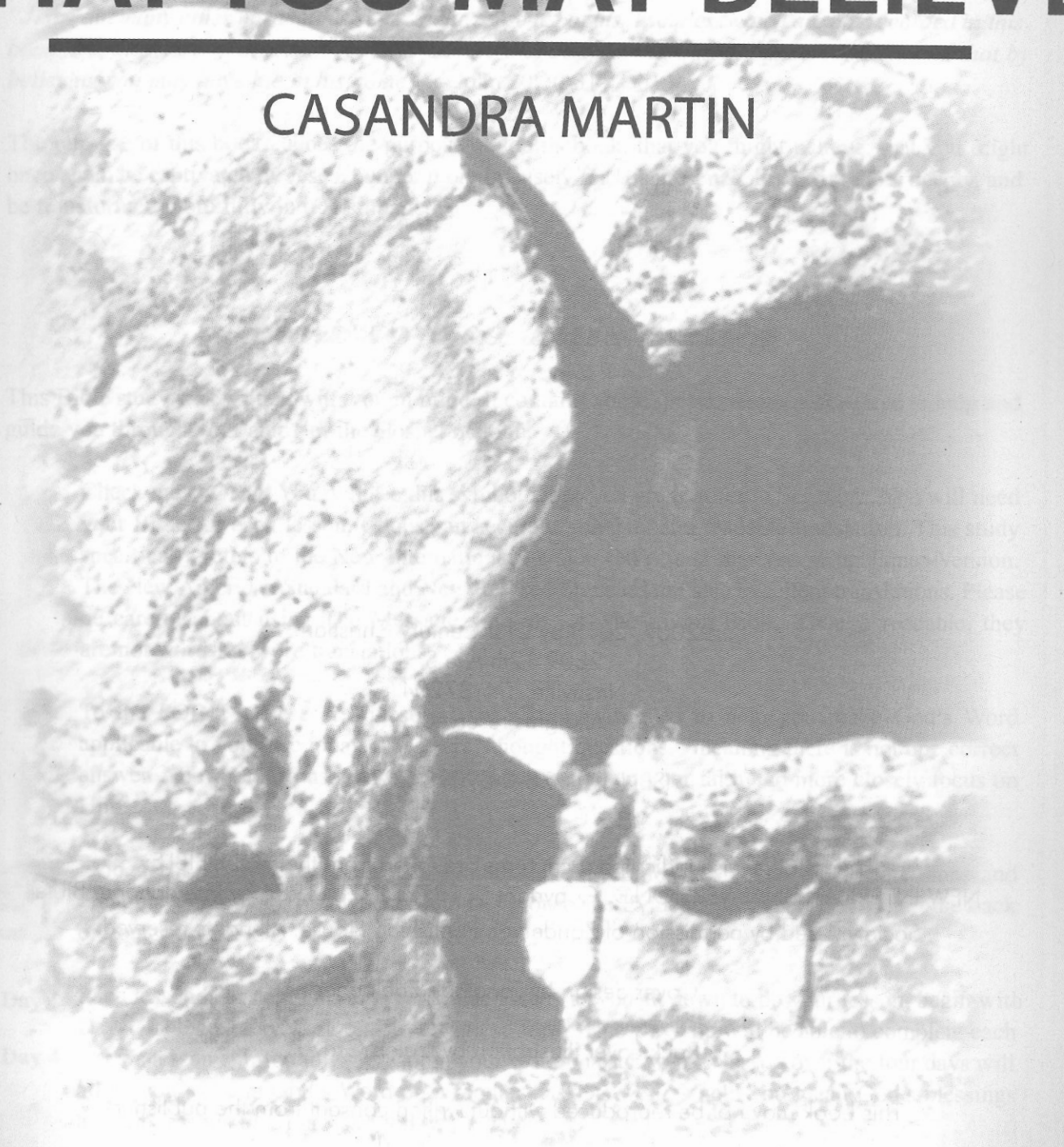


The Purpose

WOMEN OPENING THE WORD

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

CASANDRA MARTIN



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CASANDRA MARTIN

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The Purpose

You sit on the jury. The question in your hands is life-changing. Is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God? The Gospel of John presents the evidence that challenges you to answer this question. Walk with the people who meet Jesus. Listen to their stories, and witness how they are transformed. Get your feet wet as Jesus walks on water. Sit with the crowds as bread and fish are multiplied before your eyes. Stand at the cross, and weep. Look inside the empty tomb, and shout for joy.

