

Lesson 1

John 1

Question 1

The first eighteen verses of this Gospel constitute the introduction to St. John's account of the life and death of Jesus Christ. As you read the Prologue (Jn 1:1-18), imagine you are hearing these words for the first time. What is the evangelist making clear from the start?

Readings: Gn 1:1-4; Ex 25:8-9, 40:34; Si 24:3-12,17-21; Is 7:14; Mt 1:18,22-23; Lk 1:34-35; Jn 17:1-3; Rm 1:3-4, 8:3; 2Co 5:17-18,21, 8:9; Ga 4:4-5; Ph 2:6-9; Col 1:15-20; 1Jn 1:1-3, 4:2; 2Jn 1:7; CCC 151, 241-42, 291, 423, 445, 454, 461, 463, 473-74, 496-97, 504-05.

Question 2

When the priests and Levites go to John and ask who he is, what does he say about himself (Jn 1:19-23)? What question do the Pharisees then put to him, and what answer does John give that day, and also the following day (Jn 1:25-34)?

Readings: Is 11:2, 40:1-8, 42:1-4, 53:6-7,11-12, 61:1-2; Mt 3:1-17; Mk 1:1-11; Lk 3:15-18; Jn 5:33-38, 7:25-27, 8:58; Ac 13:23-25; CCC 408, 436, 438, 486, 523, 535-36, 565, 608, 613-14, 719-20, 1137, 1286.

Question 3

What can we learn from St. John's account of the call of the first disciples (Jn 1:35-51)? To what is Jesus referring in verse 51?

Readings: Gn 28:10-21; CCC 326, 526, 2466, 2794.

Lesson 2

John 2 – 3:21

Question 1

Based on what the Word of God tells us about the incident at the wedding feast in Cana (Jn 2:1-12), what can we learn from the dialogue between Mary and Jesus and the miracle that follows? How is the ‘new wine’ which Jesus ‘gives’ to the wedding feast a sign of a far greater gift which God is giving to man in establishing a new covenant in His Son?

Readings: Jl 2:23-24; Am 9:13-14; Mt 9:17, 26:29; Lk 5:37-39; Mk 14:25; Jn 19:26-27; CCC 495, 1335, 1613, 2618.

Question 2

Read St. John’s account of the cleansing the Temple (Jn 2:13-22). Would you say that Jesus is tearing down or building up by His actions? What is Jesus’ answer to the Jews who demand a sign giving proof that He has the right to do what He does? What does Jesus mean by the words, “Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (Jn 2:19)?

Readings: Pss 69:9 (NAB 69:10), 74; Jr 1:9-10; Mt 21:12-16, 26:59-68, 27:39-44; Mk 11:11,15-18, 14:57-64, 15:29-32; Lk 19:45-46; Jn 12:23; 2Co 6:16-18; Rv 21:22; CCC 583-86, 797, 994, 1179.

Question 3

Read the account of Nicodemus’ visit to Jesus (Jn 3:1-21). Do we know why Nicodemus goes to see Jesus? What does Jesus explain to Nicodemus, and what is He referring to in verse 5? Jesus says that God sent His Son into the world not to judge or condemn the world (Jn 3:17). Why, then, does Jesus talk about judgment and condemnation (Jn 3:13-21)?

Readings: Ec 11:5; Ws 9:14-18; Mt 3:11, 18:3; Jn 1:33, 6:63; Rm 5:8, 8:32; 1Co 15:44-50; Ep 2:4-6; Ti 3:4-8; Ja 1:18; 1Pt 1:23-25; 1Jn 4:9; CCC 473, 526, 591, 661, 678-79, 691, 694, 720, 728, 1129, 1214-15, 1225, 1238, 1257, 1262, 1287.

Lesson 3

John 3:22 – 4:42

Question 1

Describe the incident that takes place in John 3:22-36 (also read 4:1-2). What seems to be the problem, and what does John the Baptist say in reply? What can we learn from John the Baptist in our service to God as proclaimers of the Word?

