denied to be. What did Andrew declare about Jesus? Verse 41.

a. Andrew had been looking for the *Messiah*. He realized that Jesus was who He was looking for. What did you find when you found Jesus?

4. Andrew brought his brother Simon (whom we know as Peter) to Jesus. Jesus made His first name change for Peter. He said he *shall be called Cephas*. What is the meaning of this name? Verse 42

5. John 1 closes with the account of Philip and Nathanael and their first reaction to meeting Jesus. Reflect on some of the key points.

a. Ponder Jesus' reaction to Nathanael's faith in verses 50,51. What have you discovered about Jesus that has surprised you as you have continued to walk with Him?

## **REVIEW: Read John 1**

1. What did you glean from John the Baptist's example?

2. What is your reaction to the way John began this book, knowing its purpose was that people *believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*?

*...Follow Me.*

*-John 1:43*

## Observation Worksheet

### John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. <sup>19</sup> Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,' ' as the prophet Isaiah said.'" <sup>24</sup> Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup> It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." <sup>28</sup> These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. <sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" <sup>31</sup> I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness, saying,

"I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup> I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." <sup>35</sup> Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone). <sup>43</sup> The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."