



Discovery Bible Study

Signs of John

Introduction

Have you ever wondered if God is interested in your life? Are you interested in knowing more about Jesus? Maybe you are interested in knowing what the Bible says, but never felt comfortable going into a church? Discover the Bible is a great way to explore life's deeper questions with your friends in the comfort of your home or a local coffee shop. Around the world this approach is changing lives daily. Why not give it a go and see if the Bible has anything to say to you today?

How it works

Discovery Bible Study is an easy way to explore what the Bible has to say for yourself. So how do you get started?

We find that it works best if you gather a few friends and go through the studies together. Groups of between four and eight people are good. Everyone will have a slightly different perspective and as each person shares their insights your understanding as a group will grow. So find a comfortable location to meet, grab a coffee and dive in.

Start off by reading or listening to the Bible story. You can use this booklet or the **Discover App** for this. You might like to read the story a couple of times to get more familiar with it. When you are ready have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. Don't worry too much about getting it completely right. After they have finished anyone else can chip in and fill in any missing bits. If you are in a larger group you might like to do this bit in pairs.

Once everyone is familiar with the story, go through the questions. We always use the same four questions. They are easy to remember but surprisingly effective at helping to unpack the story. Take time to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak. If you are not sure how what someone is saying relates to the story, ask them "Where do you see that in the passage?"

For the last two questions we encourage you to make "I will" statements that you really intend to do. For example "I will stop and think before I criticise someone" or "I will tell my sister".

From session two onwards it is useful to start each study by reviewing the previous session. Chat through your "I will" statements and see how everybody got on with them. Take some time to encourage each other.

When you have finished the study ask everyone what is making them happy this week and what they are struggling with. Are there ways as a group that you can support each other?

As you tell other people about what you are learning, you may find that people ask to join your group. That's great! Rather than growing your group, however, it is better to ask them if they would like to find a few friends and start a new group themselves. As you have already seen it is very easy to do, and you don't need to be an expert to lead.

Step by step guide

Before you begin take some time to think about last week's session and how things have gone since then. Then answer these questions together

- What is making you happy this week?
- What are you struggling with this week?
- How did you get on with your "I Will Statements" from the previous session?
- Who did you tell and how did that go?

Step 1: Read the story

Read or listen to the passage

Step 2: Retell the Story

Take a few moments to retell the story in your own words. You may want to speak it out loud, or write it down. If you find you are struggling to remember it, read or listen to it again.

Step 3: Discover the Story

When you feel that you are familiar with the story, take some time to think over or discuss the following questions:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?

Sign One

Changing water into wine

John 2:1-11

¹ Two days later a wedding was held at Cana in Galilee, and Jesus' mother was there.

² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ The wine ran out, so Jesus' mother told him, "They don't have any more wine."

⁴ "Mother, why should you involve me? My time hasn't come yet," he replied.

⁵ His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone jars used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each one holding twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them right up. ⁸ Then he told them, "Pour some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So they took him some. ⁹ The master of ceremonies didn't know where it had come from, only the servants knew. But when he tasted the water that had been turned to wine, he called the bridegroom over.

¹⁰ "Everyone serves out the best wine first," he told him, "and once people have had plenty to drink, then they put out the cheaper wine. But you have kept the best wine till last!" ¹¹ This was the very first of Jesus' miraculous signs, and was performed in Cana of Galilee. Here he revealed his glory, and his disciples put their trust in him.

Sign Two Healing the official's son

John 4:46-54

⁴⁶ He visited Cana in Galilee again, where he had turned water into wine. Nearby in the town of Capernaum lived a royal official whose son was very sick. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had returned from Judea to Galilee, he went to Jesus and begged him to come and heal his son who was close to death.

⁴⁸ “Unless you see signs and wonders you people really won't trust me,” said Jesus.

⁴⁹ “Lord, just come before my child dies,” the official pleaded.

⁵⁰ “Go on home,” Jesus told him. “Your son will live!”

