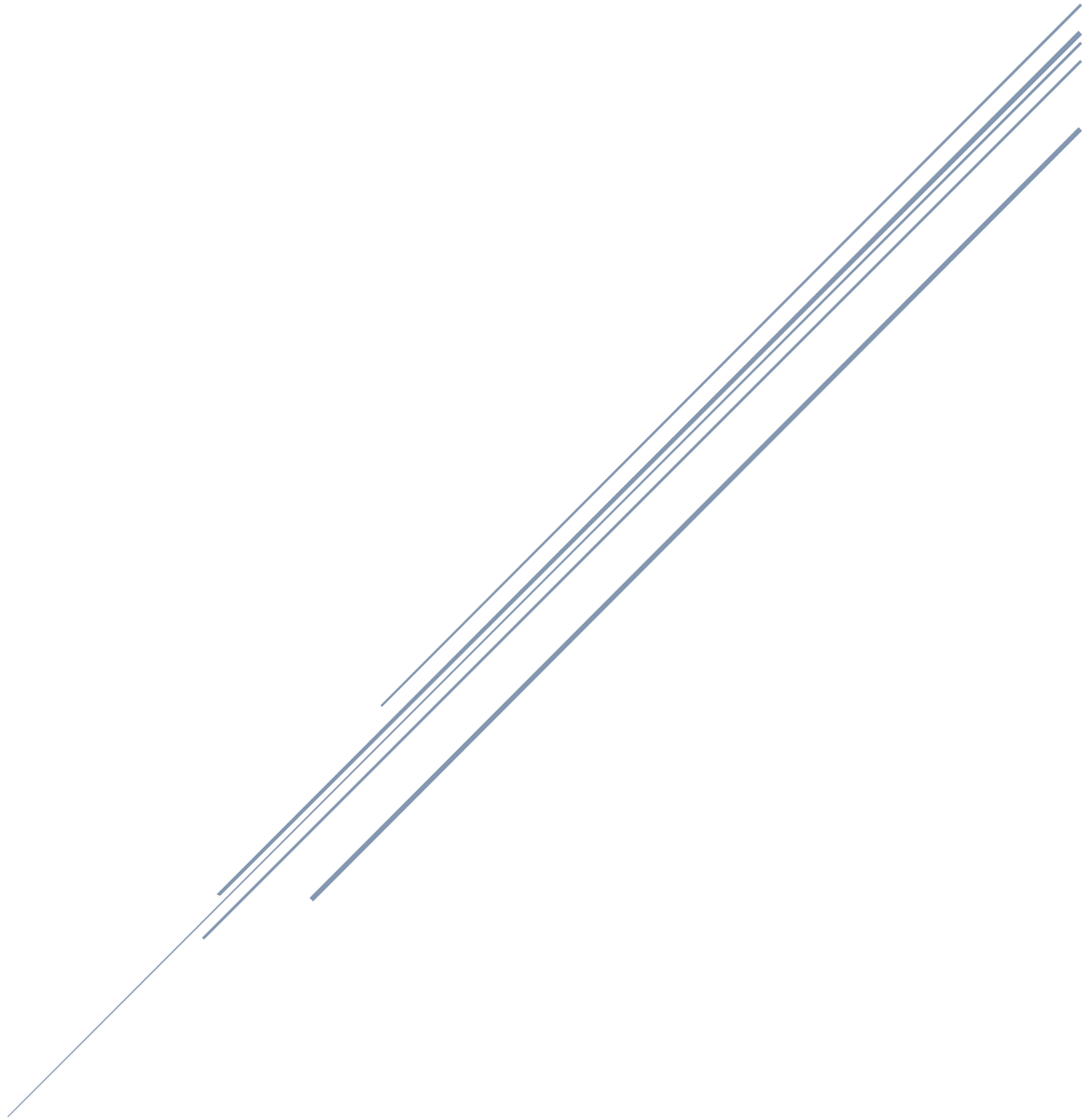


THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE SCENES, SIGNS & SERMONS OF MESSIAH

Study Guide & Outline



Monument Leadership Institute

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An Overview of John's Gospel:

1. About the Author

John a disciple and apostle of Christ
Evangelist, pastor & theologian
Son of Zebedee; son of thunder
Fisherman by trade
Brother of James, cousin of Christ (?)
A young man when called
The apostle of love, 15:13
Lived nearly a century
The apostle whom Jesus loved, 13:23
Penned the gospel +/- 85 AD
Penned 1st, 2nd, 3rd John & Revelation

