

THE GOSPEL | ACCORDING TO JOHN

Gold Coast Sermon & Study Guide Part III

90





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STUDY GUIDE OVERVIEW

To help everyone in the church become familiar with John, this booklet has been designed to provide opportunities for people to take notes and study. This can be done by yourself, as a family, and in your Life Group. Use it in conjunction with the sermon.

In this guide you will find a brief overview of the book of John, key points found in John, some charts and a map, and some Basic Bible Questions that you may want to use as you and your family grow in following Jesus.

For parents, particularly the fathers, it is important for you discuss God with your children each day. It will be best to keep these times short (i.e. 10-15 minutes or so), because if they are too long your children will grow to resent them. Although it is important to teach your children how to obey God, it is even more important for your children to learn to love God. They will only do that if they see your life showing them how. In our home, we pray together as a family every morning and evening, and regularly spend time discussing following Jesus and what that looks like as well as answering questions about the Bible. As a parent, or grandparent you will be wise to capture the teachable moments that emerge each day to cultivate the heart of a child toward loving Jesus.

Lastly, if your children are older, they should be able to do the same questions you have discussed in your Life Group previously. Make sure to ask them some of the weekly questions from the sermon notes.



Introduction to John

Written in a simple style, the fourth Gospel (Gospel means good news in Greek) shows a theological depth far beyond that of the other Gospels. **Few books have influenced the life and thought of believers everywhere as has the Gospel of John.** In the pages of this book Christians have found a portrait of Jesus Christ that is deeply satisfying. John pairs deep theological insight with an intimate look at the ministry of Jesus.

While the other Gospels give a chronological account of the life and ministry of Jesus, (think play by play commentator in football), John's Gospel does a deep dive into encounters Jesus has with individuals (think color commentary in between the play by play). Some of these encounters are the most famous in all of scripture: Jesus with the woman at the well, Jesus with Nicodemus, Jesus and Pilate, to name a few.

The Gospel itself was written by John the Apostle. One of Jesus' inner circle of twelve. Since the apostolic office was foundational and unrepeatable, the apostolic message has always carried special authority and weight. As an apostle specially commissioned by Jesus, John was given a mission to testify to what he had seen and heard (John 15.27, 1 John 1.1-4).

Implicit in the Gospel, is also the claim that it was written by the disciple who was the closest to Jesus during his earthly ministry. All the Gospel writers agree that John's relationship with Jesus was particularly close. John himself never refers to himself by name in his Gospel, but instead refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13.23, 19.26, 20.2, 21.20).

Gospel of John

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- **AUTHOR:** The apostle John, the son of Zebedee
- **DATE:** A.D. 80-90
- **OCCASION AND PURPOSE:**
 1. To demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, by presenting and commenting on selected messianic signs.
 2. To show that the Christian faith is universal, applying to Jews and non-Jews alike, and the only way to God.
 3. To equip believers for the mission of making disciples of Jesus.
- **KEY THEMES:**
 - * Jesus as the eternally existing incarnate Word, the fully divine and fully human Messiah, the crucified and risen savior of the world.
 - * The Jewish rejection of Jesus the Messiah and the universal offer of salvation to everyone who believes.
 - * Believers need to follow Jesus through obedient, committed, and faithful discipleship. This is realized through love and unity in the Christian community and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Where and Why Was the Gospel Written?

John's purpose in writing is tied closely to believing in Jesus and having life in his name. By presenting startling events (particularly miracles) in Jesus' ministry as evidence that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah, John seeks to lead his readers to place their faith in Jesus.

John wrote his Gospel in the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. (Rome destroyed the city and temple in response to a Jewish uprising in A.D. 70) John shows Jesus is the fulfillment of Jewish as well as universal human aspirations.

