

JOURNEY

into a

Love-Filled

LIFE



**Learning to Love
Like Jesus**

Studies from the Book of John

CLARK TATUM

*Journey into a
Love-Filled Life*

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Clark Tatum


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in appreciation for the spiritual encouragement,
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that wasn't working? You'd call George. He was a servant of Christ and a friend to everyone. Because of Jesus we are friends forever! His love, compassion, and perseverance to do right in every situation demonstrated what it really means to follow Jesus.

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Introduction

In John's Gospel Jesus gives us a vivid picture of how much love filled His heart. We can develop God's type of love in our own hearts as we journey with Jesus. Love is the first fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 and it is no wonder why. 1 John 4:8, "*God is love.*" The Greek word for "is" in 1 John 4:8 is *estin* and the word takes us beyond a simple view of God's activity and embraces His very nature. In other words, in practical terms it means we cannot separate how God moves and acts apart from who He is. Love is essential to the character of God, and of course, the cross reminds us vividly of this truth. Any attempt to talk of true love apart from God would shortchange the meaning of the word. 1 John 4:12, "*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*" God's love yields good fruit in our lives that can be seen and felt by others as we resolve to journey with Jesus. Jesus displayed the greatest act of love this world has ever seen in the laying down of His sinless life so we could experience eternal life. John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*"

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Jesus was not tricked, manipulated, or coerced by anyone, including the Father, into going to the cross. The stubborn and rebellious Jewish religious leaders who wanted Jesus dead (Matthew 26:59) did not take His life from Him. There were many false witnesses (Matthew 26:60) who lied about Jesus, but they did not cause Him to be stretched out on the cross. When Jesus was handed off from the Sanhedrin court to the Roman Governor Pilate, it was clear to Pilate that Jesus had been brought to him out of envy (Matthew 27:18). It was out of envy and hatred that the religious leaders throttled up the crowd to shout out the words, "*Crucify him!*" Even still it was not the envy or the judgment of Pilate to surrender the innocent Jesus to be crucified that caused Jesus to end up in the area called Golgotha.

What compelled Jesus, the sinless one, to die such a humiliating and painful death? Love. It was the fruit called love that overflowed from Jesus' heart that caused Him to pick up His cross and walk towards the place called the Skull (John 19:17). Jesus endured all types of mistreatments, including the severe beating that would go with being flogged by the Romans. Undoubtedly, he was weakened due to the thrashings that were intended to cause as much damage as possible without killing Him. Yet Jesus mustered up the strength to pick up the heavy wooden cross and press on to fulfill the ultimate reason why He came to this earth in the first place. Jesus carried the cross for a distance, but then in bloody exhaustion fell beneath its weight. Mark 15:21-22, ²¹*"A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull)."* Scripture tells us that Simon was "forced" into service. He was recruited by the soldier to be the carrier of Jesus' cross. Jesus had already spent several grueling hours of physical beatings. The

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Romans did not want Jesus to die on the way to Golgotha, so they allowed Simon to assist Him in carrying His cross. Dying on the way to the Place of the Skull would have diminished the purpose of the penalty of crucifixion. The soldiers carried out this cruel punishment to those who received the sentence of crucifixion because it was their job. Jesus was nailed to the cross as Pilate had commanded but He continued to be mocked as His body just waited for death. John 19:30, *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* It was Jesus' heart filled with love that drove this servant of the Heavenly Father to sacrifice His life for us. Matthew 20:28, *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* John 10:18, *"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

When we revisit the cross and see afresh the selfless love demonstrated by the Savior, we are compelled to respond. When we see God for who He is and our Lord Jesus sacrificial atoning sacrifice on the cross for our sins God's love penetrates deep into our hearts as we commit to follow Jesus. How could we not choose to follow in the footsteps of such amazing love? God's love, as seen in Jesus, does not just rearrange some things in our life, it changes and transforms us. When the transforming power of God's love invades our hearts, it leaves us with a nourishing quality that overflows into our relationships and our day-to-day dealings with people. As Jesus walked on this earth, He taught us the importance of dependence on God and He continues to teach us how to love God and how to love others. Jesus' original disciples followed Him and listened to Him and watched Him, and in the process were trained by Him in how to live. They learned both how to have right hearts on the inside and how to do what is right on the outside. People don't just

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accidentally become successful at life; they have to be trained. Construction workers need training as do baseball players. Engineers and doctors need training. Teachers need training. We have people that can train people to do just about everything, but unfortunately, we have a shortage of people to train individuals to live like Jesus. Jesus was, and still is, a people trainer who can train those who are willing to follow Him to live godly lives.

