



# Memorial Park

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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## The Claims of Jesus A Study from The Gospel of John

There is a great paradox in the Gospels: the humility of Jesus and his lofty claims. How could he decline the opportunity to be the popular king of Israel (John 6:15) and yet claim to be the good shepherd? How could he wash the feet of the disciples (including Judas) and at the same time claim to be their teacher and lord? How could he be submissive to his mission at Calvary and at the same time claim to be the way, the truth, and the life?

These contrasts are most striking in the Gospel of John where he said:

- I AM "the Light of the World." John 3 & 8
- I AM "Living Water." John 4
- I AM the Son of God. John 5
- I AM "the Bread of Life." John 6
- I AM "the Good Shepherd." John 10
- I AM "the Resurrection and the Life." John 11
- I AM the Servant Teacher & Lord John 13
- I AM "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14
- I AM "the True Vine." John 15
- I AM the I AM John 18
- I AM the Sender John 20

The study of Jesus and his claims provides us with the opportunity to grow in our individual faith in him and also to grow as a local church body. It shall give us a better understanding of the Good News to which he has called us and sent us to proclaim.

The study examines these claims of Jesus using the record of them in the Gospel of John. The course objectives are to make observations about them, discover their meanings, and search for ways to use them in application.

The group leader should guide the discussion by raising questions that invite disclosure – not only about intellectual opinions and theological concepts, but more importantly, how the Bible text impacts who we are, how we feel, and where God is leading us; i.e., disclosure of our inner selves and our relationship to God.

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## Gospel of John

### Introduction: Comparison to the Synoptic Gospels

There are significant differences between the Gospel of John and the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels appear to be written in chronological sequence. John does not maintain that order. John includes many events that the Synoptic Gospels do not record and visa versa.

The Synoptic Gospels record Jesus' teachings as they were given to the people of Galilee.

John's Gospel is mainly concerned with his teachings in Jerusalem.

John includes much more dialog and conversation with Jesus than the Synoptic Gospels.

John emphasizes Jesus' claims about his identity, where the Synoptic Gospels point to his actions and authoritative teachings to indicate his position as the Messiah.

The John's Gospel was the last one written:

Mark – 65 A.D.

Matthew – 65-70 A.D.

Luke – prior to 68 A.D.

John – 90 to 110 A.D.

The Synoptic Gospels record Jesus' teachings in the form of parables. John's Gospel does not include any parables.

The Gospel of John is more conceptual than the Synoptic Gospels, addressing topics such as light, life, truth, and love.

John claims to be an eyewitness of the events recorded in his Gospel.

A greater proportion of John's Gospel includes the short time leading up to the crucifixion. For example John 13 – 17, four chapters cover the Upper Room Discourse. Chapters 18 – 21 include the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

John tends to be philosophical or relational, where:

Mark is action oriented.

Matthew is oriented toward Old Testament fulfillment of prophecy.

Luke is factually oriented.

Consider the four personality types:

Thinker – Luke

Sensor – Mark

Intuitior – Matthew

Feeler – John

## The Prologue

### John 1:1-18

1. "In the beginning" sounds very familiar. Look at Gen. 1:1. What similarities do you see between Gen. 1:1 and the Prologue of John?
  - a. Who does Gen. 1:1 say is the creator?
  - b. Who does John 1:1-3 say is the creator?
2. Notice Gen, 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24 & 26. What repetition do you observe in these verses? What did God use to create?
3. John personifies the "Word." What does he mean when he says:
  - a. In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1)
  - b. The Word was with God (John 1:1)
  - c. The Word was God (John 1:1)

