



**Jesus IS God!**  
**A study on John 8:1-12:11**

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## **The Gospel of John: Lesson plan**

- Lesson 1 — Apr 15 — Jesus' ministry is so...unique! (John 1-3)
- Lesson 2 — Apr 22 — A deep-deep understanding about faith! (John 4-7)
- Lesson 3 — Apr 29 — Jesus IS God! (John 8:1-12:11)
- Lesson 4 — May 6 — Serving like this is unheard of! (John 12:12-14:31)
- Lesson 5 — May 13 — Living a powerful life (John 15-17)
- Lesson 6 — May 20 — The tomb is empty! (John 18-21)

### **John 8:1-11, Forgiveness that restarts something new**

What would Jesus do with a woman who has committed adultery (v. 4), and therefore required by law to be stoned to death (v. 5)? John tells us in v. 6a what lived in her accusers’ hearts—they didn’t really care about what Jesus thinks about it, they simply wanted Him to share something that would get Him into trouble with them and their laws!

Jesus however knew their evil hearts, and right there where He sat down He started to write something with His finger in the sand (v. 6b). We have no idea what Jesus wrote there...one possibility is that He wrote some of their own sins down...? What we do know is that it stopped them in their tracks, especially when Jesus said, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her” (v. 7)! All of them simply walked away...and the older ones (most important people) went first (v. 9a)!

This forgiveness and grace has such an impact on the woman that she acknowledges Jesus as “Kyriē” (Lord, v. 11a)! A Lord who doesn’t condemn her, but challenges her to go and live an obedient life, setting an example to others (v. 11b)!

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### John 8:12-30, and 48-59, Who is Jesus?

The question that is probably addressed the most in the Gospel of John is “Who is Jesus?”. Constantly, chapter by chapter, John helps us to see that Jesus is different, that His actions, His words, the validity of His testimony...everything about Him is shouting: He IS God!

Chapter 8 is no different. Jesus is...

- The One who forgives and restores (vv. 1-11).
- The Light of the world, and nobody following this Light will have a meaningless life, like a person struggling to find his way in the dark. No, the followers of Jesus can see what they should do to live a life that is pleasing to God (v. 12).
- The One with a valid testimony: From a human perspective (the below) it might look as if Jesus does not have a valid testimony (at least two people as required by law), but He does have enough from the perspective of where He is from (the above)! He has two testimonies: Himself (which speaks to who He is), and His Father (vv. 13-19).
- The One doing what God has called Him to do on God’s schedule, and nobody can interfere with this timeline (vv. 20, 59)!
- The One who is from Above...not from this world (below), which is also the reason why He can be without sin, and save you from your sin that comes with this “below” (vv. 21-24)!
- The One who IS God, who does nothing except for what is in complete alignment with His Father, who is therefore always with His Father, and His Father with Him...and all of this will become abundantly clear when He is lifted up (crucified and resurrected) (vv. 25-29)! This is so powerful that “many put their faith in Him” when He shared this (v. 30)...*will you?*
- The One who honors His Father; the One who doesn’t seek glory for Himself, because His Father helps the people to clearly see how important Jesus actually is; the One who can prevent you from ever seeing (eternal) death, and the One who has always been and will always be (vv. 48-58)!

**John 8:31-41, Are you sure you are free?**

Freedom is pretty important to us. We will often hear Americans being proud of the fact that they live in the “land of the free”, and “home of the brave” as the song goes. And although this might be true from an American perspective, Jesus warns the religious leaders that it is only when you “abide” (hold on) to His teaching, when you “know the truth” (deeply partner with the Gospel Message), that you can be truly FREE (vv. 31-32). Where you live and who your lineage is, do not determine your spiritual freedom (v. 33).