Jesus can equip us to be what we were created to be. The Gospel of John will deepen our faith in God and grow our love for all people. Jesus desires to teach us how to live life to the full and how to love, God's way. Our Savior had a love so strong He was willing to leave the glories of heaven to come to this earth to help people, as only God can, from every nation under the sun. It stretches our minds to comprehend the great love of God, but it is not above our ability to appreciate such transforming love.

There is simply too much evidence, too much impact, too much truth and too much love when we examine the evidence to come up with any other conclusion: God did invade this planet in Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Chapter 1

Indescribable Collision

(John 1:1 – 1:51)

According to the story there was a tremendous explosion in a small rural town. A nearby oil well caught fire and the blaze became so intense that even the firemen called in from surrounding cities could not get close enough to fight it. They set up road barriers around the fire which nothing was to pass. The fire was out of control and all they could do was watch it burn. Someone in the crowd asked, "Hey where is our volunteer fire department?" Just then the small town's only fire truck came bursting over the top of the hill. Bells were clanging, sirens were screaming and men were hanging all over that little truck. Everyone was sure they would stop at the safety perimeter like all the other trucks, but they didn't; they drove through barriers and downward toward the blaze and collided into the edge of the oil well near the hottest part of the fire. There was a mad scramble by the men and in a short time because they got so close, they had the fire under control.

The town was so grateful they had a fund-raising dinner for the volunteer fire department. At the banquet, the mayor presented the

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fireman who was in charge of the department with a sizable check as an expression of the town's gratitude. Then the mayor asked the fire chief how they planned to use the money. The chief said, "Well, the first thing we are going to do is fix those brakes on the fire truck." In other words, they couldn't stop at the safety perimeter because the brakes were bad, so they just kept rolling toward the fire!

As we open our study of John, we soon encounter what has to be the most indescribable collision this world has ever known – The collision where Divinity meets Humanity. ¹*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made"* (John 1:1-3). Then John, who is writing this letter by way of the Holy Spirit makes a declaration that demands our full attention. *"The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son [the Only Begotten], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). John begins this gospel by saying that the background of Jesus gives Him credibility beyond measure. He is worthy of our following. He is worthy of our listening to and our obeying His Word. Jesus is the embodiment of the whole counsel of God. Jesus is the "Logos" – the Word. Everything God wanted to say to mankind is found in Jesus.

John will show us the incomparable nature of Jesus, the Christ. He gives us more than a carpenter to believe in and states his purpose for writing this letter in clear and decisive terms. ³⁰*"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"* (John 20:30-31). What we believe about Jesus and what He taught will have an effect on how we live and for that matter how

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we die. The teachings of Jesus are unique and are not anything like the teachings of other world religions. And not only are the teachings of Jesus unique, Jesus Himself is unique in every way. When the sun was put up in the sky, Jesus was there for *“without him nothing was made that has been made.”* When the waters were separated from dry land, Jesus was there. When it was time to put bushes and flowers and trees and grasses on dry land Jesus was there and He did it. When it was time to put fish that would swim in the waters and birds that would fly in the air and all the animals on earth, Jesus was there and He was part of Creation’s design. And when they took the dust of the earth and formed it into man, yes, Jesus was there and He created. John wants us to understand He has all the credibility we can image as we are told, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1).

John declares in 1:14, *“We have seen His glory.”* It was a strange kind of glory when Divinity met Humanity. What an amazing declaration: *“The Word became flesh and lived a while among us...”* (John 1:14). Born in a manger, raised in obscurity, trained as a carpenter, and killed as a criminal. John saw the Righteous One, the sinless one become the unresisting victim of history’s greatest act of injustice. They saw God live among them. They saw the Creator of joy weep with sadness over a friend’s death. They saw the one who spoke the universe into existence grow up as a carpenter’s son. John claims they saw God in His Glory take on flesh and blood. John saw the Creator God who left Heaven and came to this earth to be betrayed and spat upon, beaten, and bloodied to bring redemption to the lost world. Jesus who lived outside of time and space robed himself with flesh and blood to be exposed to hate and hunger, thirst and temptation, suspicion and rejection, torture and a terrible death.