2. John's Style

Universal in scope, 3:16-18, 36
Jewish in background, 1:11
Simple style, weighty in truth, 6:51
Pastoral, dealing with issues, 17:1ff
Reaches the depth of our pain, 8:1-11
Most thematic of the gospels, 1:1-18
Effectively presents salvation, 20:31
Very personal & warm, 4:1ff
Masterfully black & white, 3:36
Connects facts, explanations & evidences
Structure of a Roman play (Scenes & witnesses)

3. Theology & Themes

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, 1:1-3
The Holy Spirit is God, 14:16, 17
Stresses simplicity of faith, 6:29
Promises of a future life, 14:1-6
Unique accounts of Christ, 11:1ff
Different aspects of teaching, 10:1ff
Strong Judean background, 2:13
Incredibly personal & detailed, 13-17
Dialogues w/disciples, 20:24; 21:15
Emphasis on the N.C., 1:17, 16:7
Jesus is the exalted Christ, 1:1; 21:25

4. Unique Facts

Jesus has no genealogy
He is introduced as The Creator
He is introduced as God in the flesh
He is contrasted with Moses
He is the Word 'Logos' of God, 1:1-3, 14

He attends many feasts of Israel
He refers to Himself as the 7 "I AMs"
His 7 **miracles** are called **signs**
His priestly ministry is magnified, 17:1ff
Much of the letter references Jesus' dialogues
Jesus makes many claims about Himself, 8:58

5. Why another Gospel so late in time?

John was motivated by Christ's love
He responded to church family needs
He desired Jesus' flock to be strong
He desired many lost sheep to be saved
He needed to share his account
He corrected false ideas about Christ
He expanded a simplicity & knowledgeable depth
He desired His Savior to be glorified

6. The Prologue, the Foundation 1:1-18

Jesus Christ Is:

1, The Eternal God of the OT
3, The Creator in Genesis 1-3
4, 9, The Light of the World
4, Eternal Life
14, The Word or "Logos"
14, 18, The Only Begotten Son of God
7, 14, A Physical Man of Flesh & Blood

Other Facts:

11, Rejected by His Own
12, Promise of eternal sonship to all Peoples
6-8, 15, Witnessed by John the Baptizer
16, 17, Contrasted to the Law of Moses

Key Words and Concepts:

Word – Both Jesus' person and teaching (36)
Beginning – Jesus' pre-incarnate existence
Life – Jesus, the eternal life in every way (32)
Light – Radiance of God's glory (16)
Darkness – The sinful state of mankind (6)
Witness – The proofs of Christ's person (14)
World – The focus of this Gospel (57)
Believe – A trusted acceptance of truth (85)
Father – Mainly ref. Jesus' Father in heaven (111)
Truth – Who Jesus is and what He taught (20)
Grace – Goodness of God (Seen in action)
Moses – The giver of the Law (12)
Law – Jewish covenant with God (13)

The Prologue lays the foundation and prepares the reader for the remainder of this Gospel

AN OUTLINE BASED ON THE SCENES, SIGNS & SERMONS OF MESSIAH

Part One: The Book of Signs

- Prologue, 1:1-18** The Foundational Facts
- Scene 1, 1:19-34** The Initial Witness of John the Baptizer
- Scene 2, 1:35-51** The Witness of Disciples
- Scene 3, 2:1-12** **Sign #1**, The Water turned into Wine
- Scene 4, 2:13-25** The Temple Cleansing
- Scene 5, 3:1-21** The Witness of Nicodemus
- Discourse #1**
- Scene 6, 3:22-36** The Continued Witness of John the Baptizer
- Scene 7, 4:1-45** The Witness of the Samaritan Woman
- Discourse #2**
- The Witness of the Samaritan people
- Scene 8, 4:46-54** **Sign #2**, The Healing of the Nobleman's Son
- Scene 9, 5:1-47** **Sign #3**, The Healing of the Paralytic
- Discourse #3**
- Scene 10, 6:1-71** **Sign #4**, The Feeding of the 5,000 Men
- Discourse #4**
- 1st "I Am the Bread of Life"**
- Sign #5**, Jesus Walking on Water
- Scene 11, 7:1-53** The Witness of the Jewish Crowds
- Discourse #5**
- Scene 12, 8:1-59** The Witness of Grace & Truth
- Discourse #6**
- 2nd "I Am the Light of the World"**
- Scene 13, 9:1-10:42** **Sign #6**, The Healing of the Blind Man
The Witness of the Blind Man/Crowds
- Discourse #7**
- 3rd "I Am the Door"**
- 4th "I Am the Good Shepherd"**
- Scene 14, 11:1-57** **Sign #7**, The Raising of Lazarus
- 5th "I Am the Resurrection and the Life"**
- Scene 15, 12:1-50** The Last Earthly Days of Jesus the Messiah