The man trusted what Jesus told him and left for home. ⁵¹ While he was on his way, his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and recovering. ⁵² He asked them what time it was when his son began to get better. “Yesterday at one p.m. the fever left him,” they told him. ⁵³ Then the father realized this was the precise time when Jesus had told him, “Your son will live!” So he and everyone in his household trusted in Jesus.

⁵⁴ This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

Sign Three Healing the paralytic

John 5:1-15

¹ After this there was a Jewish festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. ² Now near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem is a pool called Bethzatha in Hebrew, with five porches beside it. ³ Crowds of sick people were lying in these porches—those who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. ⁴ ⁵ One man who was there had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus looked at him, knowing he had been lying there for long time, and asked him, ⁶ “Do you want to be healed?”

⁷ “Sir,” the sick man answered, “I don't have anyone to help me get into the pool when the water is stirred. While I'm trying to get there, someone always gets in before me.”

⁸ “Stand up, pick up your mat, and start walking!” Jesus told him. ⁹ Immediately the man was healed. He picked up his mat and started walking.

Now the day that this happened was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who'd been healed, “This is the Sabbath! It's against the law to carry a mat!”

¹¹ “The man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and start walking,” he replied.

¹² “Who's this person who told you to carry your mat and walk?” they asked.

¹³ However, the man who'd been healed didn't know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the surrounding crowd. ¹⁴ Later on Jesus found the man in the Temple, and told him, “Look, now you've been healed. So stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

¹⁵ The man went and told the Jews it was Jesus who had healed him.

Sign Four Feeding the 5000

John 6:5-14

⁵ When Jesus looked up, and saw a large crowd coming towards him, he asked Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?” ⁶ He only asked this to see how Philip would respond, because Jesus already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ “Two hundred silver coins wouldn't buy enough bread to give everyone only a little,” Philip replied.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹ “There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and a couple of fish, but what good is that when there are so many people?”

¹⁰ “Have everybody sit down,” Jesus said. There was plenty of grass there, so they all sat down, the men numbering around five thousand. ¹¹ Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and had it handed out to the people as they sat there. Then he did the same with the fishes, making sure the people had as much as they wanted. ¹² Once they were all full, he said to his disciples, “Collect what's left over so nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they collected and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves the people had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw this miracle, they said, “Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world.”

Sign Five

Jesus walking on water

John 6:16-24

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ climbed into a boat, and headed across the water towards Capernaum. By now it was night and Jesus had not joined them yet. ¹⁸ A strong wind began blowing and the sea grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea, coming towards the boat. They were very frightened. ²⁰ “Don’t be afraid!” he told them. “It’s me.” ²¹ Then they gladly took him into the boat, and immediately they reached the shore where they were going.

²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea noticed that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but they had left without him. ²³ Then other boats arrived from Tiberias, landing near to the place where they’d eaten the bread after the Lord had blessed it.

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went over to Capernaum, looking for Jesus.

Sign Six

Healing the man born blind

John 9:1-7

¹ As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man born blind. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, why was this man born blind? Was it him who sinned, or was it his parents?”

³ Jesus replied, “It wasn't because of the sins of the man or his parents. But so that what God can do may be shown in his life, ⁴ we have to keep on doing the work of the one who sent me as long as it is still daytime. The night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ While I'm here in the world I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After he'd said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the saliva which he put on the man's eyes. ⁷ Then Jesus told him, “Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which means “sent”). So the man went and washed, and when he went home he could see.

Sign Seven

The raising of Lazarus

John 11:1-45

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha.
2 Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus: "Lord, your close friend is sick." 4 When Jesus heard the news he said, "The end result of this sickness will not be death. Through this God's glory will be revealed so that the Son of God may be glorified."

5 Even though Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 and had heard that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was for two more days. 7 Then he told the disciples, "Let's return to Judea."

8 The disciples replied, "Rabbi, just a few days ago the Jews were trying to stone you. Do you really want to go back there now?"

9 "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus replied. 10 "If you walk during the day you don't stumble because you can see where you're going by the light of this world. But if you walk during the night you stumble because you have no light." 11 After telling them this, he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm going to go there and wake him up!"