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” - John 20:30-31

The purpose of this book echoes the purpose of John’s book: that you might believe; that you might once again be captivated by Jesus, hunger more intensely for His presence, love Him more deeply, and be transformed more fully into His image.

How to Use This Study

This Bible study was written with you in mind. It contains some special features designed to help and guide you through your study of the Gospel of John.

- ✓ Check the **WORD!** You will see this symbol when you are to refer to Scripture. You will need your Bible for each lesson. Choose an accurate, reliable, and readable translation. This study specifically refers to the New International Version (NIV) and the New King James Version. The New American Standard and New Revised Standard are also excellent translations. Please be careful about using *The Message*, *Phillips*, or *The Living Bible*. Though readable, they are not word-for-word translations.
- To the **POINT!** These are questions specifically designed to help you make God’s Word applicable to your life today. These are “thought questions,” meaning there is not one correct answer. Allow God to use these questions to strengthen your faith and more closely focus on Him.



Evidence Log. When you see this symbol, take a moment to record your impressions and thoughts about the day’s evidence and testimony. The Evidence Log can be found in the back of your workbook.

- Day 1** Each lesson is broken into four parts. Each week as you sit down to do your lesson, begin with Day 1. The next day work on Day 2, and so forth. This way you will be able to complete each week’s lesson comfortably. Spreading your work on each week’s lesson over the four days will allow you to be in God’s Word on a regular basis as well as help you glean God’s blessings and life lessons for your heart today.
- Day 4**

Study Group Formats

There are as many different ways to effectively use this study as there are people excited about learning God's Word. Below are three suggestions for group and/or individual study. Feel free to adapt the format to meet your group or individual study needs.

45-minute Bible Class Format

This book is an excellent tool for a Bible class study. I would recommend using the book in this setting in the following way:

1. Pray each time you begin that God's Spirit will guide you as you study and open your eyes to His Word.
2. Divide each lesson into two parts. Using the Day 1-4 markers, ask your class to study Days 1 and 2 on week one, Days 3 and 4 on week two, and so forth. There is enough material in each two-day block to meet the needs of your class time.
3. Each member of the class should be encouraged to do the lesson before the weekly class time. Your job as teacher is not to go through the material question by question but rather to organize the discussion around the central theme of that week's lesson. Choose several of the "● To the POINT!" questions that you find to be most relevant and make those the foundation of your discussion. These questions are designed to stimulate discussion and focus the class on the personal application of the lesson. Encourage the class members to share their impressions, questions, new insights, and challenges on a weekly basis.
4. Enjoy the richness of God's Word.

1½ – 2 hour Group Bible Study Format

This book is an excellent tool for a group Bible study. I would recommend using the book in this setting in the following way:

1. Pray each time you begin that God's Spirit will guide you as you study and open your eyes to His Word.
2. Do one lesson per week. There is enough material in each lesson block to meet the needs of your group study time.
3. Divide your Bible study group into small discussion groups of 6-12 individuals. These small groups allow more active participation, enhance fellowship and a sense of belonging, and permit friendship and intimacy to grow as the groups share personal reflections of the Bible study and prayer.

4. Each small group should have a leader and an assistant leader. The responsibilities of the group leader are
 - prepare for and lead the weekly discussion of the small group
 - encourage participation of all members of the group during the discussion

The responsibilities of the assistant leader are

- contact group members weekly to encourage involvement and participation
 - be available to lead the discussion if the group leader must be absent
5. Each member of the group should be encouraged to do the lesson before the weekly class time. Your job as group leader is not to go through the material question by question but rather to organize the discussion around the central theme of that week's lesson. Choose several of the "● To the POINT!" questions that you find to be most relevant and make those the foundation of your discussion. These questions are designed to stimulate discussion and focus the class on the personal application of the lesson. Encourage the group members to share their impressions, questions, new insights, and challenges on a weekly basis.
 6. Another helpful tool is to have a group leader's meeting for approximately 30 minutes prior to the beginning of class. This gives the group leaders an opportunity to share their insights, answer questions, and make sure that everyone understands the central focus of the week's study.
 7. Enjoy the richness of God's Word.

