

=THE APOSTLES=

Lesson 3

The Apostle John

AIM: to teach my pupils the facts concerning the life of the beloved John.

POINT OF CONTACT: Since John was so lovable and beloved, have the pupils give some names of people they think are lovable-type people.

- I. JOHN WAS BORN OF ZEBEDEE AND SALOME. He had good, hard-working parents. Good, hard-working parents make good, hard-working children. Someone has said, "Little leopards have spots because mother leopards have spots." It is so important that parents set the right example for their children.
- II. BETHSAIDA WAS THE TOWN OF JOHN'S BIRTH. It was on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was to become a wicked town. In fact, Jesus placed His curse upon Bethsaida for her wickedness. There is a teaching here: Though John was born and reared in a wicked area, he himself lived for God and was faithful to Jesus Christ. We live in a wicked area. It does not mean, however, that our children have to be wicked. Teach them that they can walk with God in a wicked generation and wicked area.
- III. JOHN HAD AN OLDER BROTHER NAMED JAMES. It is important that we serve Christ with our families, and it is important that we serve Christ with our brothers and sisters. James and John were very close to each other. (Teacher, stress here the importance of being kind to immediate members of the family and developing our relationships with them.)
- IV. JOHN WAS IN THE FISHING BUSINESS WITH HIS FATHER. No doubt he was to inherit the business along with his brother, James. He gave up this lucrative profession to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, he sacrificed for Jesus.
- V. WHEN JOHN WAS BORN AGAIN, HE "LEFT ALL" AND "FOLLOWED JESUS." He is an example to each of us of how we should leave all and follow Christ.
- VI. HE WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE TWELVE. By the way, he was the youngest of the twelve, and he served God as one of the twelve apostles.
- VII. HE CALLED HIMSELF "THE DISCIPLE JESUS LOVED." He was the closest of the twelve to Jesus. We should be as close to Jesus as possible.
- VIII. HE STAYED CLOSE TO JESUS WHEN OTHERS FORSOOK HIM. May it be said of us that we stand by Jesus when all are against Him. Let us be faithful and loyal to Jesus Christ.
- IX. HE WAS GIVEN THE CARE OF JESUS' MOTHER. John was dependable. (Teacher, teach here the importance of caring for our aged parents and loved ones. Teach the importance of being a dependable kind of person. Young people need this.)
- X. HE WAS EXILED TO PATMOS FOR HIS STAND FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS. May we be willing even to die for our stand for Jesus.
- XI. HE WENT TO EPHESUS AT THE END OF HIS LIFE. It is said that he kept preaching until he had to be carried to the pulpit to preach. What loyalty! What devotion! What faithfulness!
- XII. HE WROTE FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: JOHN, I JOHN, II JOHN, III JOHN AND REVELATION. There are three main themes in these great books, and these should be the themes of our lives:

1. Love. John, being the beloved disciple, wrote so much of love. Look at these verses for wonderful Scriptures on love: John 3:16; John 15:16, 17; I John 4:8, 17. No wonder John was so faithful to Christ when all others left Him! No wonder he was in the inner circle! No wonder he left all to follow Christ! No wonder he preached until he was carried from the pulpit! He knew what it was to love.
2. The second coming. John's great theme was the second coming of the Saviour. Read John 14:1-3, I John 3:1-3, and the entire book of Revelation (but especially Revelation 22:12, 17 & 20). John loved Christ, and because he did love Him, he wanted to see Him again; hence, he spoke often about the coming of the Saviour. Much of our prophetic truth we get from this beloved apostle.
3. Assurance. He wrote a great deal about knowing that you are saved. Look at I John 3:14; John 3:36; John 5:24. John knew he was saved and wanted believers to know that they were saved; hence, he wrote a great deal about the assurance of salvation.

XIII. JOHN'S GOSPEL WAS WRITTEN TO SHOW THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD. Matthew pictured Him as the King of kings. Mark pictured Him as the Suffering Servant. Luke pictured Him as the Son of Man. John pictured Him as the Son of God. You will notice John has no human genealogy in his Gospel. His genealogy goes back to the beginning and shows the deity of Jesus Christ.