- d. The Word became flesh (John 1:14)
  - e. What would lead you to believe that John was thinking of a literal person when he refers to “the Word,” rather than to only a concept, idea or something else? Who is he thinking of?
4. How does “The Word” describe Jesus?
    - a. What does this phrase convey about Jesus’ life purpose?
    - b. Based on the meaning of this title, what can we expect to learn about Jesus in this Gospel?
    - c. How is it an introduction to his character?
  5. Reviewing John 1:1-18, what other themes do you see that we can expect to encounter in our study of John’s Gospel? Look at the contrasts and conflicts that are indicated:
    - a. John 1:1-9
    - b. John 1:10-12
    - c. John 1:13
    - d. John 1:16-17
    - e. John 1:18
  6. John 1:1-18 is sometimes used in Christmas celebrations. Why is this appropriate?
  7. What relationships are represented in this text?
    - a. John 1:1-2 & 18
    - b. John 1:6-9 & 15
    - c. John 1:10-11
    - d. John 1:12-13
    - e. John 1:14
  8. According to John 1:11-13, who are God’s children?
    - a. What does it mean to “believe in his name”?
    - b. How can his children grow and develop to spiritual maturity?
    - c. In verse 14, John writes, “We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.” How have you experienced his glory, grace or truth?
    - d. How are verses 1 and 18 similar?
  9. Where was Jesus at the beginning?
    - a. And where is he now?
    - b. How is this good news to us? How are you encouraged by this fact?
  10. On what basis can we know that Jesus is the authority on what God is like?

## **Jesus & Nicodemus**

### **John 3:1-21**

1. How would you like to have a private audience with Jesus?
  - a. What would you like to ask him?
  - b. What would you expect from him?
  - c. What would you do with what he would say to you?
2. Who was Nicodemus?
  - a. What was his religious background?
  - b. What was his position in government?
  - c. Where do these facts place him in the society of his day?
3. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus by night? And what did he want from him?
  - a. What did he initially ask Jesus?
  - b. What did he expect from him?

- c. Does Jesus' response seem unexpected? Why?
- d. How did he respond to what Jesus said?
- 4. Why does Jesus call him "teacher"?
  - a. What indictment did Jesus make?
  - b. What conflict did Jesus point out to Nicodemus?
  - c. Why do you think Nicodemus had difficulty understanding Jesus?
  - d. What stood in the way of belief in Jesus for Nicodemus and the Pharisees?
- 5. What claim did Jesus make in verses 13 and 19?
- 6. Why do people have a problem with Jesus' claim to be "the Light of the World"?
  - a. What is the nature of light?
  - b. When do we want light?
  - c. When would we rather not have light?
- 7. What did Jesus refer to in verse 14 when he said, "the Son of Man must be lifted up?" See Numbers 21:4-9.
- 8. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he must do?
  - a. What did Jesus offer him?
  - b. What did Jesus say to indicate that he is able to deliver what he offers?
  - c. Why should Nicodemus believe Jesus? See verse 2.
- 9. How does Jesus' offer to Nicodemus apply to us?
  - a. What does it mean to you to be "born again"? See Ezekiel 36:25-27.
  - b. Why do Christians like to quote John 3:16?

## Jesus & the Samaritan Woman

### John 4:1-42

#### Introduction:

"There was acute antagonism between Jews and Samaritans dating back from the return of the Jews from exile and the erection of a rival Samaritan temple on Mt. Gerizim. The Samaritans claimed descent from the 10 tribes and a pure religion derived from the Law of Moses." (The New Bible Commentary, Erdmans, 1958, p.873.) Also, the custom made it improper for a man to speak to a woman publicly.

- 1. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you in relating to people of different social class, ethnicity and religion?
- 2. How does it make you feel?
  - a. Is communication with them a problem?
  - b. What would you like to communicate?
  - c. Why was Jesus traveling?
  - d. Where was he going?
  - e. Who was with him?
  - f. Why did he go through Samaria?
- 3. Note: Sychar was thought to be the location of Jacob's well by tradition.
- 4. The 6th hour was at noon. If only an Englishman goes out into the noontime sun, why was the woman there at that time to get water?
  - a. Who else was there to witness the conversation?
- 5. Compare Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night to this encounter with the woman?
  - a. What is similar?
  - b. What is different?
  - c. In each case, who was seeking whom?