Readings: Mt 3:1-6a; Mt 11:9-15; Jn 8:23-24; 1Co 4:1-2,6-7; Ja 1:16-17; 1Jn 4:4-6, 5:10; CCC 161, 522-24, 690, 796, 1286-87.

Question 2

What does Jesus ask of the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4:7), and how are we to understand this request in light of the conversation that takes place between them (Jn 4:9-30) and also between Jesus and His disciples a short time later when they return from the town (Jn 4:31-38)? When Jesus tells His disciples He already has food (Jn 4:31-34), to what is He referring? In what way do Jesus' words in John 4 teach us a great deal about the life of prayer?

Readings: Dt 8:3; Ps 126; Is 58:11; Mt 9:36-38; Jn 9:4; Rv 14:15-16; CCC 439, 606, 1179-80, 2557, 2560-61, 2652-62.

Lesson 4
John 4:43 – 5

Question 1

What does the royal official want of Jesus, and what does Jesus say in reply (Jn 4:46-48)? How is this incident like or unlike the miracle in which Jesus cures the Roman centurion's servant? What point is Jesus making in verse 48?

Readings: Mt 8:5-13, 12:38-42; Lk 7:1-10; CCC 156, 274, 547.

Question 2

How is the sick man near the miraculous waters of Bethesda cured (Jn 5:1-9), and what objection do the Jews raise shortly after (Jn 5:10-18)? What does Jesus say in John 5:19-47 about faith and judgment, about Christ's witness, about placing one's hope in Moses and the scriptures, and about the glory that comes from God?

Readings: Mt 16:27; Lk 16:17; Jn 7:18-19; Rm 2:25-29, 8:31-34; 1Co 4:5; Ep 2:4-6, 5:14-17; 1Jn 5:9-12; CCC 548, 575-76, 582, 594, 1470, 2173.

Lesson 5

John 6

Describe the events in John 6:1-25 preceding Jesus' great discourse on the Eucharist (recorded in the second half of chapter six). How do the people respond after seeing the miraculous "sign" of Jesus multiplying the loaves and fish to feed the five thousand? Where does Jesus go following this event? When the people find Him again, what does Jesus say to them (Jn 6:25-33)? Read Jesus' discourse in John 6:35-63. Describe the kind of *bread* or *food* to which the miraculous sign of the loaves and fish was pointing. What does Jesus explicitly declare about "the living bread" (Jn 6:51), and how important is it that we receive this Bread which God gives, based on what Jesus says in John 6:48-58? Is Jesus' teaching well received or not (Jn 6:59-71)? How is the response of "many of his followers" that day indicative of the response of many of Christ's followers to this day (Jn 6:60)?

Readings: Ex 16:1-7,13-18; Nb 11:4-10; Mk 6:30-52; 1Co 10:16, 11:23-30; CCC 1151, 1212, 1322-32, 1335-36, 1373-74, 1380-81, 1384, 1389-92, 1396, 1398-1402, 1404-08, 1418-19, 2837.

Lesson 6

John 7 – 8

Question 1

Why does Jesus refuse to go to Jerusalem with His kinsmen to celebrate the Feast of Shelters (Jn 7:1-9)? When does He finally go, and what is the point of contention which the people seem unable to resolve about Him (Jn 7:10-52)? What does Jesus announce on the last day of the festival (Jn 7:37-39)?

Readings: Ex 17:1-7; Is 12:3-6, 55:1; Ez 47:1-12; Zc 14:8-11; Mk 3:20-21; Jn 4:14; Rv 22:1-3; CCC 574, 595, 694, 728, 1999, 2561.

Question 2

What question do the Jews present to Jesus when He is again teaching in the Temple, and how does Jesus resolve the apparent difficulty (Jn 8:1-11)? What is Jesus' attitude toward those who break the Law? Explain your answer.