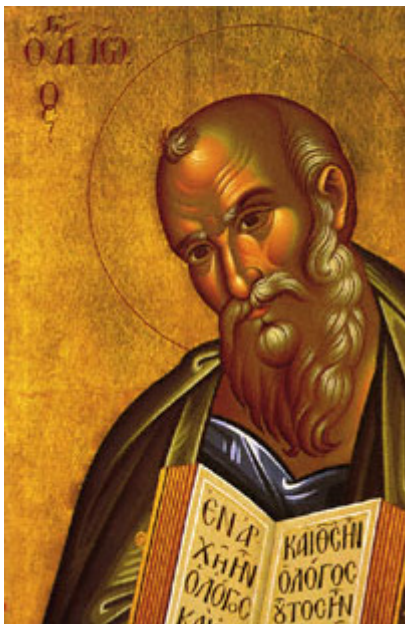
Ancient tradition places the writing of the Gospel at Ephesus, the work ultimately transcends any one historical setting and applies to the entire church-both in John's day, and in ours!

Undoubtedly, some of the material in the Gospel was incorporated through John's experience preaching and teaching about Jesus. Since John was the last Gospel writer, John probably used his knowledge of the contents of the other Gospels to help shape and guide his selection of material. In fact, John writes that there were so many things that Jesus did, the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21.25)



A Gospel of Decision

John's Gospel has rightly been called a Gospel of decision. Every person must choose between light or darkness, faith or unbelief, life or death. Light, life, and salvation in turn can only be received through faith in the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus.



Throughout the Gospel we will encounter people who have to make a decision about Jesus. Will they follow him, or will they reject him? Jesus' disciples, priests, Levites and Pharisees, Samaritans, Roman soldiers, and even John the Baptist, all must make a decision about Jesus.

John puts us in the same boat as readers. Will we choose to follow Jesus, or will we reject him. He gives us plenty of evidence, but ultimately, we must make the decision for ourselves.

As we work our way through this amazing Gospel, you will find yourself confronted with the God-man who came to save his people from their sins. What will your decision be? Will you follow him?

Unique Features of John's Gospel

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are traditionally labeled as the “Synoptic Gospels.” They provide a synopsis of the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus as God’s promised Messiah and the once-for-all salvation He has secured. Their Gospels, while largely similar to one another do have differences based on the author’s background and education level, and the intended audience. Mark’s Gospel for example is written to a primarily Roman audience and leaves out much Jewish detail. But, Matthew’s Gospel is written to a Jewish audience and thus has a tremendous amount of information that Jews would find compelling.

When we come to the gospel according to John, it is immediately apparent that, although it deals with the same subject matter, it has a distinctive angle. Instead of providing a synopsis of Christ’s life and work, it provides a selective overview highlighting the defining elements of who Jesus is and what sets Him apart as the only one who can rightly be acknowledged as “the Christ.” Interestingly, the first 12 chapters of John cover a three year time span, but the last 8 chapters cover just one week, the final week of Christ’s life.

John himself tells us the reason he wrote his Gospel this way and identifies this as the key to understanding his gospel toward its very end: “These are written so 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 20:31).

This leads us into some features of John’s gospel that highlight its importance. Here are three unique features: The “I AM” statements, the emphasis on dialogue, and the parallels with Old Testament scriptures.

7 “I AM” Statements

John uses the most metaphors for Jesus compared to the other Gospels. These word pictures reveal who Jesus is:

<i>“I am the bread of life”</i>	<i>John 6.35</i>
<i>“I am the light of the world”</i>	<i>John 8.12</i>
<i>“I am the door for the sheep”</i>	<i>John 10.7, 9</i>
<i>“I am the good shepherd”</i>	<i>John 10.11, 14</i>
<i>“I am the resurrection and the life”</i>	<i>John 11.25</i>
<i>“I am the way, the truth, and the life”</i>	<i>John 14.6</i>
<i>“I am the true vine”</i>	<i>John 15.1, 5</i>