6. Why does the woman express surprise (verse 9) at Jesus' request for water (verse 7)? Note the prejudices that are implied or stated here or elsewhere to give perspective to this dialogue. Reviewing the conversation between the woman and Jesus, list as many contrasts as you can.
  - a. Are they talking about the same thing?
  - b. What is her frame of reference?
  - c. What is Jesus illustrating by referring to the well?
  - d. How is this conversation with the woman similar to that with Nicodemus?
7. What claims is Jesus making about "living water"?
  - a. What does the woman infer (verses 11 & 12) from Jesus claim to offer "living water"?
8. Why does Jesus shift the conversation to the woman's lifestyle?
  - a. How does she react (verse 19)?
  - b. How does Jesus control the conversation and keep it on target?
9. What claim is Jesus making in verse 26?
  - a. How has Jesus shown the woman that his claim is true?
  - b. What is the woman's need, and how has Jesus met it?
10. Looking back at Nicodemus, how is his need the same as the woman's, and how is it different?
  - a. Why does Jesus speak to each of these people differently?
  - b. Describe how Jesus touched Nicodemus and how he touched the Samaritan woman.
  - c. What does Jesus offer each of them?
11. What happens when his disciples join him? (Verses 31 to 38)
  - a. What do they see as they return from buying food?
  - b. How do they react to what they see?
  - c. How does Jesus deal with their problem?
  - d. Reviewing the conversation between the disciples and Jesus, what is the "disconnect" in the communication? Note the similarities to the Nicodemus dialog and the conversation with the woman?
12. What is the woman's response to Jesus?
  - a. What indicates that the woman is no longer concerned about physical water?
  - b. What does she do? and where does she go?
  - c. What enabled the woman to overcome her inclination to avoid people?
  - d. How are her actions in contrast to the disciple's behavior? What opportunity did they miss?
13. How did the people of Sychar respond to Jesus?
  - a. What is the evidence that other Samaritan people believed in Jesus as a result of the woman's testimony?
  - b. What two reasons do the people give for their belief in him? (Verses 39, 41 & 42)
14. Who do you identify with?
  - a. The disciples
  - b. The Samaritan woman
  - c. The believers of Sychar

## Jesus & the Opposition

### John 5:16-47

#### Introduction:

In the preceding section, John 5:1-15, Jesus healed a man in Jerusalem on the Sabbath day who had been an invalid for 38 years. This presented a problem for the Jewish legalists, who accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath. In addition, when they confronted Jesus, his claims recorded in this Gospel text escalated their opposition.

1. Was Jesus guilty of breaking the Sabbath?

2. What does the 4th commandment about the Sabbath actually say in Exodus 20:8-11?
3. How did Jesus interpret the law about the Sabbath in Mark 2:27?
  - a. What accounts for the difference between Jesus' view of the Law and his accusers' view?
  - b. Regarding the Sabbath, was Jesus a reformer or a rebel?
4. What were the reasons the Jewish legalists were persecuting Jesus?
  - a. To what degree did the Jewish legalists persecute Jesus?
  - b. What does this persecution reveal about their understanding of Jesus' claims?
  - c. What does this persecution reveal about their attitudes, values and motivations?
5. From this text, list the claims that Jesus is making about himself.
  - a. How are each of these claims made or presented by Jesus?
  - b. How does Jesus present his case and defend his claims? What evidence and "witnesses" does Jesus present for each claim and each accusation?
6. Why does Jesus refer to Moses?
  - a. To what or to whom do Jesus' opponents claim as their authority?
  - b. To what or to whom does Jesus claim as the basis of his authority?
  - c. How is Jesus correct by claiming that his opponents do not believe Moses?
7. Nicodemus sought out Jesus in John 3, and Jesus found the woman in John 4. How does this encounter between Jesus and those who opposed him compare to his encounter with Nicodemus and the woman in John 4?
  - a. What is similar, and what is different?
  - b. Who initiated this encounter?
  - c. How does Jesus show his love to those who opposed him?
  - d. What promises and what offer does Jesus make to those who opposed him?
  - e. What warning does Jesus make?
8. This text offers a peek into the relationship within the Trinity. What do you learn from this text about how the Father and the Son relate to each other? Why is this important?
  - a. Application for today:
    - i. How should we respond to attack from people who are in opposition to the Gospel?
    - ii. What is our defense, and where do we place our confidence?
    - iii. What is the "Good News" in this text?
    - iv. How can we avoid the kind of religion that is outwardly pious but inwardly bankrupt?
    - v. If indicted for breaking God's Law, what is our defense? Who is our accuser? Who is our advocate? Who is our judge?