Part Two: The Book of Glory (Future Class)

- Scene 1, 13:1-14:31** The Personal Upper Room Teachings
- 6th "I Am the Way, The Truth & The Life"**
- Scene 2, 15:1-16:33** The Path to Gethsemane
The Personal Teachings Continued
- 7th "I Am the True Vine"**
- Scene 3, 17:1-26** The Lord's Passionate Prayer
- Scene 4, 18:1-42** The Meek & Humble Path to Calvary
- Scene 5, 20:1-31** The Witnesses of THE RESURRECTION
- Scene 6, 21:1-25** The Manifestation of Messiah's Glory

THE WORD (LOGOS) OF GOD

*“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life** - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you...” 1 Jn 1:1-3*

The Hebrew Concept of the “Logos”

God’s word was His active divine agent

Created - “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.” Psalm 33:6

Revealed - “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram...” Genesis 15:1

Authorized - “Because he has despised the word of the LORD...” Numbers 15:31

Judged - “...I have slain them by the words of My mouth...” Hosea 6:5

Healed - “He sent His word and healed them...” Psalm 107:20

Crusader - “He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.” Psalm 147:15

Truth - “The sum of Your word is truth...” Psalm 119:160

Eternal - “...And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” Psalm 119:160

Wisdom - “For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Pr. 2:6

***Note:** Possibly the OT term ‘the word of the Lord’ referred to Jesus Christ in his pre-incarnate state. And that God himself is the word insofar as the word is the expression of his revelation.*

In Targums (popular Aramaic paraphrases, interpretations of the Hebrew Scripture), there is a felt need for a mediator to stand between them and God. The greatest mediator was defined as the ‘word.’ But these translations never identified the ‘word’ as a person, nor related it to the Messiah.

For the Hebrew people, ‘the word of the Lord’ has a long history and was very active in their lives.

It is how God communicated and dealt with them; it was how he rescued them. ‘The word’ was their mediator.

The Greek Concept of the “Logos”

*If there was a development of the word **Logos** within the Hebrew culture, there was also a parallel movement among the Greeks. The concept of Logos became important to the Greeks with the emergence of philosophy and rationality around 600 BC. The Logos theory took a wide meaning among the Greeks. It became the content that was in a law, the thoughts of expression, it was details, it was definition. It also carried the idea of metaphysical (unseen) reality.*

In Conclusion:

Both the Greek and Hebrew belief systems prepared the way for the coming of the Apostle John’s Logos. The Logos had been in use among the Hebrews for hundreds of years in a Biblical way. The Logos had been in use among the Greeks for six hundred years in a speculative abstract way. The Greeks and Hebrews did emphasize their doctrine of Logos; both belief systems saw a world in need of a mediator; both systems had attributed the interaction between man and the divine through the means of the Logos.

Although mankind developed many Logos theories and tried with difficulty to define its nature and being, it fell quite short of the true or ultimate reality of the Logos. The Apostle John articulated its ultimate meaning when he personified the Logos in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Logos was given as a title to the Savior of the world, for it expressed who He truly was in complete essence more than any other term. The Logos of John was the perfect and eternal Son of God; the Creator, the Mediator, the Sustainer, and the fulfillment of all that the Logos was to Jews and Greeks alike. He was in every way the perfect and complete expression of the Father. He was more than any Jewish theologian or Greek philosopher ever imagined or comprehended the Logos to be. To everyone in this world, the Apostle John introduced the true Word of God as witnessed in Jesus Christ and spoken throughout his entire gospel letter!