Dialogue

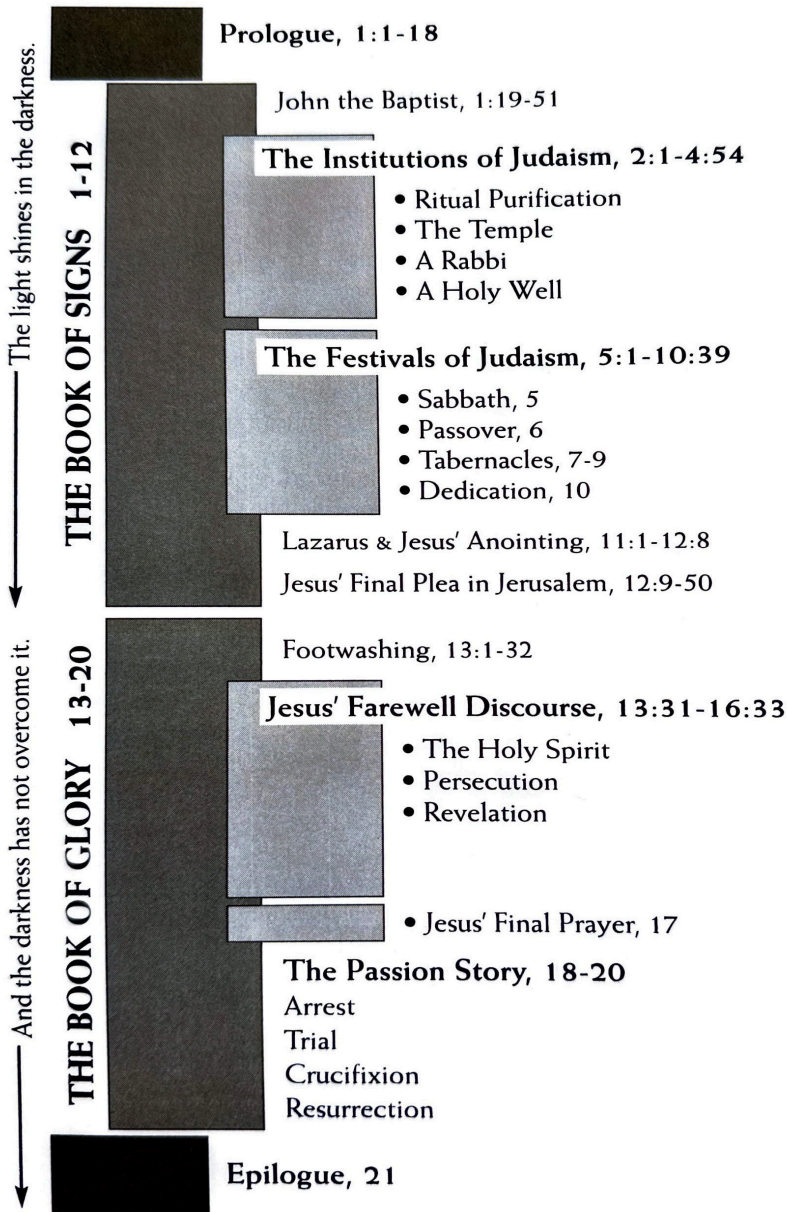
Although Jesus often taught through sermons and parables, John gives us more insight into the conversations Jesus had with individuals. Some of these conversations include:

<i>Jesus and Nathanael</i>	<i>John 1.43-51</i>
<i>Jesus and Nicodemus</i>	<i>John 3.1-21</i>
<i>Jesus and the Samaritan woman</i>	<i>John 4.3-30</i>
<i>Jesus and an Official</i>	<i>John 4.46-54</i>
<i>Jesus and an adulteress</i>	<i>John 7.53-8.11</i>
<i>Jesus and Martha</i>	<i>John 11.17-27</i>
<i>Jesus and Judas</i>	<i>John 12.1-8</i>
<i>Jesus and the Father</i>	<i>John 17</i>
<i>Jesus and Pilate</i>	<i>John 18.33-38</i>
<i>Jesus and Peter</i>	<i>John 21.15-23</i>