## **Jesus: The Bread of Life**

### **John 6:25-71**

Introduction:

The preceding section, John 6:1-15, tells of Jesus feeding the 5000 with five barley loaves and two fish. As a result the crowd intended to take him by force to make him king. However, he avoided the temptation and escaped from the crowd. Afterward, on the other side of the lake at Capernaum, Jesus engaged in a dialogue with the multitude, making the claim, "I am the bread of life."

1. How did the crowd miss the mark in their interest in Jesus?
  - a. What did the crowd want?
  - b. What attracted the crowd to Jesus, and what did not?
  - c. What disconnect do you see in terms of values between Jesus' thinking and what the crowd was thinking?
2. Jesus raised the issue of "works."

- a. What kind of works did the crowd refer to, and what kind of works was Jesus referring to?
  - b. How are they different, and how are they similar?
  - c. How is the work of God in you life a work of grace?
3. Why did the crowd ask Jesus for a miraculous sign just after he fed 5000 people with five barley loaves and two fish?
  - a. In addition to what the text says, what other possibilities may there be for wanting a sign?
  - b. When is it OK to look for a sign? (See Jdg 6:17, 36-40)
  - c. What example of a sign did the crowd give?
4. The Old Testament story of Moses and the manna (Ex 16:1-12) is symbolic of God giving the Bread of Life.
  - a. Why was manna given?
  - b. In what way did the manna exhibit God's grace toward the Israelites?
  - c. How was the crowd mistaken about the manna? How and why did Jesus correct them?
  - d. In what ways is the Old Testament manna symbolic of Jesus?
5. Jesus' claim: "I am the bread of life."
  - a. What right does Jesus have to make this claim?
  - b. What promises are associated with this claim? How is Jesus better than the manna?
  - c. Why did the crowd object to his claim?
  - d. Why bread? Why did Jesus use this symbol?
6. In verse 52 what additional disconnect do you see in their dialog with Jesus?
  - a. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life...?"
  - b. How would you answer the question that the crowd raised in verse 52?
  - c. What does it mean to consume Jesus?
  - d. How does this text clarify your understanding of the Communion Sacrament?
7. Upon what does our eternal security depend?
8. Compare this dialog to the conversations that Jesus had with Nicodemus in Ch 3, the Samaritan woman in Ch 4, and the Jewish legalists in Ch 5.
  - a. What is similar, and what is different?
  - b. Who initiated this encounter?
9. How did the disciples react to Jesus claim? What significance do you see in Peter's question in verse 68?
10. How does the good news presented in this section affect you?

## **Jesus: The Light of the World**

### **John 8:12-20, 58 and John 9:1-41**

Read John 1: 4-9

1. How did John the Baptist describe Jesus?
2. What power or strength did John the Baptist attribute to the Light?
3. What is the nature of light? How did the Bible writers use the symbolism of fire and light in the following texts?
  - a. Hebrews 1:1-3
  - b. Revelation 1:12-16
  - c. Acts 2:3
  - d. Acts 9:1-9
  - e. II Cor 4:6
  - f. I John 1:5-7
4. Consider the Old Testament references to light associated with God:
  - a. Num 6:24-27
  - b. Psalm 27:1
  - c. Psalm 104:1,2
  - d. Psalm 119:105

- e. Isaiah 2:5
  - f. Isaiah 9:1-7
5. If the Pharisees were familiar with these passages, how could they have interpreted Jesus' claim to be the Light of the World?
    - a. What was John's appraisal of mankind's response to the Light in John 3:19?
  6. Jesus claims, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12-20, 58
    - a. Why is this claim important to you?
    - b. How does it make you feel?
    - c. What promises are associated with this claim?
    - d. Why did the Pharisees object to his claim?
    - e. What was the result of his claim at that time?
  7. How is Jesus' statement in vs. 58 the ultimate claim? (See Ex 3:13-15)
    - a. An example of light and darkness: Jesus heals the blind man – John 9:1-41
    - b. Who in this story is blind, and who can see?
    - c. Who in this story is in the dark & who is in the light?
  8. In vs. 39, what further revelation did Jesus provide with his claim to be the Light of the World? What was the Pharisees' problem as Jesus saw it?
    - a. The challenge for believers – I John 1:5-7
    - b. How can we walk in the Light?
    - c. What is the result of walking in the Light?

