

John

Breakdown

- The Gospel of John was written by John who was one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus gave John and his brother James the nickname "Sons of Thunder". Along with Peter, these brothers were the three disciples who were Jesus' closest companions.
- Unlike the other gospels, John begins his account at the beginning (before creation – 1:1) and ends with Jesus having breakfast with His disciples after the resurrection.
- John's gospel was written sometime between 70 and 100 A.D.

Main Points

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke focused on revealing what Jesus said and did, but John's goal was to show us who Jesus is. That is why John gave us a behind the scenes peek into the person of Jesus by recording so many of Jesus' private conversations and thoughts.
- Through John's gospel, we learn that eternal life is not about how long we live or even that we get to live in heaven when we die. Eternal life is all about *knowing* God (17:3). Jesus wanted us to know that we didn't have to wait until the end of time to experience eternal life. We can experience it right now on the earth, and we do that by getting to know God. That was the whole purpose behind God's plan of redemption from the beginning – for us to be reconnected with Him by getting to know Him personally and intimately.

Did you know?

- The first public declaration that Jesus is the Messiah came from a very unlikely source. Who made the declaration?
- John only records miracles that prove that Jesus is the Son of God. How many miracles did John record?
- One major miracle recorded in John's gospel was the turning point that spurred the Jewish leaders to begin plotting Jesus' death. What was the miracle?
- Throughout the entire book, there was a phrase John used over and over to describe himself. What was the phrase?
- Before Jesus was betrayed, He washed His disciples' feet, but one disciple tried to refuse. Who didn't want Jesus to wash his feet?
- Jesus must have considered John as more than a friend because while He was on the cross, He gave John a very special and personal assignment. What was the assignment?
- After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples 3 different times. Name all 3 times.

Further Thought

- Jesus talked a lot about eternal life. He even defined eternal life as "*to know the only true God and Jesus Christ*" (17:3). What does it mean for us to know God?
- Jesus told His disciples that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. What does that statement mean, and why is it important for our lives?
- One of Jesus' main topics of conversation at the last supper with His disciples was about the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit do now, and why is that important for us to know?