Readings: Lv 20:10; Dt 22:22; Ez 33:10-11; Mt 7:1-5, 9:10-13; Lk 7:36-50, 21:37-38; Rm 2:1-3; CCC 581, 589, 1430-32.

Question 3

Following the Jews' "test" of Jesus using the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:6), what does Jesus say when He begins teaching again (Jn 8:12), and how does this statement apply both to the woman and to the ones who test Jesus? How are we to understand the mysterious words this Gospel records of Jesus testifying on His own behalf (cf. Jn 8:14-29)? Secondly (II), why do the Jews who begin to believe in Jesus end up turning on Him (cf. Jn 8:30-59)? What does He say that offends them so much?

Readings: Ex 13:21-22; Pss 36:8-9 [NAB 36:9-10], 119:105; Is 9:1-2,5-6, 42:6-9, 49:6; Jn 1:4-5,9, 7:24, 9:5, 11:9-10, 12:35-38; 1Jn 1:5-7; CCC 26, 89, 157, 214, 697, 748, 1027, 1147, 1216, 1695, 1785, 2465-66.

Readings II: Is 43:8-10, 54:11-13; Mt 11:25-27; Jn 3:11-13, 5:30-38, 6:45-47, 14:28; CCC 152, 202, 241-42, 253-55, 257-59, 261, 267, 446.

Lesson 7

John 9 – 10

Question 1

When Jesus' disciples ask why the man was born blind, what does He say (Jn 9:1-7)? What arguments do the Jews use in saying that Jesus' cure of the man gives evidence that He is a sinner (Jn 9:13-29), and what does the man—who does not seem to understand the situation very well (or does he?)—say in reply (Jn 9:30-34)? In the end, what happens to the man as a result of his conversation with the Pharisees, and what does Jesus say in answer (Jn 9:34-41)?

Readings: Prv 15:29, 28:5; Is 1:15-16, 29:13-14,18, 42:6-7; Mt 12:9-14, 13:13-17, 15:12-14, 23:13,15; Lk 13:1-5,10-17; Jn 3:36; 1Co 2:14-15; CCC 547-49, 575, 588, 596.

Question 2

What does Jesus say in the parable or figure He presents in John 10:1-5? St. John tells us that the people “failed to understand what he was saying,” so “Jesus spoke to them again” (Jn 10:6-7). What does He go on to explain concerning Himself (Jn 10:7-18), and what meaning do His words have in light of what God promised through the prophets? How do the people respond to this teaching (Jn 10:19-21)?

Readings: Pss 23:1-4, 118:19-23; Is 40:10-11, 49:9-10; Jr 23:3-6, 31:9-10; Ez 34:1-24; Mi 2:12-13; Hb 13:20-21; Rv 7:16-17; CCC 606, 609, 649, 754, 764, 896, 1465, 1548, 2179, 2686.

Question 3

St. John tells us that at the time of the feast of Dedication, the Jews approach Jesus in the Temple area to ask Him a question. What do they want to know, and what does Jesus say in reply (Jn 10:22-30)? When the Jews claim they have the right and duty under the Law to stone Jesus to death, what does Jesus say (Jn 10:31-38)? When divine revelation refers to man as *God's son* (Jn 10:36), to whom is it referring?

Readings: Lv 24:16; Dt 32:39; Ps 82; Ws 3:1; Is 42:1, 43:13, 49:1-2, 51:15-16; Jr 1:4-5; Mt 5:17; Lk 3:22, 9:35, 22:66-71; Jn 1:1,12-13,34, 3:16, 14:11, 19:7; Rm 1:3-4, 8:14; 1Jn 3:1, 4:4; Rv 21:7; CCC 240, 424, 441-45, 590-91, 594, 653, 2780, 2782, 2798-2800.