## Jesus: The Good Shepherd

### John 9:39 - 10:21

Review: John 9 – Jesus the Light of the World & the blindness of the Pharisees.

1. Read John 9:39 - 10:21
  - a. Who was Jesus speaking to?
  - b. What two claims did Jesus make about himself?
  - c. Considering the Old Testament references to the Shepherd, what should his listeners understand about these claims? See Psalm 23, Jeremiah 23:1-6, & Ezekiel 34:1-16.
  - d. Note Matthew 9:35-38. How did Jesus view the needs of his people?
2. "Eastern sheepfolds had only one door, which was either guarded by the shepherd himself when only one flock was there, or by a gatekeeper when several flocks were enclosed. In the latter case the gatekeeper would know the shepherds. Thieves would be forced to enter by other means. It is probable that no difference is intended between a thief and a robber. There is no need to attach any particular interpretation to the gatekeeper." Carson, D.A.; et al., *The New Bible Commentary*, (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press) 1994.
  - a. Who are the "hired hands, thieves and wolves" that Jesus refers to?
  - b. What is the significance of Jesus' claim, "I am the Gate," in verse 7?
  - c. What are the criteria for entering the sheepfold?
3. Contrast the difference between Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and the attitude of the Pharisees noted in John 9.
  - a. What are the objectives and values of the Good Shepherd?
  - b. What are the objectives and values of the blind Pharisees?
  - c. To what degree is Jesus committed to his flock?
4. What are the characteristics of the Good Shepherd as described by John 10?
  - a. How do these characteristics affect the flock?
  - b. How are we able to recognize Jesus' voice? How can we be sure about recognizing him?
  - c. What is the significance of Jesus calling us by name?
  - d. Where and how does Jesus lead his flock? For what purpose? (v. 9)



- e. As Shepherd of the flock, what claim does Jesus have on us?
- 5. Describe the relationship between Jesus and his flock.
  - a. How well does Jesus know us? (v. 14)
  - b. How well do we know Jesus?
  - c. Why is intimacy with Jesus important to you?
  - d. How should intimacy with Jesus affect our daily living?
  - e. What does Jesus expect from his flock?
- 6. What are the results of these claims?
  - a. What was the result of his claim at that time? Why did the Pharisees object to his claims?
  - b. Why are these claims important to you?
  - c. How do they make you feel?
  - d. What promises are associated with these claims?
- 7. How can these claims of Jesus be applied to daily living?
  - a. How can we be better followers?
  - b. How can we rest in his security?
  - c. How can we strive for unity within the flock?

### **Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life**

#### **John 11: 1 - 57**

1. It is easier to see the truth of theological concepts and agree with them, than it is to put them into practice and rely on them. This text shows how Mary and Martha grew in their faith and trust in Jesus as he demonstrated his claim to be the Resurrection and the Life.
  - a. What are the circumstances as this story opens?
  - b. Who are the characters in this story?
  - c. What locations are indicated? Where are they?
  - d. What is the request that Jesus receives from Mary and Martha? How is the request stated, and what does it imply?
2. Note that Jesus remained where he was for two more days before he set off to Bethany.
  - a. How far did Jesus need to travel to get to Bethany?
  - b. How long would it take to walk that far?
  - c. How many days had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived in Bethany?
  - d. Was it possible for Jesus to reach Bethany before Lazarus died?
  - e. What was Jesus purpose in waiting before making the trip to Bethany?
  - f. Compare Martha and Mary.
3. Look at John 12:1-3 and Luke 10: 38-42.
  - a. How do their conversations with Jesus in John 11 differ? How do they react to Jesus coming to Bethany?
  - b. What do they believe?
  - c. Is there a disconnect between Jesus' words and Martha's understanding?
  - d. Does Martha's stated belief in verse 24 reveal a limited view of Jesus' power?
4. Review the conversations of Mary and Martha with Jesus:
  - a. What was most important to Mary and Martha? What was most important to Jesus?
  - b. How was Jesus affected by what Mary and Martha wanted?
  - c. Why did Jesus weep, and what caused him to be "deeply moved"?
  - d. How were Mary and Martha affected by what Jesus wanted?
  - e. What do Jesus' emotions in this story convey about his relationship to us?
5. Examine Jesus' claim to be the Resurrection and the Life.