THE SCENES, SIGNS & SERMONS OF MESSIAH

Part One: The Book of Signs

“We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” 1 John 5:20

Prologue, 1:1-18 The Foundational Facts

A. Jesus, the Eternal God, 1-5, 14, 17-18

Genesis 1:1a, “In the beginning God...” John 1:1-2, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”

Genesis 1:1b, “...created the heavens and the earth.” John 1:3, “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

Gen 1:3-5, “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

John 1:4, 5, 9, “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

B. The Witness of the Eternal God, 1:6-8, 15, 27

Vs 1. Describe the Word: _____

Read & compare John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1-5 & 1 John 1:1-2 and note the similarities: _____

1-3. Why does John omit any type of genealogy? _____

Vss 3-10. Key truths about The Word: _____

Explain why Jesus cannot be separated from God’s word? _____

Vss 11-13. Who were his own people? _____ What birth matters? _____

Vs 14. (Read vs 1) Who was the Word? _____ He was full of _____ & _____

Scene 1, 1:19-34 The Initial Witness of John the Baptizer

A. John's Confession to the Jewish Leaders, 19-28 (Day 1)

B. John's Introduction of the Lamb of God, 29-34 (Day 2)

In this section what did John the Baptizer confess about himself? _____

Why was John's humble confession important? _____

In this section what did John the Baptizer confess about Christ? _____

Scene 2, 1:35-51 The Witness of Disciples

A. The Initial Calling of Disciples the, 35-42 (Day 3)

B. The Continued Calling of Disciples, 43-51 (Day 4)

Observations from Scene 2? _____

Scene 3, 2:1-12 Sign #1, The Water turned into Wine

A. The Situation in Cana of Galilee (8 km NW of Nazareth), 1-6 (Day 7)

B. Jesus Power Over Creation, and the Beginning of Signs, 7-11

C. The Days in Capernaum, 12

5 observations from Scene 3? _____

Scene 4, 2:13-25 The Temple Cleansing (1st Passover, Mar/Apr)

A. Jesus the Righteous King Cleanses His Fathers Temple, 13-17

* Also read Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18 & Luke 19:45-46 (All 3 were later in Jesus' ministry)

B. Jesus Prophetically Declares His Death & Resurrection, 18-22 (1st mention of His death)

* John uses the term "The Jews" whereas the other Gospels use the terms "Pharisees or Sadducees"

C. Jesus Refuses to Entrust Himself to the People, 23-25

Why did John consider this temple cleansing important? _____

Compare the reactions of the disciples & the Jews: _____

Why did Jesus speak metaphorically (in indirect terms)? _____

Why did Jesus refuse to commit Himself to the people? _____

What has been an encouragement to you in Chapters 1 & 2? _____

Scene 5, 3:1-21 The Witness of Nicodemus

A. Nicodemus Came to Jesus with Questions, 1-9 (Coming of the New Covenant)

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; **I will cleanse** you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **I will give you a new heart** and **put a new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh**. **I will put My Spirit** within you and **cause you** to walk in My statutes, and **you will keep** My judgments and do them.” *Eze. 36:25-27*

B. Nicodemus is Challenged to Believe, 10-21

Discourse #1 (10-21)

In one word, what is the theme of discourse #1? _____

In biblical terms, define “Born Again:” _____

Why would Nicodemus need to be born again; born of the Spirit? _____

Why did Jesus use the story in Numbers 21:4-9? _____

Why is this portion of Scripture important to the Gospel? _____

Scene 6, 3:22-36 The Continued Witness of John the Baptizer

A. *The Situation with Jesus & John the Baptizer, 22-26*

B. *Further Testimony of John the Baptizer, 27-37*

Explain the importance of John’s clear and simple testimony: _____

Scene 7, 4:1-45 The Witness of the Samaritan Woman & Samaritan Community

A. *Jesus, the All-Knowing Went out of His Way, 1-6 (Consider John 3:16)*

B. *Jesus, the All-Loving Engaged with an Unclean Samaritan, 7-15*

C. *Jesus, the All-Knowing Touches Upon Her Condition, 16-18*

D. *Jesus, the All-Loving Leads Her to Himself and Salvation, 19-26*

E. *Jesus, the Disciples, and the Woman’s Responses, 27-38*

Discourse #2 (31-38)

