



WEEK ONE HANDOUT – **The Son of God**

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: “...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” – John 20:31 ESV

- **The Gospel of John**

- What is it?
 - Just one of four Gospels in the New Testament
 - The Synoptics: Matthew, Mark, and Luke
 - Synoptics = “together sight”
 - They share the same basic timeline and content
 - The Gospel of John is the outlier
- Who wrote it?
 - It is commonly believed that the apostle John was the author
 - But why?
 - Let’s look at the evidence
 - Six times, the author uses the phrase: “The disciple whom Jesus loved”

***One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved,** was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” – John 13:23-24 ESV*

*When Jesus saw his mother and **the disciple whom he loved** standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. – John 19:26-27 ESV*

Peter turned and saw **the disciple whom Jesus loved** following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” – John 21:20 ESV

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. – John 21:24 ESV

- What are “these things?”
 - All John has recorded in this book
 - But it doesn’t include **everything**

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. – John 21:25 ESV

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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 20:30-31 ESV

- **The Deity of Jesus**

- This is the theme of John’s gospel

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.*** – John 1:1 ESV

*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 1:14 ESV

*No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, **who is himself God**, is near to the Father’s heart. **He has revealed God to us.*** – John 1:18 NLT

*Christ is **the visible image of the invisible God.*** – Colossians 1:15 NLT

*For God in **all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ...*** – Colossians 1:19 NLT

*For **in Christ lives all the fullness of God** in a human body.* – Colossians 2:9 ESV

- This gospel is ultimately about the Father
 - John stresses that Jesus came from God (50X)

*Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor **the Father who sent him.*** – John 5:23 ESV

...whoever hears my word and **believes him who sent me** has eternal life. – John 5:24
ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” – John 3:16-17
ESV

- **LOVE. DIVINE.**

*God showed how much he loved us by sending **his one and only Son** into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and **sent his Son as a sacrifice** to take away our sins.* – 1 John 4:9-10
NLT

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev’ry trembling heart.* – Charles Wesley

- The cross is central to the message of John’s gospel

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” – John 1:29
ESV

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. – John 12:32-33
ESV

In the cross we have the revelation of the heart of God, namely, his love. – Rodney A. Whitaker, *John, The IVP New Testament Commentary*

- But Jesus’ **divinity** is key to the cross’s **efficacy**
 - John is out to establish and prove the identity of Jesus
 - Over the course of the book he reveals Jesus’ true identity
 - For Jesus’ death to be effective, He had to be divine
 - So, John answers a series of probing questions
 - “Who are you?” – John 8:25
ESV
 - “Who do you make yourself out to be?” – John 8:53
ESV
 - “How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” – John 12:34
ESV
 - “Where are you from?” – John 19:9
ESV

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only Son...**” – John 3:16 ESV*

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, **the righteous** for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God... – 1 Peter 3:18 ESV*

*For God made Christ, **who never sinned**, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. – 2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT*

- John presents Jesus as the revelation of God
 - God in human flesh (incarnate)
 - The living Word of God
 - The Son of God and the Son of Man
 - The light of the glory of God
 - The true bread from heaven
 - The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

*“Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!**” – John 14:9 NLT*

- **Who are you?**
 - This is the most important question anyone can ask
 - And the book of John provides the answer

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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 20:30-31 ESV*

- **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

There are many today who claim to be Christians but who deny the deity of Jesus. Why would holding this position fly in the face of all John has written?

If Jesus was just a martyr and not the long-awaited Messiah, would difference would it make?

Read Philippians 2:5-8. How does Paul’s description of Jesus’ incarnation make it all the more amazing?