

Believe and Be Changed

A life group study guide for the Gospel of John

Intro to John: *The One Who Jesus Loves*

1. Open and get to know one another.

- **Prayer:** Ask God to illuminate His word and to give you strength to believe and obey.
- **Icebreaker Question:**
Jesus nicknamed John and James the “Sons of Thunder.” Imagine who you were before you were a believer. What nickname do you think Jesus would have given you? Tell the group and tell them why.

2. Sermon Summary

John wrote his Gospel so that people would *believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing have life in his name*. John’s own life was transformed by walking with Jesus—from a fiery “Son of Thunder” to the “Apostle of Love.” His testimony is trustworthy because he was an eyewitness, close to both Jesus and Mary, and because the Holy Spirit inspired him. This Gospel is an invitation for us to encounter Jesus, believe in him, and experience new life.

3. Scripture Reading

Read aloud together:

- John 20:30–31
- John 10:10
- John 8:31–32
- John 15:6–7

4. The What, Why, and How (30–40 minutes)

What did we read? (What facts did we learn?)

1. According to John 20:30–31, what two main reasons did John write his Gospel?
2. John 10:10 describes the kind of life Jesus offers. What does “abundant life” mean to you?

3. John is transformed over time. What do his early attitudes (Luke 9:54; Mark 10:37–38) reveal about his character before Jesus changed him?

Why does this matter (What does it mean to the world and to you?)

4. Why does it matter to believe that you are the one Jesus loves? Why would embracing that truth change the way you live?
5. Why does it matter that God transforms our character instead of leaving us as we are? Why would that transformation be good news for the world around you?
6. Discuss this quote from St. Irenaeus: "The glory of God is man fully alive." Why does it matter for the world that Christians live "fully alive" in Christ?

How will you apply these truths to your life?

7. If abundant life means being alive to God, family, and community, what's one step you can take this week in each area?
8. How could you help encourage someone in your group this week to believe their new identity in Christ?

5. Prayer

- Pray for one another's needs and that you each believe and be changed.
- Thank Jesus for transforming ordinary, fiery, or flawed people into people of love and impact.

6. Personal reading for next weeks Life Group

- John 1:1–18 — The Word became flesh.
- 1 John 1:1–4 — John's eyewitness testimony.
- John 14:25–27 — The promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Psalm 1 — Abiding in God's word brings life.
- Acts 4:13 — Transformation through being with Jesus.

Consider journaling as you read this week, and be ready to share with others what you learned from the readings and how you are applying it to your life. Think about **what** you read, **why** this truth matters, and **how** you will apply it to your life.