F. *The Witness of the Samaritans, 39-42*

In three words or less, what is the theme of discourse #2? _____

What truth encourages you from Scene 7? _____

A Comparison between Nicodemus & the Woman at the Well

<i>When they meet Jesus</i>	
A male Jewish elected official	A female Samaritan rejected offender
A religious leader & teacher of God’s chosen	A struggling sinner & outcast of her people
He is named & honored by his people	She is unnamed & dishonored by her people
He was educated, clean & devout	She would be thought untaught, dirty & damaged
He comes to Jesus at night (darkness of mind)	She meets Jesus at noon (lightens her mind)
<i>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:11</i>	

<i>After meeting Jesus</i>	
Confused & slow to respond	Perceptive & quick to respond
Thinks Jesus a teacher from God	Thinks Jesus a prophet
Questions Jesus’ teaching & pulls away	Responds to Jesus’ teaching & engages with Him
Does not ask to be born again	Asks for the Living Water
Remains quiet & unchanged	Responds in faith & is changed
He leaves remaining in his sin	She leaves liberated from her sin
He is silent	She preaches the Messiah
His people remain in unbelief	Her people respond to Jesus (Acts 8:4-17)
<i>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. John 1:12</i>	

What can we learn from Jesus' ministry regarding these two different people, and live it ourselves?

Scene 8, 4:46-54 Sign #2, The Healing of the Nobleman's Son

- A. *Jesus Moves on from Samaria, 43-45*
- B. *Nobleman's Plea for Help, 46-49*
- C. *Jesus Power Over Sickness, 50-51*
- D. *Nobleman's Response, 52-53*
- E. *John Affirms Sign #2, 54*

Why is a prophet not accepted in his own country (Read Luke 4:16-30)? _____

Why was Jesus frustrated with the Jews' desire for a Sign (Read John 20:29)? _____

Scene 9, 5:1-47 Sign #3, The Healing of the Paralytic (An unnamed Jewish Feast)

- A. *Jesus, in Jerusalem Engages the Lame Man, 1-6*
- B. *Jesus Heals the Lame Man On the Sabbath, 7-9*
- C. *The Jews Engage the Healed Man, 10-13*
- D. *The Jews' Persecution of Jesus & Their Reasons To Do So, 14-18*

Note: First mention in John of the Jew's desire to kill Jesus.

Why is Jesus being persecuted and why such hostility? _____

Discourse #3 (19-47)

- E. *Jesus's Character, Position and Authority, 19-30*

List at least 5 truths revealing Jesus's equality with His Father: _____

List at least 5 truths revealing Christ's position as a Son: _____

F. Introduction to the Fourfold Witness of Christ, 31-32

G. Witness of John the Baptizer, 33-35

H. Witness of Christ's Miracles, 36

I. Witness of God the Father, 37-38

J. Witness of the Holy Scriptures, 39-47

Scene 10, 6:1-71 Sign #4, The Feeding of the 5,000 Men (2nd Passover, Mar/Apr)

A. The Setting of the Feeding of the 5,000, 1-12

B. The People's Recognition of The Prophet (New Moses), 13-14

C. Jesus' Awareness of the People's Hearts, 15

Sign #5, Jesus Walking on Water

D. Jesus' Power Over the Natural Realm, 16-21

E. The People's Self-seeking Pursuit of Jesus, 22-25

F. Jesus Engages the People, 26-34

List at least 3 truths from vss. 26-34: _____

Discourse #4 (35-59), 1st "I AM the Bread of Life"

G. Jesus is the Keeper and Satisfier of the Soul, 35-40

H. Jewish People Doubt the Claim of Christ, 41-42

I. Jesus challenges and expands the Truth of Who He Is, 43-51

J. Jesus Difficult Words, Not Easily Understood, 52-59

List the parallels between Jesus and Moses/Manna: _____

K. Conclusion to the Discourse, 60-65

L. Reality of Jesus' Calling, 66-71

What is encouraging about Peter's response? _____

Scene 11, 7:1-53 The Witness of the Jewish Crowds (Feast of Booths, Sep/Oct)

A. Jesus' Wise Caution Regarding Jerusalem, 1-13

What was the brother's response? _____

Why were the leaders looking for Jesus? _____

Discourse #5 (14-39)