Old Testament Quotes in John's Gospel

John	Attribution	OT Passage
1.23	John the Baptist	Is. 40.3
2.17	disciples/evangelist	Psalms 69.9a
6.31	the Jews	Psalms 78.24b
6.45	Jesus	Isaiah 54.14a
10.34	Jesus	Psalms 82.6a
12.13	the crowd	Psalms 118.26a
12.15	evangelist	Zechariah 9.9
12.38	evangelist	Isaiah 53.1
12.40	evangelist	Isaiah 6.10
13.18	Jesus	Psalms 41.9b
15.25	Jesus	Psalms 35.19 or 69.4
19.24	evangelist	Psalms 22.18
19.36	evangelist	Exodus 12.46/Numbers 9.12
19.37	evangelist	Zechariah 12.10

The Structure of John's Gospel



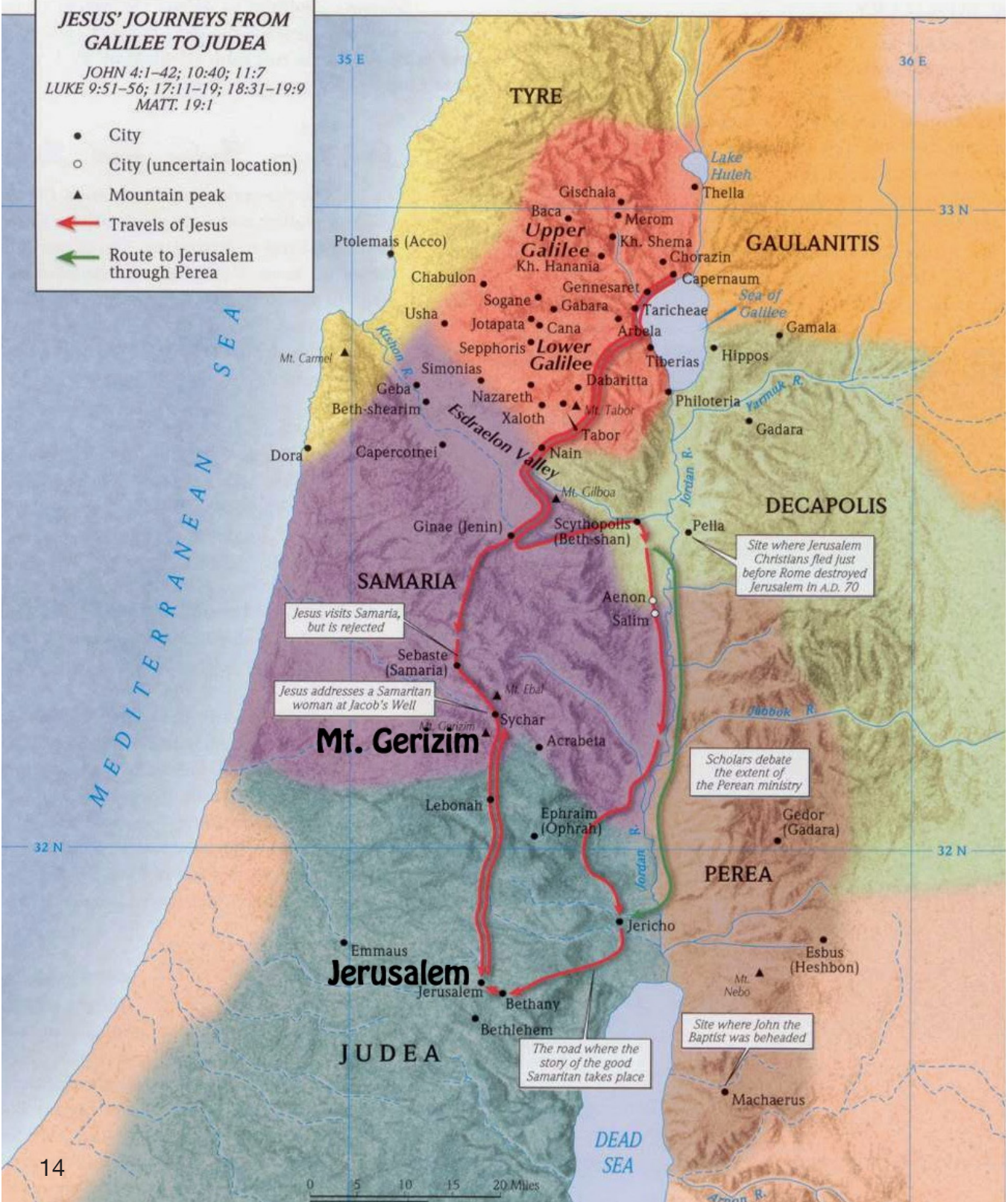
Chronology of Jesus' Ministry in John's Gospel^{A-2}