Individual Study

This book is an excellent tool for a personal Bible study. I would recommend using the book in this setting in the following way:

1. Pray each time you begin that God's Spirit will guide you as you study and open your eyes to His Word.
2. Each lesson is broken into four parts. Each week as you sit down to do your lesson, begin with Day 1. The next day work on Day 2, and so forth. This way you will be able to complete each week's lesson comfortably. Spreading your work on each week's lesson over the four days will allow you to be in God's Word on a regular basis as well as help you glean God's blessings and life lessons for your heart today.
3. Enjoy the richness of God's Word.

God bless you! You are about to take an exciting journey - Jesus is waiting to walk with you!

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That You May Believe

Trials. Juries. Judges. Defendants. We are compelled by the drama framed in the walls of our courtrooms. Something draws us in and captures our attention when people on trial are seated at defense tables. We question their guilt or innocence and wonder about the events that brought them to a place where their lives rest in the hands of 12 strangers. Facts are laid out. Evidence is presented. Testimony is heard. The judge speaks; then the jurors make their decision. It is moment when breath is held and futures are changed.

Our fascination with the legal system runs so deep that even our entertainment is saturated with legal dramas and courtroom thrillers. It doesn't matter whether you prefer black and white movies or high-tech forensics, the intersection of witnesses, prosecutors, evidence, and perception compel us to take a seat and become part of the drama.

Today you are invited to take a seat in the jury box in the most important trial that mankind has ever witnessed. Witnesses will tell you what they have seen and heard. Evidence will be presented that speaks to the character and identity of the One on trial. The defendant will testify on His own behalf. And the final decision will rest in your hands.

The Gospel of John contains the official record. Within its pages witnesses tell their amazing stories of changed lives and mended hearts. Miraculous evidence is presented that prompts the question, "Does God walk among us?" Personal statements flow from the lips of the One on trial - stunning claims of divinity, a kingdom defined by love, and a radical call to discipleship.

Jesus of Nazareth sits in the defendant's chair. You sit in the juror's box. Whom will you believe? Is Jesus who He claims to be - the very Son of God? Did He really come to earth to redeem you and make you His own? Or is He a fraud? Are the critics right?

The decision rests in your hands. Draw your chair up close, and look deeply into the eyes of the One who claims to be your Savior. Listen to those who walked with Him every day. Meet those who met Jesus on the road and walked away changed. Hear the cries of the Pharisees as they deride His motives and question His authority. Roman officials and outcast sinners will all have an opportunity to speak. In the end, it is your voice that He waits to hear.

Write John 20:31.

Life and death hang in the balance of your decision. All rise

The Word

Welcome to the jury. The fact that you are opening these pages and beginning this journey is evidence of the work of God in your life. In a sense, you are answering a summons - a call from God to walk with Him and draw closer to His heart. Take your seat in the jury box. Lean forward in anticipation as fishermen, beggars, religious leaders, outcasts, Roman soldiers, and royal officials all come in to tell you what they have seen and heard. Take notes as testimony pours forth, and evidence is presented. Watch with open eyes, and listen attentively for the truth to be revealed. It is a journey that will shape your heart, strengthen your faith, and direct your steps.

Day 1

The Gospel of John is an amazing account of the life and ministry of Jesus. Written later than the other three Gospels, John offers a unique perspective on the person of Jesus. Rather than being primarily a chronological account of historical events, the Gospel of John is written with almost a legal flair. Layer by layer, piece by piece, John builds a provocative and spell-binding case that points our hearts to one stunning conclusion: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John is able to write about these things because he experienced them. He writes his account from the vantage point of an eyewitness.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

- I John 1:1-3

In the passage above, underline the ways that John emphasizes the fact that he is an eyewitness in this case. What is John proclaiming to you? Why is he proclaiming this to you?