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At God's appointed time the crowds saw Jesus ride into Jerusalem and were eyewitnesses to a collision of magnitude proportions. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the back of a small donkey He made a purposeful choice that he would not turn back, but ride directly into the fire. It was no accident; he meant to do it. Instead of stepping on the brakes, meaning He could have stopped His mission, He set his face steadfastly toward Jerusalem knowing what was before Him. Knowing the risks involved, He willingly headed into the danger zone to save the human race, and become a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. What a wonderful Savior we have! God wants to save our souls from sin and the cross proves it! God gave us the fullness of His love-filled heart full of grace and truth on the cross and now He wants our hearts to be filled with love. Jesus made available His sinless blood that through our obedient faith to His teachings we can experience the forgiveness of our sins. God gave His heart and now He wants our hearts and our family's hearts and our friends' hearts. God wants the hearts of people we like and those we have difficulty liking. God wants the hearts of those who look like us and the hearts of those who do not look like us. God wants the hearts of those who talk like us and those who do not talk like us. Why? Because all people matter to God and the cross makes it evident.

Jesus, in speaking about His life said this, *"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father"* (John 10:17). Jesus died for those who loved Him, and for those who hated Him. Jesus sacrificed himself for those who cared and for those who couldn't care less. There was nothing fake or pretentious about His love or concern. It was not forced, but rather grounded in reality. This love of His for us would cost Him everything. Some called Him a devil, others said He was a liar. Many ignored His

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miracles and the good He did and only criticized His methods. Some even picked up rocks to stone him and pursued him all the way to cross and Jesus let them so He could save us. What kind of courage would it take to ride into Jerusalem and know that some in the crowd that were yelling, "Hosanna," today, would yell, "Crucify," tomorrow?

Jesus willingly gave up his place in glory to come to earth and subject himself to the limitations of a human body. Hebrews 4:15-16, ¹⁵*"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* These verses lay out one of the most difficult concepts for us to absorb in the entire Bible. It is a difficult teaching to get our heads around, but we can only try to explain how God can be 100% man and 100% God. First of all, God cannot stop being God, but He can lay aside His godly privileges and this is what Jesus does for a time. Now we are going to not understand fully, but I hope we can understand enough to appreciate this magnificent truth.

Jesus wanted to identify with us in our weakness and our temptation and to do that He had to take on flesh and bone. Imagine you wanted to identify with the blind person. I have several friends that are physically blind. In fact, I had the opportunity to conduct a wedding ceremony for a couple of my blind friends. Imagine we wanted to identify with an individual that was blind. What would we do? Perhaps we would put on a blindfold and make sure we couldn't see anything – that would be a good start. To restrict ourself to the limitations of the blind and be able to relate to the blind we would have to cover our eyes so we could not see anything. Imagine we would then begin to walk down the street

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unable to see, but only hear the noise on the street around us. We can hear the cars going down the road near us. We finally find ourselves at what we believe is the corner of an intersection near our home. We think this is where we need to cross the street so we patiently wait until we don't hear any cars coming and then we begin walking across. Imagine further, out of nowhere we hear a loud sounding horn and the sound of one or more vehicles trying to stop while we might be in the middle of the street. Perhaps, we can even smell the rubber from the burning tires in the distance and brakes being applied. How tempted would we be to remove the blindfold? But if we were physically blind, we could not remove it; so, if we wanted to fully relate to what it is like to be blind, we would have to keep our blindfold on during this heart throbbing scenario. In Jesus' effort to identify with our weaknesses He did not remove His limitations of the flesh, although he could have at any point. He didn't owe us anything, but He wanted to relate with our struggles in the flesh, so He became flesh and walked among us.

Jesus can sympathize with us, but He can do so much more. We have had several major hurricanes since hurricane Katrina, but the scenes from Katrina are etched into our minds. We saw people standing on their roofs and the water was still rising and these people needed more than sympathy they needed help. We may recall from the news coverage that some people actually wrote the words "HELP" on their rooftops. Imagine a rescue helicopter hovering over the house where people are standing needing help. Imagine hearing these words over the loud speaker: "I see you down there. I can sure sympathize with your problem. I was in a flood once," and then the helicopter flies away and disappears in the distance. Sympathy is good and being able to relate to someone in trouble is nice, but what we need when facing a problem is genuine help. Only Jesus, can offer the kind of help we need. Our

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greatest need is a Savior who alone can offer His followers eternal life.