- a. Why does Jesus personify the claim? Is his claim about what he can do, or is it about who he is?
- b. What does this claim mean?
- c. What promises are associated or implied with this claim?
- d. How did Mary, Martha and Lazarus' suffering glorify Jesus?
- e. How is suffering related to glorifying Jesus?
- f. What examples can you give?
- g. How did this event affect the crowd? What divisions resulted?
- h. What were the consequences for Jesus?
- i. How did this event affect the crowd?
- j. What divisions resulted?
- k. What were the consequences for Jesus?

### **Jesus: The Servant Teacher & Lord**

#### **John 13: 1-17, 31-38**

This is the story of Jesus the "Teacher and Lord" washing the disciples feet. The story points to Jesus: who he is, where he came from, and where he is now. It is an overview of his mission – from Christmas to Easter.

#### **John 13: 1 – 17**

1. What was special about this Passover meal?
  - a. Who was there?
  - b. What was missing?
2. What was on Jesus' mind as this Passover approached?
3. How did Jesus' act of foot washing demonstrate what was on Jesus' mind?
  - a. What was Jesus' rightful position among the disciples?
    - i. What was Jesus position in heaven prior to the incarnation?
  - b. What was his demonstrated position among the disciples as he washed their feet?
    - i. How did he accomplish his mission? (See Phil. 2:1-11)
  - c. What was Jesus' position among the disciples after the foot washing?
    - i. Where did he go after his mission?
4. Did Jesus wash Judas' feet, too? What would that mean to Jesus? Or to Judas?
5. Notice Peter's reluctance to let Jesus wash his feet. (vs 8a)
  - a. Why did Peter have such a difficulty submitting to Jesus who wanted to wash his feet? How do you believe Peter felt? How would you have felt if you were among his disciples there?
  - b. From Jesus perspective, why was washing Peter's feet so important? (vs 8b)
  - c. What changed Peter's initial refusal of Jesus' foot washing to wanting a bath?
    - i. Consider the symbolism of foot washing and taking a bath.
    - ii. Who can stand before God without cleansing?
6. After the foot washing, Jesus asked the disciples, "Do you know what I have done for you?" (vs 12) If you were there, how would you answer that question?
7. Jesus claims to be "Teacher and Lord." What does the foot-washing example teach about him and about us?
  - a. His overall mission. His humility. (Phil. 2:1-11)
  - b. Our need. (Col. 2:6-7)
  - c. Our attitude and service to each other. (Matt 20:25-28)

#### **John 13: 31-38**

1. What commandment did Jesus give?
  - a. Why did Jesus wait until the Last Supper to give this commandment?
  - b. To what degree are we to follow this command?

- c. What is the connection between obeying Jesus' command to love one another and demonstrating that we are his disciples?
2. How can we implement Jesus' example and command?
  - a. Within our small group / within the Church.
  - b. Within our families.
  - c. In the world: neighborhood, society, marketplace... or wherever we go.

## **Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life**

### **John 14**

After showing his humility by the foot washing demonstration, Jesus makes this lofty claim. It is in response to the disciples' roundabout question, "Where are you going, and how do we get there?" His response was to reveal more about himself, while promising the Father would send the Holy Spirit in his place.

#### *John 14: 1-14*

1. To whom is Jesus addressing these comforting words?
  - a. Why do they need comfort?
  - b. Why are they confused?
2. What is Jesus claiming in vs. 6?
  - a. What is the significance of Jesus' personification of these claims?
  - b. (He could have said, "I know the way, the truth and the life.")
  - c. Personification – Attribution of personal form or character, an abstract idea endowed with personal attributes. A divinity or imaginary being thought of as representing a thing. Incarnation.
3. Considering the context of the Upper Room Discourse, introduced in Chapter 13,
  - a. What is "the Way"? To where?
  - b. What is "the Truth"? About what?
  - c. What is "the Life"? To what life is he referring?
4. What did the disciples learn from this claim? How do his words of explanation in vs. 6-14 clarify and amplify Jesus' claim?

