

John 1:1-28 Study Guide

Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures this week are in the ESV (English Standard Version). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words.

Book of John Overview:

Time period:

- Written at the end of John's life (he's about 90 years old); between 85-100 AD {approximately 60-80 years after the resurrection}
- Written after Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke); 90% of this gospel is not in the other 3 gospels; does not contain any parables.

Purpose of writing John's gospel:

- John is presenting eyewitness proof/evidence that Jesus is the Christ so that the reader of this gospel may believe and in believing, they have eternal life in Christ's name. (John 20:31)
- John is filling in details that other gospels did not have to bring clarity
- John answers "Jesus is Himself, God" - anything less than this is not Christian faith.

John's gospel is:

- Polemic - it proves that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Evangelistic - so in believing Jesus is God's Son, you can be saved.

Heresies at this time that John is addressing:

- **Gnostics** - "gnosis" means in Greek "to know".
 - This sect of people believed that salvation would only be attained through a specific knowledge or "gnosis".
 - This is answered throughout the gospel that salvation is offered to all (**John 3:16**).
 - They believed the world was divided into the physical and spiritual realms.
 - Gnostics erroneously believed the created, material world (matter) is evil, and therefore in opposition to the world of the spirit. (believed only the spirit is good.)
 - John answers this in **John 1:3** stating that "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" - the material world was made through the 2nd in the Triune.
 - Adherents of Gnosticism often constructed an evil, lesser god and beings of the Old Testament to explain the creation of the world (matter) and considered Jesus Christ a wholly spiritual God (no human part of Him).
 - John answers this in **John 1:14** stating "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John personally testifies)
- **Docetism** - believed and taught Docetism
 - that Jesus only appeared to have a physical body and was ultimately never truly human
 - that Jesus was just symbolic, not a real person who lived and breathed like us.
 - (John, again, answers this in **John 1:14** ; "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"; "us" refers to the disciple John who not only lived with Jesus for over 3 years, but also John the Baptist who taught about the coming Christ (**John 1:15-18**). The apostle John, the writer of this gospel, was an eyewitness of Jesus' tangible humanity and this is his account.

Note: Keep in mind that there are **3 Johns in the gospel of John:**

- The author is the **apostle John**, but he never refers to himself by his name; but by "the disciple whom Jesus loved".
- **John the Baptist**
- **John - the father of Simon Peter and Andrew.**

Day 1 (John 1:1-5)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.

Read **John 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Verses 1-2:

- In the _____ was the Word, and the _____ was with God, and the Word was _____.
- He _____ in the beginning _____ God.

Questions:

- What was in the beginning? _____
- Who was the Word with? _____
- According to **John 1:1**, Who was the Word? _____
- He was with Who in the beginning? _____
- Write out the FIRST 4 words of **Genesis 1:1** _____

*Jesus is the "Unbegun One". As 2nd in the Triune, He has always existed with God the Father and Holy Spirit (see **Genesis 1:2**). The apostle John will build on this truth through the gospel.

Verse 3,

- All _____ were made _____ him, and _____ him was _____ any _____ made that was _____.

Questions:

- How many things were made through Him? _____
- Was there anything made that was made without him? _____

Deep Dive:

- In **Genesis 1**, how does God create in **verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, 24, and 26**? _____
- After God "says", He calls (names) what He has created. This is all the spoken What? _____
- And Who was in the beginning with God, according to **John 1:1-2**? _____

- **Fill in the blanks (John 14:23-26; ESV)** - "**23** Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my _____, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my _____. And the _____ that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. **25** "These things I have _____ to you while I am still with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have _____ to you.

- What is the Bible known as? The _____ of God. (See **2 Timothy 3:16**)

Verses 4-5,

- _____ him was life, and the _____ was the _____ of men.
- The light _____ in the darkness, and the darkness has not _____ it.

Questions:

- What was in Him? _____
- What was the life? _____
- Where did the light shine? _____
- What could the darkness not do to the light? _____
- Write out **Hebrews 11:6**: _____

- Write out **1 John 5:4**: _____

Day 2 (John 1:6-13)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **John 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Verse 6:

- There _____ a man sent _____ God, whose _____ was John.
- **Questions:**
- There was a man sent from Who? _____
- What was the man's name who was sent from God? _____ (note: this is not the writer)

Verse 7:

- He _____ as a witness, to bear _____ about the light, that _____ might _____ through him.
- **Questions:**
- What did this man from God come as? _____
- What did this man come to bear witness about? _____
- What was the purpose of this man (who was sent by God) bearing witness about the light?

Verse 8:

- He was not the _____, but came to _____ witness _____ the light.
- **Questions:**
- What was this man sent from God not? _____
- The apostle John says this man, named John (the Baptist), was sent by to bear witness about what (Who)?
_____.

Verse 9:

- The _____ light, which _____ light to everyone, was _____ into the world.
- **Questions:**
- What would the true light give to everyone? _____
- Where was this true light coming into? _____

*whenever we see "world", this refers to the "unregenerate world".

Verse 10:

- He was _____ the world, and the _____ was made _____ him, yet the world did not _____ him.
- **Questions:**
- Even though the light was in the world, did the world know Him? _____
- How was the world made? _____ (see John 1:3)

Verse 11:

- He _____ to his own, and his _____ people did _____ receive him.
- **Questions:**
- Who did "the light" come to? _____
- Who did not receive Him? _____

Finish the rest of **Luke 19:44**: "And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because _____."