Lesson 8

John 11 – 12:11

Question 1

How does Jesus respond when He is told that Lazarus is ill, and how do His disciples react to what the Lord says and does (Jn 11:3-16)? When Martha and Mary approach Jesus (Jn 11:17-32), do they show faith or lack of faith? Explain your answer. How might we understand the fact that Jesus weeps, and what do the Jews say when they see Him weeping (Jn 11:35-37)? As Scripture indicates, Lazarus' return to life is not simply about Jesus giving back their brother to Martha and Mary. What is the meaning of this miraculous sign which Jesus gives as His own death approaches (Jn 11:25-26), and what, also, is the meaning of Jesus' words, "Unbind him, let him go free" (Jn 11:44)?

Readings: Gn 42:23-24, 43:29-30, 45:13-15; Pss 116:15-17, 137:1-6; Mt 22:31-32; Lk 8:40-42, 49-55, 19:41-42, 20:37-38; Jn 5:24, 8:51; Rm 6:9-11; Hb 5:7-10; Rv 5:1-5, 21:4; CCC 476, 478, 483, 627, 646, 985-86, 993-94, 997-1001, 1009, 2599, 2604, 2606.

Question 2

What is the impact of Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:45-48), what does the high priest declare in view of this (Jn 11:49-50), and what comment does St. John make in view of the high priest's prophecy (Jn 11:51-52)? Why is it relevant that Jesus' miracle occurs at the time of the Jewish Passover (Jn 11:55)?

Readings: Is 43:4-7; Jr 23:3; Ez 37:21-28; Mt 26:1-5; Lk 2:34-35, 16:31; Jn 7:31; 1Jn 2:2; CCC 58, 60, 706.

Question 3

At whose house does the dinner in John 12:1-11 take place, and what are we told about this event? Are there similar anointings of Jesus mentioned in the other Gospel accounts? (Are they the same or different?) What seems to be the meaning of this gesture, and how does Judas Iscariot respond to Mary's actions (Jn 12:4-6)? What does our Lord say in reply (Jn 12:8)?

Readings: Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9; Lk 7:36-50; CCC 2449.

Lesson 9
John 12:12 – 12:50

Question 1

Up to this point in the Gospel St. John has repeatedly made us aware of the Jews' hatred for Jesus and their wish to destroy Him. Describe the scene when Jesus enters Jerusalem for the great Passover celebration (Jn 12:12-19). What are the people singing, and how are we to understand what is happening in this scene?

Readings: Gn 49:10-12; Pss 98, 100, 118:15-29; Is 40:9-10; Zc 9:9-10; Mt 21:1-11; Mk 11:1-11; Lk 19:28-40; Jn 18:37; Rv 7:9-12; CCC 559-60, 570.

Question 2

Read John 12:20-36. What does Jesus mean when He says that a grain of wheat must fall to the earth and die (Jn 12:24)? What has Jesus just been explaining to the crowds when they hear a voice from heaven (Jn 12:23-28), and what does Jesus declare concerning that voice (Jn 12:30)? What do the people, perplexed by everything, then ask (Jn 12:34)? Explain the answer Jesus gives (Jn 12:35-36). In a certain sense St. John himself is explaining Jesus' answer by what he writes in conclusion (Jn 12:37-50) to the events he has related. What is he making clear in these last verses?

Readings: Nb 21:5-9; Is 6:1,8-13, 52:13-15, 53:1-3,10-11; Dn 7:13-14; Mt 8:18-20, 13:13-15, 19:28, 24:29-30, 26:63-65; Jn 8:12; Ac 7:56; Rm 10:16-21; 1Co 15:35-38,42-45,49-50; Hb 2:14-16; Rv 14:14-16; CCC 440, 542, 550, 607, 662, 679, 712, 786, 1039, 1428, 2731, 2795-96.

Lesson 10

John 13

Question 1

What is Jesus teaching us by washing the feet of His apostles before they share the Last Supper (cf. Jn 13:1-17,20)? Why does Peter object at first, and what does Jesus say in view of Peter's objection (Jn 13:6-10)? What does Jesus say to His apostles—and also to us—in verses 12 through 17?