John says, ⁴*"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood it"* (John 1:4-5). John is not talking about Jesus being an example of life, although He was our example of life. He is saying that Jesus is the essence of life. Jesus is the everlasting life that creates and redeems. Jesus shines like a light so that all can see life. John calls Jesus, *"the Word of life"* (1 John 1:1). He is talking about the Word that gives life. Jesus is not only a historical figure; He is not only somebody to read about; He is not only a person. He is a LIFE. And what comes from this life is life that results in fellowship with God. As an eyewitness. John wants us to know he's not passing on something someone told him. He's not passing on a rumor that's been passed down through the ages. This is not a fable or a myth. John is going to share his personal experience of walking with Jesus. John stresses the reality of this LIFE that appeared and captivated His followers and awakened all their senses.

John knows everyone on the face of this earth wants life. Everyone seemingly would like to live life a little better. We want to live more abundantly tomorrow than we did today. There is nothing wrong with that desire and if we journey with Jesus, we can know life to the fullest. All over this world people are searching for life, but life is only found in Jesus. Many are searching, but have yet to find genuine life because they are being misled and redirected by the enemy of their souls. John is pleading with us, through Jesus, do not miss the life that is found in following Jesus. Now if we are going to experience the enjoyment of intimate fellowship with God we must walk close to God.

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The writer of John, an apostle, introduces us to another John. John the Baptist, probably known better as John the Baptizer. John 1:6-13, ⁶*“There came a man who was sent by God, his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* John was one of the most extraordinary figures in the history of God’s work in the world in Jesus’ day. He was a preacher who lived in the wilderness, ate locusts and wild honey, and preached repentance (Matthew 3:1-6). John the Baptist did something unique in his baptizing: he baptized Jews. This is significant because even though Jews were familiar with the rite of baptism, it was only for proselytes who were converting to Judaism from another religion. Baptism symbolized the washing away of their old, sinful, pagan selves as they accepted a new life as a child of the one true God. Jews did not believe they needed to be baptized, because they were already children of God. John, however, emphasized that we are all sinners and that we all have need of repentance, no matter what our racial heritage is.

John was an extremely popular preacher at this time. Huge crowds came out to hear him speak, and he baptized many people. In Matthew 11:7b-11 we read, ⁷*“Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: ‘What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in king’s palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is*

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the one about whom is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹*I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."* John was a forerunner of Jesus, but not Jesus. John confessed openly he was not the Christ (John 1:19-28). John makes it clear I am not the one you are looking for, but the Christ is coming. *"The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'"* (John 1:29). John saw Jesus unzip His humanity and the One called "the Life" break through His robe of flesh with all glory when John baptized Jesus to fulfill all righteousness. Matthew 3:16-17, ¹⁶*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* The glory John saw in Jesus was so awesome and so all inspiring that he had to continue to tell others about Jesus. John would speak as an eye witness of the Spirit coming down from heaven and the voice he heard from heaven when he baptized Jesus.

John the Baptizer's mission was to point people toward God's precious Lamb. ¹⁸*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect"* (1 Peter 1:18-19). God's Lamb will be the sinless sacrifice that will atone for the world's sin. It is an amazing thing when you think about it. Jesus can mean everything to you, but not your children or your spouse. Oh, it would be a wonderful thing if mothers and fathers could make children right in the sight of God, but it simply does not automatically happen that way. It would be nice if faithful children could make their parents and grandparents right in the sight of God, but it does not happen

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that way. John 1:35-51, ³⁵"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹'Come,' he replied, 'and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter). ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' ⁴⁶'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip. ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.' ⁴⁸'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.' ⁵⁰Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.' ⁵¹He then added, 'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

We learn in John's account that Andrew became a follower of Jesus, but that did not mean that his brother, Peter, was going to automatically follow Jesus. Peter had to come to see Jesus for himself and make the personal decision to believe in the Lord. And we can read

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Philip becomes a disciple of Jesus and chose to journey with Jesus, but that did not necessarily mean that his friend Nathaniel would follow Jesus. Nathaniel would need to become a believer and decide to follow Jesus. No one can have faith for you. We have to see Jesus through the Word and come to faith in Christ through His teachings which includes among many things' repentance and baptism. The best compliment we can be given perhaps is as simple as being a person pointing others to Jesus. Andrew would point the way to Jesus for his brother, but his brother Peter had to decide to follow Jesus. Philip would become a pointer to the way of Jesus for his friend Nathaniel, but Philip's friend had to decide to follow Jesus. John was quite a preacher, but all of us can have a part in pointing others to Jesus. John pointed people into the presence of God by pointing them to the Word of Life. The light of the cross that John will eventually record is different than every other light in the world. The light of Jesus is connected to life in Jesus.

