

01 May

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 1

 Let's hear your story

1. What was John busy with when Jesus called him in Matthew 4:21? **(John was mending nets with his brother and father.)**
2. What did Jesus appoint John to, in Mark 3:14? **(To be an apostle.)**
3. What was God the Father's instruction to Peter, James and John in Matthew 17:5? **(Listen to Him - Jesus.)**
4. Where did John sit during the last supper in John 13:23? **(At Jesus's side – next to Jesus.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. Who did Jesus take with Him to pray in the garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:36 – 37? **(Peter; James and John.)**
6. Whom did Jesus entrust to care for His mother according to John 19:26 – 27? **(v.26; the disciple whom He loved – John.)**
7. Who was the first apostle to see the empty tomb according to John 20:1 – 8? **(John.)**
8. Who was the first person to recognize the risen Christ walking upon the shore in John 21:5 – 7? **(John.)**

 Let's apply this

**9. John 13:23;** One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side.

John refers to himself as the one whom Jesus loved. John knew that Jesus loved him. That was the foundation of his identity. John doesn't say, "I was a great preacher or teacher or great leader." He says, "I was the most loved." And that changed John.

- Take some time this week to reflect on Jesus' love for you.
- As you read John's gospel, put your name in John's place.

SUMMARY:

**Gospel of John:** Week 1 (Introduction to John)

**Read:** Matthew 4:21 – 22; 17:1 – 4; 26:36 – 46; Mark 3:13 – 17; John 13; 19; 20; 21.

**Matt. 4:21 – 22;** tells us that John was a fisherman together with his brother James and father. Jesus walks along the sea and calls John to leave his nets, his family business, his income and a very secure financial future to follow Him.

In **Mark 3:13 – 17;** Jesus invites John to be one of His 12 disciples.

In **Matt. 17:1 – 4;** John sees Jesus in His glory and receives his "job description" from God the Father which is to listen to Jesus, John's teacher.

In **John 13:18 – 25;** Jesus asked Peter and John to prepare and set the table for the last supper. During the last supper, Jesus speaks about His betrayal, and **v.23** tells us that John was next to Jesus' side; John was in the seat of friendship next to Jesus. **v.25;** tells us that John leaned back on Jesus' breast; which is a beautiful picture of their friendship and John asked; "Lord who is it?" John was concerned about Jesus.

John and Judas had two completely different relationships with Jesus. John came to Jesus, loving Jesus, because Jesus loved him. Judas came to Jesus with an agenda, and wanting to get things from Jesus. How did Judas betray Jesus? with a kiss; it looked like friendship but it wasn't. Judas was no friend; like John.

**Matt.26:36 – 46;** tells us that John was with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.

John followed Jesus and went from trial to trial with false charges and no defence for Jesus, John followed from a distance out of love to see what would happen.

**John 19:26 – 27;** tells us that only John was present at Jesus' crucifixion, and Jesus entrusted John with His mother.

**John 20:1 – 8;** John was the first apostle to see the empty tomb.

**John 21:5 – 7;** John is the first to recognize the risen Jesus Christ upon the shore.

**Acts 1:9;** Jesus, the Teacher ascends into heaven, and John becomes the teacher.

Church history tells us that John saw all his classmates die for Jesus. John was boiled alive in an attempt to kill him, but he didn't die. He then was sent off to an island called Patmos, where he was in exile. On this island, Jesus appeared to him and revealed to him the book of Revelation. John wrote many books of the bible, but his greatest revelation was that he was most loved by Jesus.