Readings: Si 32:1-2; Is 56:1-2; Mt 3:13-15, 7:24, 10:24-25, 11:28-30, 23:10-12; Lk 6:40, 12:35-37, 17:7-10, 22:24-27; Ep 5:1-2; Ph 2:5-8; Ja 1:22-25; CCC 447, 520, 561-62, 609, 616, 621-22, 1262, 1269, 1337-40, 1380, 1524.

Question 2

Would you say that Judas' betrayal takes Jesus by surprise (Jn 13:10,18-30)? What seems to be the purpose of Jesus' offering Judas the piece of bread toward the end of the Last Supper (Jn 13:26-27), and why does the Evangelist take care to mention that "It was night" (Jn 13:30)? (Why is this scene especially disquieting in light of our knowledge of the Eucharist?) After Judas is gone, what does Jesus declare in verses 31 and 32?

Readings: Pss 41:9 [NAB 41:10], 64; Mt 26:14-16,20-25; Mk 14:17-21; Lk 8:5-8, 22:1-6,19-23,47-53; 1Co 11:26-30; 1Tm 5:24; CCC 1375-78, 1382-83, 1385-88, 1415, 2113.

Question 3

What "commandment" does Jesus give before He departs this world through His Death (Jn 13:34-35)? Was this commandment previously given to God's People or is it an entirely new commandment? Explain your answer.

Readings: Lv 19:18; Dt 6:1-13; Mt 22:37-40; Jn 15:12-13,17, 17:24; Hb 10:19-20; 1Jn 2:5-8, 3:14,16,18; CCC 459-60, 2822.

Lesson 11

John 14 – 15:17

Question 1

What questions do the apostles ask Jesus while they are still at table (Jn 13:36, 14:5, 14:8, 14:22), and what, specifically, does the Lord make clear in answering their questions? Based on what Jesus tells us, explain how man's life will be changed after He 'leaves.'

Readings: Mk 16:19-20; Lk 10:22; Hb 10:19-21; 1Jn 2:3-4,9-11, 5:3-4; CCC 151, 243-44, 260, 263-65, 516, 606, 666, 687, 692, 729, 782, 788, 1025-26, 1696, 1698, 1823-24, 1970, 2614-15, 2623, 2671, 2801-02.

Question 2

What does Jesus reveal about Himself in John 15:1, and what does He go on to say about a person's ability to bear real fruit in his life (Jn 15:2-16)? What is Jesus referring to when he speaks of pruning, and how is His teaching related to prayer?

Readings: Pss 80:8-11 [NAB 80:9-12], 128; Si 24:17; Is 5:1-4, 27:2-6; Jr 2:21; Ez 19:10-13; Mk 11:12-14,20-25; Lk 13:6-9; 1Jn 5:14; CCC 308, 518-19, 737-39, 755, 787, 859, 864, 1108, 1988, 2074, 2732, 2745.

Lesson 12

John 15:18 – 17

Question 1

In John 15:18-27, Jesus tells us that His disciples are destined to be hated by the world. Why does He say this is so? He also says the world's hatred and rejection are inexcusable. Again, why is this so? If Jesus wants His disciples to be confident in going forth to bear fruit (Jn 15:16), why does He give His apostles such a grim picture of their mission (Jn 16:1-7)? What does the Paraclete show the world (Jn 16:8-11), and what does He show Christ's disciples (Jn 16:12-15)?

Readings: Pss 1, 56, 69:4 [NAB 69:5], 120, 140; Mt 5:11-12, 10:17,22-24; Mk 13:23; Jn 2:11b, 8:23-24, 13:19, 14:29; Ac 5:40-42, 28:25-27; 1Jn 2:22-25,28, 3:1,11-16, 4:6, 5:10-12; CCC 386, 388, 530, 769, 1433, 1848, 1871-72.