Jesus reminds us that sin makes you a slave to another master, the devil and the father of lies (vv. 34, 44)! It is only the Son who can set us truly and completely free (v. 36), and who can secure a seat at the family table forever (v. 35b)...a slave only has a temporary place with a family, so we must be careful that the devil doesn’t trick us in thinking we are with God’s family, while we are actually not (v. 35a)!

We have to answer the question, “Is God truly our Father?” ...if we’re mistaken then the devil is our father, we are his slaves, and we are surely not free at all (vv. 37-44). It is time to choose! It is time to take Jesus’ question seriously, “If I’m telling the truth, why don’t you believe Me?” (v. 46).

Let us hear what God says...time is running out to be set free...TRULY FREE (v. 47)!

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**John 9:1-41, Do you see yet?**

Typical to the miracles in the Gospel of John, we find here another amazing, huge miracle—this man is not only blind, he is blind since birth (vv. 1, 19-20), which is a huge deal, because nobody blind since birth has ever been healed (v. 32), which helps even more so to clearly answer the question about who Jesus is! And so the question naturally arises, “Why?”. Did he or his parents sin (vv. 2, 34), or was there another reason for this to happen? Probably one of

the questions believers, and non-believers, struggle with the most! A question, that, if we can figure it out, can help us greatly in our missional encounters.

Jesus gives a great answer: “This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life” (v. 3)! What an amazing answer—that our lives is not about us, but about Him, not about our glory, but about His, not about reflecting our greatness, but about showing people the Kingdom of God has come near to all! When Jesus walks into your life, you will be able to see, even if you are blind, because He is the “Light of the world” (v. 5), and with this miracle He does heal the blind, so that you can “see” that He is exactly that: The “light of the world”! We need to remember that we don’t have forever to get this amazing Message out there...a time will come when the opportunity will have passed, and the door will be closed to share (v. 4)!

Therefore, the real question remains to be answered...soon, while we still have time: “Do you see yet?”. As we see from the ongoing debate between the Pharisees, the man, his parents, and neighbors that this is indeed the real issue here (vv. 8-34)!

This miracle is certainly not about who is physically blind or not, and it is not even about who get miraculously healed or not (vv. 39-40), but it is rather about you “seeing”, truly “seeing” with open “spiritual eyes” that *the* Healer, *the* greatest “Miracle” of them all, the one and only Son of God, Jesus Christ, is standing right in front of you (vv. 35-37), ready to give His life for you, so that you can be healed, can see, that the Kingdom of God has come near to us all!

If one doesn’t accept this Good News as the blind man did (v. 38), then it is better for you to be physically blind, because then at least you could claim that you couldn’t see and “see” the Truth that has come near to you (vv. 40-41)! How sad is it if we see, but don’t “see”—Jesus came to show us exactly who He is and exactly where we stand with God...may we be honest enough with ourselves to acknowledge where we are at, and be healed from our blindness to truly see (v. 39a), or else we who can actually see will sadly turn “blind”, and God’s judgement will rest upon us (v. 39).

It is time to see, to choose, to be healed, and to live in the Light!

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## **John 10:1-42, Jesus, our God, is our Shepherd!**

The journey continues to identify Jesus clearly, and here we get introduced to Jesus being the “gate for the sheep (vv. 7 and 9, see also 14:6), and the “good Shepherd” (vv. 11, 14). Jesus is thus both Shepherd, and the Gate to the pen where the sheep (us) can be taken care of and be safe from the thieves and robbers (vv. 1, 8, 10).

Being the Shepherd (Jesus), and sheep (us/believers) means:

- Jesus knows us personally and individually—He knows our names, and we go when and where He calls (v. 3).
- Jesus goes ahead of us, and we follow, because we know His voice (v. 4).
- We won't follow strangers, but rather run from them (v. 5).
- Jesus is willing to lay down His life (just as a shepherd would for his sheep) (vv. 11, 15, 17-18).
- Jesus IS God as we can now clearly see: He lays down His life (no one takes it from Him), but He also takes it up again, and in this way shows how He is obedient to His Father (vv. 17-18). As GOD, Jesus also can give life (to Himself)! Yet, so, so sad that many still didn't want to believe that, but rather wanted to kill Him for this truth (vv. 31-39).
- We find pasture with Jesus...all the spiritual blessings and care we need, forever (vv. 9-10).