TIME	LOCATION/EVENT	PASSAGE IN JOHN
Origin (1:1–18) Eternity Past	The Word was with God	1:1–18
Initial ministry (1:19–2:12; A.D. 29–30)		
Summer/fall 29 Subsequently Winter/spring 30	John the Baptist near the Jordan Jesus' calling of his first disciples The wedding at Cana of Galilee	1:19–34 1:35–51 2:1–12
First Passover and first full year of ministry (2:13–4:54; A.D. 30–31)		
April 7, 30 Spring/summer 30 Dec./Jan./Feb. 30/31? Subsequently	Jesus' first Passover (Jerusalem) John the Baptist near the Jordan Jesus' ministry in Samaria The healing at Cana of Galilee	2:13–3:21 3:22–36 4:1–45 4:46–54
Second year of ministry (ch. 5; A.D. 31–32)		
March 27, 31 Oct. 21–28, 31?	Passover not recorded in John The Sabbath controversy (Jerusalem)	Matt. 12:1 par? 5:1–47
Second Passover recorded in John and third year of ministry (6:1–11:54; A.D. 32–33)		
April 13 or 14, 32 Subsequently Sept. 10–17, 32 Oct./Nov. 32? Dec. 18–25, 32 Jan./Feb. 33? March 33? March 33?	Jesus' second Passover recorded in John (Galilee) Jesus' teaching in the synagogue of Capernaum Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (Jerusalem) Healing of blind man, good shepherd discourse Jesus at the Feast of Dedication (Jerusalem) Jesus' withdrawal to the area near the Jordan The raising of Lazarus (Bethany near Jerusalem) Jesus' withdrawal to Ephraim	6:1–21 6:22–71 7:1–52; 8:12–59 9:1–10:21 10:22–39 10:40–42 11:1–53 11:54
Third Passover in John, passion week, resurrection appearances (11:55–21:25; A.D. 33)		
Friday, March 27, 33 Saturday, March 28, 33 Sunday, March 29, 33 Monday–Wednesday, March 30–April 1, 33 Thursday, April 2, 33 Friday, April 3, 33 Sunday, April 5, 33 Sunday, April 12, 33 Prior to May 14, 33	Jesus arrives at Bethany Dinner with Lazarus and his sisters "Triumphal entry" into Jerusalem Cursing of fig tree, temple cleansing, temple controversy, Olivet discourse Jesus' third Passover recorded in John (Jerusalem), betrayal, arrest Jewish and Roman trials, crucifixion, burial The empty tomb, first resurrection appearance Second resurrection appearance recorded in John Third resurrection appearance recorded in John	11:55–12:1 12:2–11 12:12–50 Synoptics 13:1–18:11 18:12–19:42 20:1–25 20:26–31 21 ^{A-3}

JESUS' JOURNEYS FROM GALILEE TO JUDEA

JOHN 4:1-42; 10:40; 11:7
 LUKE 9:51-56; 17:11-19; 18:31-19:9
 MATT. 19:1

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Travels of Jesus
- ← Route to Jerusalem through Perea