#### *John 14: 15-31*

1. Why did Jesus ask the Father to give the Holy Spirit to his disciples? (NIV: "Counselor"; KJV: "Comforter" – with strength)
  - a. What do these names suggest about the Holy Spirit?
  - b. What is the mission of the Holy Spirit?
  - c. How is the Holy Spirit a replacement for Jesus?
2. What is the meaning of vs. 19.
3. What is the purpose of Jesus' promise in vs. 26? How did it apply to the disciples, and how does it apply to us today?
4. How do we see Jesus, and how does he show himself to us? (vs. 19 & 21)
5. Compare John 10: 3-15 with John 14:15-22.
  - a. Is Jesus' claim (vs. 6) exclusive by saying, "No one comes to the Father except through me"? What right does Jesus have to say this?
  - b. How does Jesus acknowledge our love for him? What commands and teachings does Jesus refer to in vs. 21 & 23? (Recall John 13:34 & 35)
  - c. How is the Trinity represented in this text?
6. What characteristics and interactions does Jesus present for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
7. What similarities and what differences among the Persons of the Trinity did he present?
8. What does the concept of the Holy Spirit mean to you? (How do we fit in?)

9. What has been the benefit for us regarding Jesus' claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the life?

## Jesus: The True Vine

### John 15

The prerequisite for success is connectivity to Jesus. What is success? What constitutes connectivity to Jesus?

#### *John 15: 1 – 8*

1. What is the analogy that Jesus presents?
  - a. Vine = ?
  - b. Gardener = ?
  - c. Branches = ?
  - d. Gardener's work and objectives = ?
2. What did Jesus claim in this analogy?
  - a. What is the significance of Jesus' personification of these claims? (He could have said, "I know the way, the truth and the life.")
  - b. Personification – Attribution of personal form or character, an abstract idea endowed with personal attributes. A divinity or imaginary being thought of as representing a thing. Incarnation.
3. What is the evidence that a believer is properly connected to Jesus?
  - a. What does it mean to be "pruned" (v. 2)?
  - b. What is the Father's glory noted in verse 8?
  - c. What did Jesus mean when he said in verse 7, "If . . . my words remain in you,..."
  - d. What are the conditions or criteria for answered prayers? What prayers are answered?
4. From John 15 what is the result of not "remaining in him"?
5. How shall we show ourselves to be Jesus' disciples as per v. 8.? For what purpose?

#### *John 15: 9 – 17*

1. How did Jesus describe his love for his disciples?
  - a. What example did he use?
  - b. What command did he give in verse 9?
  - c. How shall we remain in his love?
  - d. What are the benefits of remaining in his love?
2. What command did he repeat in verses 12-17?
  - a. Compare this to John 13:34 & 35.
  - b. How did Jesus define friendship? How did he demonstrate it?
  - c. How can this type of friendship attract others to Jesus?
  - d. Define the "fruit" that Jesus referred to in verses 8 & 16.
3. Compare verses 7 and 16. What additional information in verse 16 did Jesus add regarding answers to prayer?

#### *John 15: 18 – 27*

1. What is positive and what is negative in this section?
2. How did Jesus' words in verses 1 to 17 prepare his disciples for persecution and success?
3. What is the basis for Jesus' comment in verse 23, "He who hates me hates my Father as well."?
4. According to verse 26, what is the mission of the Holy Spirit?
5. Compare verse 26 to Jesus comments about the Holy Spirit in John 14?
6. What additional emphasis does Jesus place on the Holy Spirit's mission?

## Summary

1. Referring back to the analogy of Jesus as the True Vine:

- a. What nourishment do we receive with connectivity to Jesus?
- b. Why is “fruit” dependent on connectivity to Jesus?
- c. Give examples of the disciple’s “fruit”, or that of others.

## **Jesus: The Great I AM**

### **John 18**

In many times and occasions Jesus claimed many things about himself. In John 18 Jesus makes the final claim in John 18:5 & 6. This is the summation of all his other claims.

