

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: December 16, 2020
Fulfilled – Intro to John

We've been studying in this series, Fulfilled, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in Jesus. We've also been talking about how, in Christ, God fulfills us! Now, we move on to the life of Christ, studied through the book of John. We've referred to this and other Gospels throughout this series, but now we come to a deeper study. Many in our church have had life-changing experiences through reading the Gospel of John. Additionally, this is the Gospel that the Beginner Bible Studies (Chic Shaver) suggest reading as new believers. So, regardless of where you are in your faith, I believe this will be a great study. When we study a book of the Bible, we often study the background of the book first because it gives context to the way that we interpret the scripture we are reading. So, even though we may not be reading a lot of scripture this week, it will help us in the way we interpret the scripture for the next several months!

1. What type of book is the book of John?
 - a. An epistle.
 - b. A Gospel.
 - c. Apocalyptic.
 - d. History.

2. Who wrote the book of John?
 - a. John the Baptist.
 - b. John the son of Zebedee.
 - c. The apostle John.
 - d. The disciple whom Jesus loved.
 - e. John, the brother of James.

3. John is unique among the Gospels in that the other Gospels (called Synoptic Gospels) are similar in structure and content, while John is very different. While all Gospels were written as evangelistic records to show Christ to those who would come after, the synoptic Gospels tend to follow a more time-oriented story. John seems to follow a more theological or spiritual outline, not intentionally telling the story in time order, but rather organizing things thematically to tell the story he was trying to tell. Why might the other authors have chosen to organize things by time, seeming to tell a more physical historical version? _____
Why might John have organized his differently? _____

4. Most Christian Historians suggest that Matthew was written by the disciple Matthew (Also called Levi), Mark was written by John Mark, the disciple and close associate of Peter, and Luke was written by the physician Luke, who travelled with Paul. Why might John have had a different perspective on the story than the other authors? _____

5. John is often considered the last of the Gospels to be written as John was the oldest surviving apostle and probably the only one to die of natural causes (after several attempts to kill him failed). Why might this be significant? _____

6. John is often called the book of Love? If you've studied this before or by skimming the text, why might this be? _____
How might this affect the way that we read the book when we study it? _____

7. John (or a portion of it) is often called the book of signs. Why, according to John 20:30-31, was this book written and how might this lead us to call it that? _____
How might this affect how we interpret the scripture as we read and study it? _____