December 29
John 6.16-21

January 5
John 6.22-59

January 12
John 6.60-71

January 19
John 7.1-24

January 26
John 7.25-52

February 2
John 8.1-11

February 9
John 8.12-30

February 16
John 8.31-59

February 23
John 9.1-40



BASIC BIBLE QUESTIONS

The point of the Basic Bible Questions is to teach yourself, your children and your grandchildren biblical truth but in a fun way. Make sure to reward correct answers in a way that your child will feel loved (praise, hugs, treats etc.) Try to generate some kind of competition (kids love to compete). Dads, this is especially true for you. Don't be afraid to have your kids ask you questions to see if they can "beat" you.

As you ask these questions, your children will likely have lots of questions of their own; so take your time to answer their questions and you will gain insight into their degree of understanding about God. Try to incorporate these questions into a daily routine. Maybe around the breakfast table or at night having dinner. If you have a bed-time routine you could ask a few questions then. Just make them a regular part of every day, and as your kids grow, the spiritual conversations will too!

Questions about God

Q: How many Gods are there?

A: One

Q: What is the Trinity?

A: One God eternally existing in three persons. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit

Q: What are some names for God?

A: Christ, Jesus, Lord, Father, God, Holy Spirit, King, etc.

Q: Who made God?

A: No one, God has lived forever

Q: Where is God?

A: In Heaven and everywhere

Q: Is there anything or anyone more powerful than God?

A: No

Q: *What does God know?*

A: Everything

Questions about Jesus

Q: *Where was Jesus born?*

A: Bethlehem

Q: *Who was Jesus' dad?*

A: Joseph

Q: *Who was Jesus' mom?*

A: Mary

Q: *Did Jesus ever sin?*

A: No

Q: *Who were Jesus' brothers?*

A: James and Jude

Q: *Who were some of Jesus' best friends?*

A: Peter, James, John, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, etc.

Q: *How did Jesus die?*

A: Mean people nailed Him to a cross

Q: *When Jesus died what did they stick into His heart?*

A: A spear

Q: *What did they do with Jesus' body?*

A: Wrapped it up and put it in a tomb

Q: *How long was Jesus dead?*

A: Three days

Q: *Is Jesus dead today?*

A: No, He is alive because He rose from death

Q: *Where is Jesus today?*

A: He is in Heaven

Q: *What do we celebrate at Christmas?*

A: Jesus' birth

Q: *What do we celebrate at Easter?*

A: Jesus' resurrection

Q: *Is Jesus ever coming back to earth?*

A: Yes, to take us to Heaven

Q: *Why did Jesus die?*

A: For our sins

Q: *Why did Jesus die for our sins?*

A: He loves us

Questions about Holy Spirit

Q: Is Holy Spirit God?

A: yes

Q: What does Holy Spirit do?

A: Comforts us, encourages us, warns us, convicts us of sin, etc.

Q: Has Holy Spirit always existed?

A: Yes

Q: What is the fruit of the Spirit?

A: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control

Q: What are the gifts of the Spirit

A: Faith, tongues, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, helps, discernment and many others

Q: How do I get the Spirit?

A: By believing in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins

Questions about the Bible

Q: Who wrote the Bible?

A: God told His people what to write down

Q: Does the Bible have any mistakes?

A: No, it is perfect

Q: What is the most important thing in the Bible?

A: Jesus

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times before Jesus was born?

A: Old Testament

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times after Jesus was born?

A: New Testament

Q: How many books are in the Bible?

A: 66

Q: How many books are in the Old Testament?

A: 39

Q: What is the first book of the Bible?

A: Genesis

Q: How many books are in the New Testament?

A: 27

Q: What is the last book of the Bible?

A: Revelation

Q: Name three people who wrote books of the Bible?

A: Moses, David, Solomon, John, Paul, Peter, etc.

Q: What are the four gospels?

A: The stories about Jesus' life

Q: Who wrote the four gospels?

A: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Q: What does the Bible call a preacher?