Verses 12-13:

- But to _____ who did receive him, who _____ in his name, he gave the _____ to become _____ of God,
- who were _____, not of blood nor of the _____ of the flesh nor _____ the will of man, but of _____.
- **Questions:**
- What had to happen in order for a person to be given the right to become a child of God?
 - All who did _____ and all who _____
- A child of God would not be born of what? _____, nor the _____ of the flesh nor will of _____
- A child of God could only be born of Who? _____
- Write out **John 3:3:** _____

Day 3 (John 1:14-18)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **John 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Verse 14:

- And the Word _____ flesh and _____ among us, and we _____ seen his glory, _____ as of the _____ Son from the _____, full of grace and _____.
- **Questions:**
- What did the Word become? _____
- Where did the Word dwell? _____
- What had they seen? _____.
- What was the Word’s glory like? _____
- Where was the only Son from? _____
- What was the only Son from the Father full of? _____
- Write out **John 8:42:** _____

Verse 15:

- (John bore _____ about him, _____ cried out, “This _____ he of whom I said, ‘He who comes _____ me _____ before me, because he was _____ me.’”).
- **Questions:**
- Who bore witness about Him? _____
- What did John cry out about the One Who comes after him? _____
- Why does He (the Word) Who comes after John rank before him? _____. (See **John 1:1-2**)

Verse 16:

- For _____ his _____ we have all _____, grace upon grace.
- **Question:** What have we all received from Jesus’ fullness? _____

Verses 17:

- For _____ law was _____ through Moses; grace and truth _____ through Jesus _____.
 - **Questions:**
 - What was given through Moses? _____
 - What came through Jesus Christ? _____ and _____.
- *Note:** The Law cannot save us, but only make us aware of what we need saved from. It is our faith in Jesus Christ and His payment on the cross where grace and truth are realized. (see **Romans 7** for a deeper explanation)

Verse 18:

- No one _____ ever seen God; _____ the only Son, who is _____ the Father's side, he has _____ him known.
- **Questions:**
- Who has seen God? _____
- Who is at the Father's side? _____
- Who has Jesus made known to us? _____
- Write out **John 14:8-9:** _____

Note: John continues to testify to the Deity of Jesus; both in His witness of Jesus in the flesh as God as well as Jesus' own words. We will see this continually through John's gospel (as well as other Scriptures through the Bible). Anyone who says that Jesus never said He was Deity or that He became Deity on the cross does not believe the validity of the Word of God.

Day 4 (John 1:19-24)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **John 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." **21** And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight[h] the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." **24** (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

Verses 19:

- And this is the _____ of John, when the Jews _____ priests and Levites from _____ to _____ him, "Who are _____?"
- **Questions:**
- Whose testimony is the apostle John recording here? _____
- Who sent the priests and Levites from Jerusalem? _____
- What did they have the priests and Levites to ask John the Baptist? _____

Verses 20:

- He _____, and did _____ deny, but confessed, "I am not the _____."
- **Question:** What did John the Baptist confess and not deny? _____

Note: "the Christ" is "the awaited Messiah".

Verse 21:

- And they _____ him, "What then? Are you _____?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the _____?" And he answered, "No."
- **Questions:**
- What did John the Baptist say when they asked if he was Elijah? _____
- Write out **Malachi 4:5:** _____
- What did John the Baptist answer when they asked if he was the "Prophet"? _____
- According to **Deuteronomy 18:15**, Who will the Lord God raise up like Moses among the Jewish nation?

Note: This is why they are asking these questions of John the Baptist.

Verse 22:

- So _____ said to him, “Who _____ you? We need to _____ an answer to those who sent _____. What do you say _____ yourself?”
- **Questions:**
- What do they ask John the Baptist then? _____
- What do the priests and Levites need to do? _____

Note: We will see this throughout Jesus’ ministry where the Jewish leaders will send others to gather information.

Verse 23:

- He said, “I _____ the voice of one _____ out in the wilderness, ‘Make _____ the way of the Lord,’ as the _____ Isaiah said.”
- **Questions:**
- Who did John the Baptist say that he was? _____
- What is his voice crying out in the wilderness? _____
- Who does John the Baptist say that he is quoting? _____
- Write out **Isaiah 40:3**: _____

Verse 24,

- (_____ they had been _____ from the Pharisees.).
- **Question:** Who had the priests and Levites been sent from? _____

Note: Whenever we see “the Jews” in John’s gospel, it refers to the “Jewish leaders”.

Day 5 (John 1:25-28)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **John 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” **28** These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Verse 25:

- They _____ him, “Then why are you baptizing, _____ you are neither the _____, nor Elijah, _____ the Prophet?”
- **Question:** what did the priests and Levites ask John the Baptist since he said he was neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet? _____

Note: They are not seeking understanding, but are questioning who would give him this permission since he isn’t one of these 3. They believed only those 3 had the authority to baptize without their approval.

Verse 26-27:

- John _____ them, “I baptize with _____, but among you _____ one you do _____ know,
- even he who comes _____ me, the strap of whose _____ I am _____ worthy to untie.”
- **Questions:**
- What did John baptize with? _____
- Who stands among them? _____
- Even though this One comes after him, what does John the Baptist say that he’s not worthy to even untie?

Note: John’s water baptism was repentance baptism. It was not the baptism that signified spiritual cleansing. Only Jesus, as God, could do that.

Verse 28:

- _____ things took place in _____ - across the Jordan, where John _____ baptizing.

Note: John’s gospel is a “witnessing” gospel and he will include locations, names and events to corroborate his testimony. Remember that the apostle John is writing this when others lived who could refute any false testimony.

We will finish **John 1 (verses 29-51)** in the next study guide.