Question 2

What causes confusion and disturbance among the apostles (Jn 16:16-19), and what does Jesus say by way of explanation (Jn 16:20-33)? In view of what the prophets foretold, explain what Jesus means when He says that until now His disciples have not asked anything in His Name (Jn 16:24).

Readings: Ps 126; Is 25:7-10, 26:16-19, 65:18-19, 66:7; Jr 30:4-11, 31:9; Ba 4:23-24; Mk 11:24; Rv 21:1-8; CCC 661, 1808, 2615, 2808.

Question 3

John 17 contains the last part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. To whom is Jesus speaking and what does He ask at the start (Jn 17:1-8)? For whom does He pray in the central part of His discourse (Jn 17:9-19) and what does He ask for them? For whom does He pray in the final part (Jn 17:20-26) and what does He ask for these?

Readings: Hb 3:14, 5:5-10, 7:26-28, 8:1-2,6-7, 9:11-12,25-28, 10:19-20; CCC 610-11, 690, 746, 820-22, 877, 1721, 2620, 2746-51, 2758, 2812, 2815, 2850.

Lesson 13

John 18 – 19

Read St. John's account of Christ's Passion in chapters 18 and 19, paying close attention to the words spoken by those who deal directly with Jesus during His arrest, trial, and crucifixion, as well as to the answers Jesus gives. Do you find instances in the dialogue or in the events themselves where you hear the Gospel text communicating a deeper or greater meaning than what is found in reading the account as if it were merely a historical recounting of the Passion? For example, is there special significance to such details as the Place of the Skull (Jn 19:17), Jesus' seamless garment (Jn 19:23), or the fact that none of His bones are broken (Jn 19:31-36)? Why does Pilate want to know where Jesus is from (Jn 19:8-9), and what does Jesus say in reply (Jn 19:9-11)? What words does Jesus speak from the Cross (Jn 19:26-30)? Where is He buried after He is taken down from the Cross?

Readings: Ex 12:46; Nb 9:12; Dt 21:22-23; Pss 21, 22:12-18 [NAB 22:13-19], 27:2-5, 34:20 [NAB 34:21], 69:19-21 [NAB 69:20-22], 72, 99; Zc 12:10; Mt 20:17-19, 26:1-2; Mk 10:32-34; Lk 18:31-34; Rv 5:11-14, 19:11-16; CCC 440, 596, 599-600, 624, 730, 964, 1225, 2605-06, 2618, 2622.

Lesson 14
John 20 – 21

Question 1

Who is the first to go to the Tomb and discover the stone moved away (Jn 20:1)? What do we learn from the unfolding of events which the evangelist describes in John 20:2-18?

Readings: Sg 3:1-4; Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-11; Lk 24:1-12; 2Co 5:16-17; CCC 515, 640-41, 646-47, 654, 656-57, 659-60, 2786.

Question 2

Describe Jesus' first appearance to His apostles after He rises from the dead (Jn 20:19-23). On what day of the week does it happen? What does Jesus do and say in their presence, and of what significance are Christ's words with respect to His apostolic Church and the sacrament He institutes, by which man is cleansed of sin? When the apostles tell Thomas about the incident, what is his reaction (Jn 20:24-25)? When does Jesus next appear, and what does He say to Thomas in the presence of all (Jn 20:26-29)?

Readings: Mt 16:16-19; Mk 16:14-18; Lk 24:36-49; Jn 4:48; Rm 10:17; 2Co 5:18-21; 1Pt 1:8; CCC 448, 644-45, 802, 976-87, 1087, 1120, 1131, 1441-42, 1461-62, 1468-69, 1485-86, 2174-75, 2189-91.

Question 3

Describe the circumstances when Jesus reveals Himself the third time (Jn 21:1-4,14). What can we learn from what Jesus does and says in this encounter (Jn 21:5-14), particularly in his encounter with Simon Peter (Jn 21:15-23)?

Readings: Lk 5:1-11, 22:31-34; Jn 13:36-38; CCC 553, 645 (repeat), 881, 1166, 1429, 1551.