A: A prophet

Q: Name three prophets from the Bible.

A: Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, Jonah, Jesus, etc.

Q: Which book of the Bible was written especially for children?

A: Proverbs

Questions about the Disciples

Q: What do you call someone who learns from his teacher?

A: A disciple

Q: Name three of Jesus' disciples.

A: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas, etc.

Q: Who was the man who hated Christians before God changed his heart and made him a Christian pastor?

A: Saul/Paul

Q: Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

A: Judas

Q: Who was Jesus' best friend and youngest disciple?

A: John

Q: Who was the lead disciple?

A: Peter

Q: Which disciple doubted that Jesus had risen from death?

A: Thomas

Questions about Creation

Q: Who made everything?

A: God

Q: Why did God make everything?

A: For us to enjoy

Q: Why did God make everything so beautiful?

A: Because God is an artist and he cares about beauty

Questions about Christian Living

Q: What is a Christian?

A: Someone whose God is Jesus

Q: What is prayer?

A: When we talk to God

Q: What can we pray to God about?

A: Anything

Q: Why should we obey God?

A: Because He loves us and knows what is good for us

Q. Are we supposed to worship other people?

A. No

Q. Who are we supposed to worship?

A. God/Jesus/Holy Spirit

Q. What are some ways we can worship God?

A. Reading the Bible, praying, serving, doing chores, telling others about Jesus, tithing, obeying God, obeying mom and dad, singing and more

Q: Give three reasons why Christians go to church.

A: To learn about God, to worship God, to see Christian friends, to take communion, etc.

Q: What is communion supposed to remind us of?

A: Jesus' body and blood for our sins

Q: What is baptism?

A: Christians showing that Jesus died and rose to cleanse them from sin

Q: What is tithing?

A: Giving money to help God's kingdom grow on earth

Q: What should we do to people who aren't Christians?

A: Be nice to them, tell them about Jesus, and pray to God for them

Questions about Sin

Q: What is sin?

A: Sin is when you don't do what you are supposed to, or do what you are not supposed to

Q: What are some sins you have done?

A: Stealing, lying, disobeying, etc.

Q: Is it a sin to not do what your mom or dad say?

A: Yes

Q: What sin did the Israelites commit while walking around for forty years?

A: Whining and complaining

Q: Is it a sin to make a mistake?

A: No, everyone makes mistakes and they are not sins

Q: Who sins?

A: Everyone but Jesus

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: What should we do when we sin?

A: Pray to Jesus to forgive us

Q: What should we do when we sin against someone?

A: Tell them we are sorry and ask them to forgive us

Q: What should we do when someone sins against us?

A: Forgive them like Jesus forgives us

Questions about Heaven and the End of Time

Q: Does everyone go to Heaven when they die?

A: No, only Christians

Q: Can you get to Heaven just by being good?

A: No

Q: How do you get to Heaven?

A: You have to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and obey him.

Q: What will we do in Heaven?

A: Sing, eat, play with friends, be with God, etc.

Q: Will kids be in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves children and they can love God

Q: Will animals be in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: Will Heaven be scary?

A: No, everything is fun and it never even gets dark

Q: Who is in charge of Heaven?

A: God

Q: What does Jesus sit on in Heaven?

A: A big throne

Q: Will there be angels in Heaven?

A: Yes, and they will sing to God with us

Q: Will anyone sin in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone get sick or die in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone be sad in Heaven?

A: No, everyone will be happy

Q: Will there be music in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves music, God sings, God has instruments in Heaven, and people, angels, and animals will all sing in Heaven

Q: Will there be parties in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: Is Jesus coming back?

A: Yes

Q: Why is Jesus coming back?

A: To defeat evil once and for all, and show the greatness and glory of God.

Q: When will Jesus come back?

A: We don't know.

Q: What will happen when Jesus does return?

A: He will defeat Satan, gather his people, and remake everything brand new.

Q: How long will we live with Jesus in heaven?

A: Forever. Our time with him will never end!