The Word

Court proceedings are not based on theory or intuition. Witnesses tell what they experienced. Evidence is allowed its own voice and is offered as proof. Testimony reveals truth.

This is a trial of identity. We are not given the task of considering guilt or innocence, although that truth will be apparent as we walk through the court record. Rather the purpose of John's testimony is to proclaim the Word of Life and to prove that He has come from the Father and appeared to us. That's no small task, but then the One on trial is claiming to be God Himself.

Jury Instructions

Our journey through the trial record found in the Gospel of John gives us the opportunity to hear the witnesses, examine the evidence, and listen to the testimony that John gathers to make his case that Jesus is the Christ. Every day you will have the opportunity to hear from a different witness and discover what they have to say about Jesus. Each day will begin with an evidence card, which contains background information on the witness testifying to you. The witness might tell you about an encounter they had with Jesus or perhaps about something they observed Him doing. Some of the things that they claim to have seen can only be described as extraordinary. It will be up to you to decide if the witness's testimony is reliable and if the evidence they present supports Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Reviewing the evidence cards is important because they will help you fill out the Evidence Log found at the end of the book. Each day you will be asked to make a brief note regarding the evidence through which you have walked that day. The identification number on the evidence card corresponds to the ID # on the evidence log. There is one line for each witness. Even when a witness testifies for more than one day, there is space for you to make a note about each day of their testimony. Using the information on the evidence card, fill in the name of the witness and the location of their encounter with Jesus. After you have filled in that information, make a brief note concerning what you learned about Jesus from that witness's testimony. What information do they give you about Jesus? What conclusion do they draw regarding who He is? What do they see or hear that supports or denies Jesus' claim of divinity?



Take a moment, and look at the evidence log in the back of the book. What three kinds of evidence classifications do you notice?

Individuals designated as witnesses have been involved in some kind of encounter with Jesus and are able to make an observation about His claim to be the Son of God. Listen carefully to how they describe Jesus. Make note of their conclusions and the impact that meeting Jesus had on their lives.

Events classified as evidence focus on Jesus' actions. Eyewitnesses will tell you about unusual things that happened while they were with Jesus. Your responsibility as a juror will be to examine this evidence and decide what it says about the nature and person of Jesus of Nazareth.

You will also have an opportunity to hear personal statements from Jesus Himself. Listen to His own words describe His relationship to God, His purpose and plan, and His call to each one to follow Him. Decide for yourself whether His words ring true.

Throughout the trial, we will pause and consider the implications of what we have seen and heard. You will have an opportunity to think through the stunning revelations and amazing events that surround this Man who claims to be God. Here we will consider the ramifications to our own hearts if you decide that His claims are true.

As a juror, approach this time with open eyes. See the breadth and depth of the truth that will be brought to light as we walk through the evidence, witnesses, and personal statements. Come with an open heart as well. Look anew at the face of Jesus. Listen to His words. Observe His actions, and consider the impact of His claim on your heart.

Jurors usually begin the trial process by making a promise to review the evidence without prejudice. We will begin this proceeding with an unusual promise made by the One on trial.

Write John 8:32.

Day 2

He rises to his feet. Quiet falls around him as whispers are stilled and the noise of the world fades. His mere presence speaks of a life devoted to proclaiming one truth - Jesus is the Son of God. His name is John. He is an apostle, chosen and taught by Jesus Himself. For three years, he walked with Jesus, ate with Jesus, listened to Jesus, and watched Jesus. He stood at the cross. He ran to the tomb. He is called the Beloved Disciple. He was a fisherman reshaped and retooled by a Carpenter. Today he speaks.

✓ Read John 1:1-18.

Here is John's opening statement. In the beginning of his Gospel, John makes a series of dramatic proclamations about the person of Jesus. The bulk of the record contained in the Book of John is written to support and demonstrate that this opening statement is true. Here in the first 18 verses, John tells those of us on the jury what his account will prove about Jesus of Nazareth.

John makes 11 specific statements about the nature, character, and movement of Jesus. It is these statements that John claims are the truth about who Jesus is and why He walked the earth.

The Word

Fill in the blanks (NIV):

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was _____, and the Word _____."

John 1:2 "He was with God _____."