Upon graduating from ministry school, I lived a few years in cattle country. One day I was visiting with one of the members of the congregation in town and I told him I would like to spend some time with him. I wanted to encourage him to be more faithful and I understand we all need encouragement at times. I said, "I will work into your schedule just let me know when we could get together." He invited me to go out with him early the next morning on horseback as he was planning to get a count of his herd. I grew up in the big city and horseback was out of my comfort zone, but I said "OK." I really found out how out of my comfort zone it was the following evening when I could barely walk. Anyhow, we saddled up and took off over the terrain and we would stop every so often on his ranch land and do a head count of his cattle. At one point in the afternoon, we came to a place looking over a little valley and he asked me to count the cows in sight. I gave him my number and

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was short according to his count by somewhere around 15 to 20 head. I asked, "Where do you see them?" When he pointed them out, I could see every one of them. I have thought about that adventure many times over the years. New Testament Christianity at its best is pointing out to others what might be right in front of them, but they are not seeing it. We need to help people, by pointing them to see life in Jesus Christ. I needed someone before I became a Christian to see where life was and point me to Jesus.

When I read through the first chapter of John, what I see is when these individuals who were pointed to where life is really found they were so excited about life in Jesus they shared the message with someone else. Andrew found something worth more than winning the monopoly game at McDonalds's, he found life. It is worth repeating over and over again. ¹⁸*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,* ¹⁹*but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect"* (1 Peter 1:18-19). Philip found something more than just an opportunity to meet Jesus, he found life eternal. As a result, he went to find his friend Nathaniel and told him about life. We cannot make people believe, that is not our responsibility. But we can point people to the Word of God that describes eternal life and what God's precious Lamb did on the cross for them. God did not just shout from heaven, "I love you," He became visible. He entered into human history. John tries to help us see the depth of God's love and the life that God wants to give us. Loving God and the things of God help us to understand what is of eternal value. Our love for God coupled with the insight on God's love for us we can get from reading the Bible, strengthens our resolve to follow God's plan and purpose for our lives. Love for God contributes mightily to our making right choices that will bless us and bring glory and praise to God. If we

Indescribable Collision

want to know more about the love of God and experience His love we will have to journey closely with the Creator and Sustainer of all true love – Jesus. We can also learn from others who experienced God’s love first hand and specifically a man who called himself multiple times, *“the disciple who Jesus loved”* (John 21:20). I am talking about the Apostle John, the brother of James and one of the sons of Zebedee, who followed God and experienced His love personally for over 75 years. The Gospel of John records the word “love” or “loved” approximately 50 times. In John chapters 13-17 alone we find the root word “love,” approximately 31 times. We can, as John did, learn to love like Jesus.

Journey into a Love-Filled Life

CHAPTER 1 – QUESTIONS

To Teach, Train, And Transform Lives

1. In practical terms what does it mean when the Bible says, “God is love?” What is the result of God’s love invading our hearts? (See Introduction)
2. What are some things John mentions that gives Jesus credibility beyond measure? What should be the result of reflecting on the depth of John’s statements in John 1:1-3, 14; 20:30-31?
3. Explain the strange kind of glory John alludes to when he says, “We have seen His glory?”
4. Name some things God gives us on the cross and what does He want from us?
5. What is one of the most difficult concepts in the entire Bible for us to absorb? Discuss the significance that Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses?
6. It is great to have someone be able to sympathize with our problem, but what do we really need when we are in trouble? How does Jesus meet this need?
7. Explain what John is referring to when he calls Jesus, “The Word of Life?”
8. Who is the other John, the gospel writer mentions in chapter 1? Why might he be considered an extraordinary figure in God’s work? How does this John’s mission apply to us as believers?
9. What contributes mightily to our making right choices that will bless and bring glory and praise to God?