12 The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping then he'll get better."

13 Jesus had been referring to the death of Lazarus, but the disciples thought he meant actual sleep. 14 So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I'm glad I wasn't there, because now you will be able to trust in me. Let's go and see him."

16 Thomas, the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let's go too so we can die with him."

17 When he arrived, Jesus learned that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

18 Bethany was just two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to console Mary and Martha at the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha found out that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. 22 But I'm certain that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day," Martha answered.

25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who trust in me will live, even though they die. 26 All who live in me and trust in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one expected to come to this world."

28 When she had said this, she went and told her sister Mary in private, "The Teacher's here, and asking to see you."

29 As soon as she heard, Mary quickly got up and went to see him. 30 Jesus hadn't arrived in the village yet. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who had been comforting Mary in the home saw how she'd got up quickly and left. So they followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary arrived at

the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying as well, he was very troubled and upset. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Then Jesus cried too. ³⁶ “See how much he loved him,” the Jews said.

³⁷ But some of them said, “If he could open the eyes of a blind man, couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸ Very troubled, Jesus went to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone placed at the entrance.

³⁹ “Remove the stone,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, said, “Lord, by now there will be a terrible smell, for he's been dead for four days.”

⁴⁰ “Didn't I tell you that if you trusted me you would see God's glory?” Jesus replied.

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked heavenwards, and said, “Father, thank you for listening to me. ⁴² I know you always listen to me. I said this because of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ After saying this, Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of linen, and with a cloth around his face.

“Unbind him and set him free,” Jesus told them.

⁴⁵ Consequently many of the Jews who had come to comfort Mary and who saw what Jesus did put their trust in him.

Sign Eight The Resurrection

John 20:1-31

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved from the entrance. ² So she ran to tell Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, “They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. ⁴ The two of them were running together, but the other disciple ran faster and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down, and looking in he saw the grave-clothes lying there, but he didn’t go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived after him and went right into the tomb. He saw the linen grave-clothes lying there, ⁷ and that the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head wasn’t with the other grave-clothes but had been folded and placed on its own.

⁸ Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first went inside as well. ⁹ He looked around and believed it was true—for up till then they hadn’t understood the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ But Mary stayed outside the tomb crying, and as she was crying, she bent down and looked into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels in white, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been lying.

¹³ “Why are you crying?” they asked her.

She answered, “Because they’ve taken my Lord away, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” ¹⁴ After she’d said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t realize it was Jesus.

¹⁵ “Why are you crying?” he asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

Assuming he was the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you’ve taken him away, tell me where you’ve put him so I can go and get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned to him and said, “Rabboni,” which means “Teacher” in Hebrew.

¹⁷ “Don’t hold onto me,” Jesus said to her, “for I haven’t yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers and tell them I am ascending to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.” ¹⁸ So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord,” and she explained to them what he had said to her.

¹⁹ That evening, on the first day of the week, as the disciples were meeting together behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “May you have peace.” ²⁰ After this greeting he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were full of joy to see the Lord.

²¹ “May you have peace!” Jesus told them again. “In the same way the Father sent me, so I’m sending you.” ²² Saying this, he breathed on them, and told them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you hold them unforgiven, unforgiven they remain.”

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas, who was called the Twin, wasn’t with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord.”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger in them, and put my hand in his side.”

²⁶ One week later the disciples were together inside the house; and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, and Jesus came and stood among them.

“May you have peace!” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand in the wound on my side. Stop doubting and trust in me!”

²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” Thomas responded.

²⁹ “You trust in me because you’ve seen me,” Jesus told him. “Happy are those that haven’t seen me yet still trust in me.”

³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs while he was with his disciples that are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written down here so that you may trust that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by trusting in him as he is you will have life.

Conclusion

We hope that you enjoyed going through the Bible together. We'd love to hear any stories of how it has changed your life. The great news is that discovering the Bible doesn't stop here. If you would like to dive deeper, there are other study series in the **Discover App**. You can also use the study questions to explore any passage that you choose.

If you have enjoyed this series, why not encourage your friends and families to get a group going and go through the studies together?



<https://discoverapp.org/get>

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