John 1:3 "Through him _____ were _____; without him nothing was made that has been made."

John 1:4 "In him was _____, and that life was the light of men."

John 1:9 "The true _____ that gives light to _____ was coming into the world."

John 1:14 "The Word became _____ and made his _____ among us. We have seen his _____, the glory of the _____, who came from the _____, full of _____."

John 1:18 "No one has ever _____ God, but _____, who is at the Father's _____, has made him known."

John doesn't hesitate or stand in the shadow of caution. From his very first words he makes bold and astounding claims about the identity of Jesus. He throws back the curtain and shines a spotlight straight on the heart of Jesus. He tells us that when we look closely and deeply at this seemingly ordinary carpenter from Nazareth, we will see the glory of God. According to John, Jesus is ...

The Word - Jesus is the full revelation of God to man.

Divine - Not only is the Word God's revelation of His heart and purpose to man, Jesus is, in fact, God Himself.

Eternal - As the Word, Jesus is eternal in nature having been with God from the beginning.

Creator - Everything that exists from the tallest mountain to the smallest ladybug was formed by His hands. Every man, woman, and child has His fingerprints on the core of their beings.

Life - Jesus is the Author and Source of all life.

Light - His essence is that of radiant light.

God in Human Flesh - The Eternal donned the skin of a man and made His dwelling among us. He pitched His tent right next to ours and walked our roads, traveled our paths, cried our tears, and experienced our sorrows.

The Glory of the One and Only - The entirety of God's beauty and brilliance is wrapped up in the person of Jesus.

From the Father - The Glory of God left the brilliance of heaven to walk in a dark world. His very presence among us reveals the eternal plan of God.

Full of Grace and Truth - Brimming and overflowing in the heart and character of Jesus are grace and truth. God's delight and light shine through His Son.

Sees the Face of God - John ends his description of Jesus by revealing the intimate connection that exists between the Son and His Father. Although no man is able to look upon His face, Jesus is not only able to look upon it, but actually is the very face of God.

✓ Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

● In what way does the writer of Hebrews describe Jesus as

- the Word? _____

- the Creator? _____

- the Glory of the One and Only? _____

- Divine? _____

- Life? _____

What other information about Jesus does the writer of Hebrews reveal?

● Which aspect of Jesus' nature and character would you like to know better? Why?

The Word

John's opening statement is a profound declaration concerning the character and nature of Jesus. Here we have God Himself - full of glory, power, life, and light - becoming a man and living among us. Somehow the infinite and the finite melded together to allow us to see the face of God. As John describes who Jesus is, he also tells us four reasons why Jesus made such a dramatic move.

Look again at John 1:1-18. For what four purposes did the Word become flesh?

- John 1:5 _____

- John 1:12-13 _____

- John 1:16 _____

- John 1:18 _____

John explains that Jesus has come to bring light into a dark world. Light looked into the depths of darkness and chose to move among it: to find you. Though unrecognized by the world He created, Jesus came to extend an invitation to all who believe that He is, indeed, the Light. His presence on earth opened a pathway for those caught in darkness to be transformed. Darkness would no longer define us. Our essence would become the same as His — light. By believing in His name, He gave us the right to become children of God. Born again as the Father's children, we are able to receive one blessing after another through the fullness of His grace. That grace pours over us and fills our lives with His amazing presence and His abundant provision.

Perhaps the most staggering reason Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us is found in the last four words of John's opening remarks. "... has made him known." Jesus came to show us the heart of God. In looking at His face, we can look into the eyes of God. By listening to His words, we can hear the voice of God. By drawing near, we can rest in the embrace of God.

In John's opening statement, he paints a vivid picture of Jesus. We can be certain that John's prayer for you is similar to the prayer penned by another apostle in Ephesians 1:17. *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."*

Use the space below to talk to God about your desire to know Him better.