B. Jesus Begins Teaching in the Temple Courts, 14-18

C. Jesus Calls out the People's Hypocrisy, 19-24

D. Confusion Among the Crowd, 25-27

E. Jesus Declares His Calling from Above, 28-29

F. Belief, Unbelief and Confusion among the People, 30-36 (Reality of Resurrection)

G. Jesus' Gracious N.C. Promise to the People, 37-39

H. The Arguing and Struggle Among the People, 40-53

Who are all the people noted in this chapter? _____

What were their many ideas of who Jesus was? _____

(Comparing the introduction/foundation (1:1-18) with chapters 1-7)

Jesus Christ Is:

1, The Eternal God of the OT: *1:15, 30 pre-existence; 6:41, 51, 58 from heaven;* _____

3, The Creator in Genesis 1-3: *2:11, 4:54 signs;* _____; _____

4, 9, The Light of the World: *3 & 4, Nicodemus & the Samaritans;* _____; _____

4, Eternal Life: *3:16 Giver of life; 4:14 living water;* _____; _____

14, The Word or "Logos": *3:35, 5:17-26 Jesus' authority;* _____; _____

14, 18, The Only Begotten Son of God: *3:16, 18, 7:29* _____; _____

7, 14, A Physical Man of Flesh & Blood: *2:3 mother; 4:6 tired; 1:51 Son of man;* _____

Other Facts:

11, Rejected by His Own: *5:18;* _____; _____

12, Promise of eternal sonship to all Peoples: _____; _____

6-8, 15, Witnessed by John the Baptizer: *1:19-36;* _____; _____

16, 17, Contrasted to the Law of Moses: *1:45 wilderness; 5:45;* _____; _____

Key Words:

Darkness: *3:19 condition of sinners;* _____; _____

World: *3:16 appeal to sinners;* _____; _____

Believe: *2:11 disciples faith; 3:36 way of accepting Christ;* _____; _____

Father: *3:35, 5:20 Father's intimate love for His Son;* _____; _____

Grace & Truth: *3 & 4 Nicodemus & Samaritans;* _____; _____

Scene 12, 8:1-59 The Witness of Grace & Truth

A. Jesus Forgiving the Sinner, 1-11

Note the wisdom of Jesus: _____

Note the grace of Jesus: _____

Note the awareness of Jesus: _____

Note the truth of Jesus: _____

Discourse #6 (12-59), 2nd “I AM the Light of the World ”

B. Jesus’ Amazing Declaration, 12 (Reflect upon Chap. 1 regarding the light)

C. Jesus’ Response to the Pharisees, 13-20

D. Jesus Again Speaks in Riddles Regarding His Death and Resurrection, 21-30

E. Jesus Challenges the Core Beliefs of the Crowd, 31-47 (Read 1:11-13)

F. Jesus Exposes the Pride and Unbelief of the People, 48-59

Note the key elements of Discourse #6: _____

Scene 13, 9:1-10:42 Sign #6, The Healing of the Blind Man

The Witness of the Blind Man and the Crowds

A. Introduction to the Blind Man, 1-5

B. The Healing of the Blind Man, 6-7

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1-3

C. The Initial Reaction of His Neighbors, 8-12

D. The Initial Inquiry by the Pharisees, 13-17

E. The Interrogation of His Parents, 18-23

F. The Second Inquiry of the Blind Man, 24-34

G. The Belief of the Blind Man, 35-38

H. The Unbelief of the Pharisees, 39-41

How did Jesus prove He is the Light of the World? _____

How did the blind man and crowd witness Christ’s person? _____

Discourse #7, 3rd “I Am the Door” & 4th “I AM the Good Shepherd”

A. Jesus Introduces His discourse, 1-6

B. Jesus Claims to be **THE DOOR**, 7-10 (See page 15 illustration)

C. Jesus Claims to be **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**, 11-18

D. Continued Doubt and Unbelief of the Hearers, 19-21

E. Jews Want Surety of His Claims, 22-24 (Jewish Feast of Dedication, Nov/Dec, Not in The Law)

F. Jesus Proclaims His Power and Authority, 25-30

G. Jesus Challenges Their Unbelief, 31-39

H. Those Who Did Believe, 40-42

Explain how Jesus is THE DOOR and THE GOOD SHEPHERD: _____

Scene 14, 11:1-57 Sign #7, The Raising of Lazarus, 5TH “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”

