

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 43

John

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: JOHN

Jesus, The Son of God

Out of posterboard, a big question mark with the wording WHO IS JESUS? on it

A red heart

A bottle of grape juice

A picture of a Palestinian house

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the big question mark.) This is called a question mark. It is always written at the end of a question. Some people asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” We are told in the Bible the answer to this question. The Bible tells us who Jesus is.

In the first book of the New Testament we learn that Jesus is going to be the King of the whole world, and that Jesus should be King of our lives. Matthew wrote down the words that God the Holy Spirit told him to write in the first book in the New Testament; that book is called Matthew. Matthew says in this book that Jesus will be King. Let’s remember, Matthew wanted to be king of his own life, and then he made Jesus King of his life!

People asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” In the second book of the New Testament we are told that Jesus is our Servant. Mark wrote down the words that are in the second book of the New Testament. The second book in the New Testament is called Mark. Mark tells us that Jesus came to serve us. Since Jesus serves us, we should serve Him.

People asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” In the third book of the New Testament we learn that Jesus came as the Son of Man. Jesus came as a human being from Heaven to earth. He made Himself into the form of a baby boy and grew to be a man. Luke wrote down the words in the third book of the New Testament. Luke tells us that Jesus is the Son of Man.

People asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” In the fourth book of the New Testament we learn that Jesus is the Son of God. John wrote down the words that are in the fourth book in the New Testament. Who wrote the fourth book? Yes, John did. John tells us that Jesus came to earth as the Son of Man, but that Jesus is also the Son of God.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all tell us many things about Jesus. We can learn who Jesus is from reading these four books of the New Testament. I want to tell you about John who wrote down the words that the Holy Spirit told him to write, and those words are called the book of John.

Telling the story:

John was a fisherman. John, with his brother James, worked for his father in the fishing business. They owned their own big fishing boats and nets for fishing. They had a good business.

One day John had to do what everybody has to do if he wants to go to Heaven someday. John had to admit that he was a sinner. So John asked Jesus to be his Saviour; John was saved.

After that, Jesus commanded John to be His disciple. John was very happy about that. John loved Jesus, and he obeyed Him.

(Lay down the question mark and pick up the heart.) This heart makes us think of love. God the Father loved us so much that He sent Jesus to earth to die for us. Jesus loved us so much that He died for us. Your mothers and your daddies love you so much that they provide homes for you and food to eat and clothing to wear. Mothers and daddies love you so much that they want you to grow up to be the right kind of boys and girls. We Sunday school teachers love you so much that we will give our time to work in Sunday school so that you can hear about Jesus and come to love Him, too. This heart makes us think of loving someone.

John loved Jesus so much that he was ready to do whatever Jesus told him to do. John wanted to be close to Jesus: John loved to hear Jesus talk; he loved to watch Him; he always wanted to be close to Jesus.

John wrote down many wonderful true stories that we love. (Put down the heart and pick up the bottle of grape juice.) We love the story about Jesus' changing the water into delicious grape juice. The Bible uses the word wine, but Jesus commands that no one drink liquor, so you know that when the Bible says wine in this story, it means grape juice. It was at a wedding that Jesus attended that a terrible thing happened! They ran out of grape juice! The family did not know what to do. Jesus said, "I will help." Jesus commanded that huge bottles be filled with water. After the bottles were filled with clear water, Jesus changed the water into grape juice! Everybody said that the best grape juice had been saved to the last when they tasted the grape juice that Jesus made from clear water. That was the first miracle that anybody saw Jesus do here on earth. People were learning by this miracle that Jesus is the Son of God.

(Put down the grape juice and hold up the picture of the Palestinian house.) John wrote down another true story. The story is about Nicodemus, the very important man in the synagogue church. Nicodemus really had to learn who Jesus was. Nicodemus, however, was afraid to let anyone see him talking to Jesus. So Nicodemus walked ever so quietly down the street in the dark of the night to find Jesus and to talk with Him. We think that they talked on the rooftop of a house that night. It was while they were talking that Jesus said to Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You know that verse! And it is found in John chapter 3 and verse 16.

(Lay down the picture of the Palestinian house and pick up the heart.) John tells us how much Jesus loves us and how much we should love Him. John tells us that one day some soldiers led Jesus away. The soldiers whipped Jesus with a heavy leather whip that had pieces of metal and glass at the end of the leather strips. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They treated Him badly. Jesus let the soldiers do this because it was time for Jesus to die for the sins of everybody. John followed Jesus to Calvary. John saw the soldiers lay Jesus down on the cross on the ground. He saw them pound the nails into Jesus' hands and Jesus' feet. He saw them set the cross straight up in the ground. He saw Jesus hanging on the cross.

John also saw Mary, the lady who had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus when He came to earth as a tiny baby boy. John saw Mary crying and crying because her Son was being treated so terribly. Jesus was hanging on the cross and suffering terrible pain. Even though Jesus was suffering, however, He could see friends and loved ones as they looked up at Him on the cross.

Jesus saw John, and He spoke to John. Jesus said, "See this lady who was chosen to be My mother when I came to earth from Heaven. John, take care of My mother. Treat her as you would treat your own mother. Take care of her." John obeyed Jesus. After Jesus' body was put in the tomb, John took Mary to his home. After Jesus went back to Heaven, John still took good care of her.

(Lay down the heart and pick up your Bible.) In the book of John, John tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. He also tells us in this book that Jesus died for our sins because He loves us so much.

SAY OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

What are the first four books of the New Testament? Yes—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.