Day 3

Evidence Card					
Identification Number:	1	Classification:	Witness		
Reference Number:	John 1:19-34				
Witness:	John the Baptizer	Occupation:	Prophet	Location:	Bethany near the Jordan River
Background Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth • Dedicated to the Lord from birth • "And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." - Luke 1:17 				

Today the apostle John calls his first witness to the stand. As the witness strides into the courtroom, his appearance invites astonishment and curiosity. He wears a garment made of camel hair reminiscent of the one worn by the prophet, Elijah. Wrapped around his waist is a leather belt. He wears the long hair of a man fully dedicated to God, and he looks like he would be more comfortable in the desert, eating locusts and wild honey than in a courtroom. Used to speaking to crowds, his voice carries a confidence and surety that stand in contrast to his outside-of-civilized-company appearance. There is a fire in his eyes and an urgency in his voice that is captivating. His name is John the Baptizer, and today he tells us about Jesus.

✓ Read John 1:19-28.

The men questioning John ask him about his identity. Which three persons does John deny being?

How does John identify himself?

The Word

As John the Baptizer begins to testify, his words transport us to a time and place quite different than our own. We stand by the banks of the Jordan River and watch as John, standing in the middle of the water, talks about One who is to come. From the outset, John makes it clear who he is not. He is drawing huge crowds, baptizing large numbers of people, and attracting the attention of the religious leaders in Israel. So there will be no question about his role in the kingdom, John confesses freely that he is not the Christ they are anticipating. Neither is he Elijah returned from the dead nor the Prophet that Moses foretold would take his place among the people. He is a man with a mission and a message: prepare the hearts of the people to see the Heart of God walk among them.

- In what way do Christians have a similar mission and message?
-
-

✓ Read John 1:29-34.

How does John identify Jesus when he sees Jesus coming toward him?

Why does John say Jesus surpasses him?

What testimony does John give regarding the events surrounding Jesus' baptism?

As the Baptizer sees Jesus drawing near, John stops and turns his focus entirely toward Jesus. Jesus comes close, and John lifts his eyes to His face and lets his heart absorb the full impact of seeing God walk among His people. Seeing Jesus coming toward him, John declares, *"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John's words give us a picture of exactly what he understands about Jesus.

Look. John is compelled to fix his focus on Jesus. The world fades into the background as the realization that he stands in the presence of the One he was sent to proclaim overwhelms him. The demands of the crowds, the questions of his disciples, and the persistence of the Pharisees are all secondary to soaking in the presence of Jesus.

The call to *look* also defines the goal of John's ministry. His life is an invitation to look — look for the face of the Savior. Look at your sin and turn toward righteousness. Look for the kingdom of God. Look deep in your hearts and prepare to meet Him.

John states that the reason he came baptizing with water was so that Jesus might be revealed to Israel. John sums up his whole life's work with simplicity: Show them Jesus. With a single word, he directs their eyes away from the world to the face of Jesus. He calls them to look.

Write Hebrews 12:2.

● How do we train our eyes to look at Jesus?

● In what way is your life an invitation to others to look at Jesus?

The Lamb of God. John identifies Jesus in sacrificial terms. Every Israelite knows what it means to have a lamb with his name on it. Walking through the pasturelands, eyes would search for the lamb without spot or defect. Only the most perfect lamb would do. Taking it to the temple, the priests would search the lamb for fault, and then the sacrifice process would begin. The lamb stands in the place of the one who has sinned. Blood is spilled, and a sacrifice is laid on the altar. Substitution offers life. Mercy is extended. As John looks at Jesus, he sees the Lamb of God.

The Word

You need Someone to stand in your place and die for your sins as well. Sacrifice is the pathway that reconciles sin before a holy God. You need a Lamb who will take your place and be your substitute.

Read Revelation 5:1-14. Describe your Lamb, and add your own note of praise to the thunderous chorus that fills heaven.

Who takes away the sins of the world. John now makes clear the purpose and plan of God. This precious Lamb sent from His side is to be the sacrifice that will offer life and extend grace. The priests will search and the experts will scrutinize, but no fault or defect will be found in Him. Life will surrender itself to death. A Savior will be the substitute for a sinner.

Fill in your name in the blank below, and then read the sentence out loud.

Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of _____.

- How does personalizing this statement help you see Jesus more clearly?
-
-

The events surrounding Jesus' baptism further confirm to John's heart that Jesus is the Messiah. As the Spirit of God descends and remains on Jesus in the form of a dove, John is allowed a glimpse into how Jesus will transform the lives of those who choose to follow Him. Where John baptizes with water and offers the promise of a new life, Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and truly make all things new.