- A. *The Sad Situation in Bethany, 1-7*
- B. *Jesus Teaches and Prepares His Disciples, 8-16*
- C. *Jesus and His Disciples Enter Bethany, 17-20*
- D. *Jesus Talks with Martha, 21-27*
- E. *Jesus Talks with Mary and Others, 28-34*
- F. *Jesus is Filled with Deep Emotional Concern, 35-38*
- G. *Jesus Reaffirming Martha and Others, 39-40*
- H. *Jesus Authority Over the Grave and Death, 41-44*
- I. *The Mixed Results of Belief and Greater Unbelief, 45-54*
- J. *The Beginning of The End of Jesus Walk Among His People, 55-57 (3rd Passover, Mar/Apr)*

Explain why Chapter 11 is important: _____

Scene 15, 12:1-50 The Last Earthly Days of Jesus the Messiah (3rd Passover, Mar/Apr)

- A. *Six Days Before Passover, 1-11*
- B. *The Next Day, Palm Sunday, 12-19*
 - 1. *The Fulfillment of OT Scripture*
 - 2. *The Assurance of Those Who Witnessed Lazarus Vs. the Frustration of the Leaders*
- C. *The Value of True Living, Reflected in the Reality of the Seed Principle, 20-27*

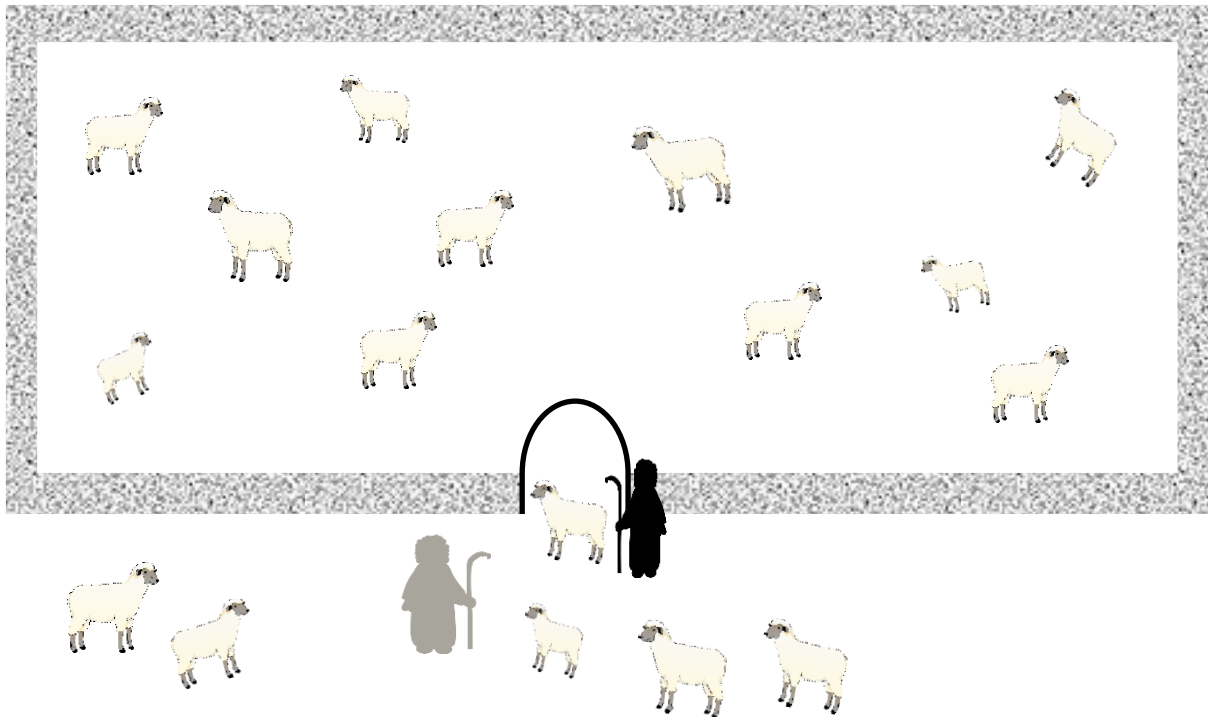
Explain the practical reality of the seed illustration: _____

- D. *The Witness of the Father, 28-30*
- E. *Jesus Last Declarations to the Jewish Crowds, 31-50*

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

The Messianic allusions to Jesus’ signs, teachings, and offer to His people (Page 15)

Sheep Pen Illustration



The Messianic allusions to Jesus' signs, teachings, and offer to His people, Isaiah 55

¹ "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."