#### *Exodus 3: 1 – 15 God calling Moses from the burning bush*

2. How does God initially identify himself to Moses as he approached the burning bush?
3. What is the significance of that title?
4. What was Moses’ reaction to God’s identification of himself?
5. Why does Moses request another identification of God in verse 13? What is God’s response?
6. Consult a bible commentary for the meaning for this name for God.

#### *John 18: 1 – 11*

1. What are the circumstances surrounding this sequence of events?
  - a. Where are Jesus and his disciples?
  - b. Why are they there?
  - c. What is the time of the event?
  - d. What was Jesus expecting to happen there?
  - e. Why would Jesus go to a place where he would be found by Judas?
  - f. Considering what we have learned from Jesus’ interaction and discussion with the disciples, what are they expecting? What is Peter doing with a sword?
  - g. Who comes to arrest Jesus? What factions do they represent?
  - h. How would you feel if you were there among the disciples when Jesus was arrested?
2. How is Jesus’ power illustrated?
  - a. Jesus asked in verse 4, “Who is it you want?” How would you describe his demeanor as he asks this question?
  - b. How does the delegation respond to Jesus’ question? What name do they use? (Note John 1:46) What attitude do they reveal by using this name?
  - c. What was Jesus’ response to their answer?
  - d. What was their reaction to Jesus’ answer? What are the possible explanations for their reaction?
3. Figuratively, viewing this occasion as a military event, how would you describe this scenario?
  - a. Who are Jesus’ enemies? Who are Jesus’ allies?
  - b. What parts of society do they represent?
  - c. How does he protect his disciples?
  - d. Where are the battle lines? Who is on the defensive? Who has the advantage?
  - e. What has been the experience of Jesus’ enemies as they had previously tried to seize him?
  - f. Who is in control of these events?
  - g. What are the stakes? What were Jesus’ alternatives at this point?

#### *Summary*

1. Referring back to the Exodus account, how is God representing himself in Jesus at his arrest?
  - a. Who defines God?
  - b. How is God’s character revealed in Jesus at his arrest?

- c. How do the events of Jesus' arrest affect the challenge for you to be like him?
- d. How does the name, "I AM" represent the summation of all his other claims?

### Jesus: The Sender

#### John 20:21 – "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

##### Review

2. Who is Jesus, the sender? Jesus said, "I am:
3. The Bread of Life – John 6:35-40
4. The Light of the World – John 8:12 & 9:5 (Also, the testimony of John the Baptist – John 1:3-14.)
5. The Good Shepherd – John 10:11-18
6. The Resurrection and the Life – John 11:21-27
7. The Way the Truth, and the Life – John 14:5-14
8. The True Vine – John 15:1-17
9. [The Great] I AM – John 18:4-9
10. What other claims did Jesus make?
11. John 3:12-21
12. John 4:12-14, 25 & 26
13. John 5:16-27

##### John 20:19-31

1. When did this event occur? If you were there, how would you react to seeing Jesus at that time?
2. Why did Jesus repeat himself by saying, "Peace be with you" (verses 19 & 21)?
3. Jesus said in John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Considering all that we have studied about these claims:
  - a. What is an "Apostle"?
  - b. What was the object of this commission for the Apostles to complete? (See Matt 28:16-20)
  - c. What does it mean to be "sent into the world?"
  - d. What authority and power did Jesus give them? What resources did Jesus give to his Apostles?
  - e. How has the Father sent Jesus into the world? How is the Apostles' commission similar, and how is it different than Jesus' commission?
4. As modern-day disciples, what is our commission? How is it the same and how is it different from the apostolic commission?
  - a. To whom are we responsible? What does Jesus expect by sending us into the world?
  - b. How do these claims support us in our mission? What are our resources?
  - c. How do these claims define the object of our mission? What is our message?
5. Considering Jesus' statement in John 12:44-46, what should be our criteria for success in continuing Jesus' mission?
  - a. As individuals in a secular society
  - b. As a small group of believers in a secular society
  - c. As Memorial Park Church in a secular society
6. Considering Jesus' words to his disciples noted below, what means for success are available to us?
  - a. John 14:12-14
  - b. John 15:5-8
  - c. John 15:9-17
  - d. John 13:34-35
  - e. John 20:21
  - f. What repetition do you observe in these words of his?