Write John 1:34. Underline John the Baptizer's conclusion about the identity of Jesus.



Evidence Log: Please enter the information about John the Baptizer's testimony in the Evidence Log found in the back of your book. Make a brief note summarizing what you most want to remember about John's testimony.

Day 4

Evidence Card					
Identification Number:	2	Classification:	Witness		
Reference Number:	John 3:22-36				
Witness:	John the Baptizer	Occupation:	Prophet	Location:	Aenon near Salim
Background Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth • Dedicated to the Lord from birth • Imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee 				

John the Baptizer once again takes the stand. Today the camel's hair coat doesn't catch our attention nearly as much as the fire in John's eyes. The power in his voice speaks of One powerful enough to transform hearts and change lives. The leather belt wrapped around his waist reminds us that God wants to wrap us in His arms. His simple diet calls us to hunger for the simple sweetness of God's presence.

Once again he begins to tell us about Jesus, and as he does, the walls of the courtroom fade away and the sound of water fills our ears. We open our eyes to see that we are in Aenon near Salim. Though no one is certain of the exact location of Aenon, scholars believe that it was a town located about eight miles south of Bethshean (also known as Scythopolis) on the border of Samaria and Galilee near the headquarters of Herod Antipas.¹

The Baptizer tells us of a conversation he has with his disciples several weeks or months after John first called those with him to look at the Lamb of God by the Jordan River. Jesus is now working and preaching in the Judean countryside. The crowds following Jesus are growing, and John's ministry begins to fade as his disciples question Jesus' popularity.

✓ Read John 3:22-30.

The Word

What concern do the disciples bring to John?

How does John describe Jesus? How does John describe himself?

How does John use the picture of the bridegroom and his friend to answer the concerns of his disciples?

As John the Baptizer listens to his disciples' concerns about the growing crowds around Jesus, he uses the picture of a wedding to explain who Jesus is and John's own role in the kingdom of God. Jesus is the bridegroom. This is His special time, and the focus and attention should be on Him. As a friend of the bridegroom, it has been John's responsibility and privilege to make the preparations so that everything will be ready when the bridegroom arrives. At the sound of the bridegroom's voice, the friend rejoices because the time of celebration and joy has finally arrived. He hears in Jesus' voice the love of a bridegroom for His bride. This is John's joy.

- What does the picture of Jesus as the bridegroom teach you about His heart?

A bridegroom is a picture of anticipation and joy. He stands prepared to take on the responsibility of caring for his bride, and love defines each movement of his heart. Tenderness, protectiveness, determination, and love are all etched on his face and eagerness fills his eyes as he waits for his bride. It is a time of transformation and promise.

Write Isaiah 62:5b.

As John paints a portrait of Jesus as the bridegroom, he makes a powerful statement of humility and surrender.

Write John 3:30.

How does John the Baptizer's statement underscore his belief that Jesus is the One sent by God?

John recognizes that Jesus is the Christ and that he is the one sent ahead to prepare the people for God to walk among them. Knowing who Jesus is allows John to align his heart with God's purpose and take his place in Jesus' shadow.

● How does knowing God's heart and character allow us to let go of fear and surrender with confidence?

Surrender involves giving ourselves into the power and control of God. Where the world sees surrender as a sign of defeat, God assures us that only in full surrender will we find victory. John's disciples might have thought John's words held resignation and reluctance, but in truth they are echoes of the words that we must all speak as we stand in the presence of Jesus.

● What does Galatians 2:20 teach us about how to surrender?

The Word

As John wraps up his testimony, he points us back to Jesus and in powerful prophetic fashion reminds us what is at stake.

✓ Read John 3:31-36.

What truth about Jesus does John the Baptizer most want you to understand?

How does John describe the importance of your decision about Jesus?



Evidence Log: Please enter the information about John the Baptizer's testimony in the Evidence Log found in the back of your book. Make a brief note summarizing what you most want to remember about John's testimony.

¹ Edersheim, *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, p272; *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p1725