Being the Gate means that Jesus is the only way, as there is only one (right) way to gain access to a sheep pen (vv. 10). Entry into this pen however comes with a price and a reward: Jesus has to lay down His life (vv. 11-18), for our salvation (v. 9).

All these wonderful promises and privileges are not only for us, but also for those who have not yet walked through the Gate (v. 16)!

Immediately, as we have come to know about the Gospel of John, some are wondering again if they should believe all of this about Jesus, or not (vv. 20-42). May we choose to believe that this is so true, life giving, and real! This is where you can be safe, forever, not having to fear that anything can snatch you out of your Father's (Jesus') Hand (vv. 25-30)!

Choose with “many” to “believe in Jesus” (v. 42), “as long as it is still day”, because “night is coming” when it will be too late (9:4).

### **John 11:1-12:11, The importance of the miracle of Lazarus**

In the Gospel of John it is almost impossible to keep Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension apart from each other (well, theologically at least). They are tied together by the threads of "glory" and "life": Jesus needs to die, to show above any doubt through His resurrection that He truly is God, as He can give life, just as God, and therein, together with His ascension to the right hand of God, lies His glory, which also brings glory to God!

We will share more about His "glory" later, but let's look now at the thread of "life". John 5:21 is a great start, helping us to see that Jesus gives life, to whom He pleases, just as the Father can raise the dead, and give life. Therefore, just as "...the Father has life in Himself", so does Jesus (John 5:26)! We see this just as clearly in John 10:17-18, which helps us to understand that Jesus is the One laying down His life, and Jesus is the One taking it up again—it is not taken away from Him, but it is Him laying it freely down, because He has the authority to take it up again!

It is furthermore no surprise that it is right after this intense discussion about Jesus having the authority over giving life that we read about Lazarus' death (John 11)! Before He performs any miracle He once again announces that people need to remember that He is the "resurrection and life" (v. 25), and that whoever believes in Him will not die (v. 26). He then goes ahead to raise this dead, *dead* man (he is already starting to stink, says v. 39), which immediately kicked the Jewish leaders' plan in motion to get Jesus killed (v. 53). Why? Because they knew that this would help proving Jesus' claim to be the Son of God (11:45 and 12:11), and the only way out would be to get rid of the "proof", both Jesus (11:46-57), and Lazarus (12:9-10)!

However, Jesus knew that raising Lazarus alone would not help for all to understand—He had to do it Himself as well!

Once we understand the importance behind and above Lazarus' death, it becomes clear why Jesus didn't act immediately when He heard Lazarus was sick (vv. 6, 21). It also suddenly makes sense why Jesus would say things like "This sickness...is for God's glory" (v. 4), and "...for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe" (v. 15).



Everything in the Gospel of John is now gearing up so we can see in the death and resurrection of Jesus WHO HE IS - HE IS GOD! Therefore it is no surprise that right there in Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus (12:1), Mary took a pint of expensive perfume to anoint Jesus' feet (12:2-3). When Judas under false motives challenges Mary that this is a wasteful act (12:4-6), Jesus makes the connection to His death, "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial" (12:7), and His resurrection clear, "You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me" (12:8).

It is time to see who Jesus is, and recognize that He is "the resurrection and the life", and that "who believes in Jesus will live, even when he dies, and that whoever lives and believes in Jesus will never die" (11:25-26). Once again: It is time...*now*...because a time comes when the time to choose right, and the time to share this amazing truth will pass—we need to work now while it is still daylight (11:9-10)! Be like Mary, seize the moment NOW while Jesus can still be reached in the daylight!

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### **Want to dig deeper, or just stay connected?**

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