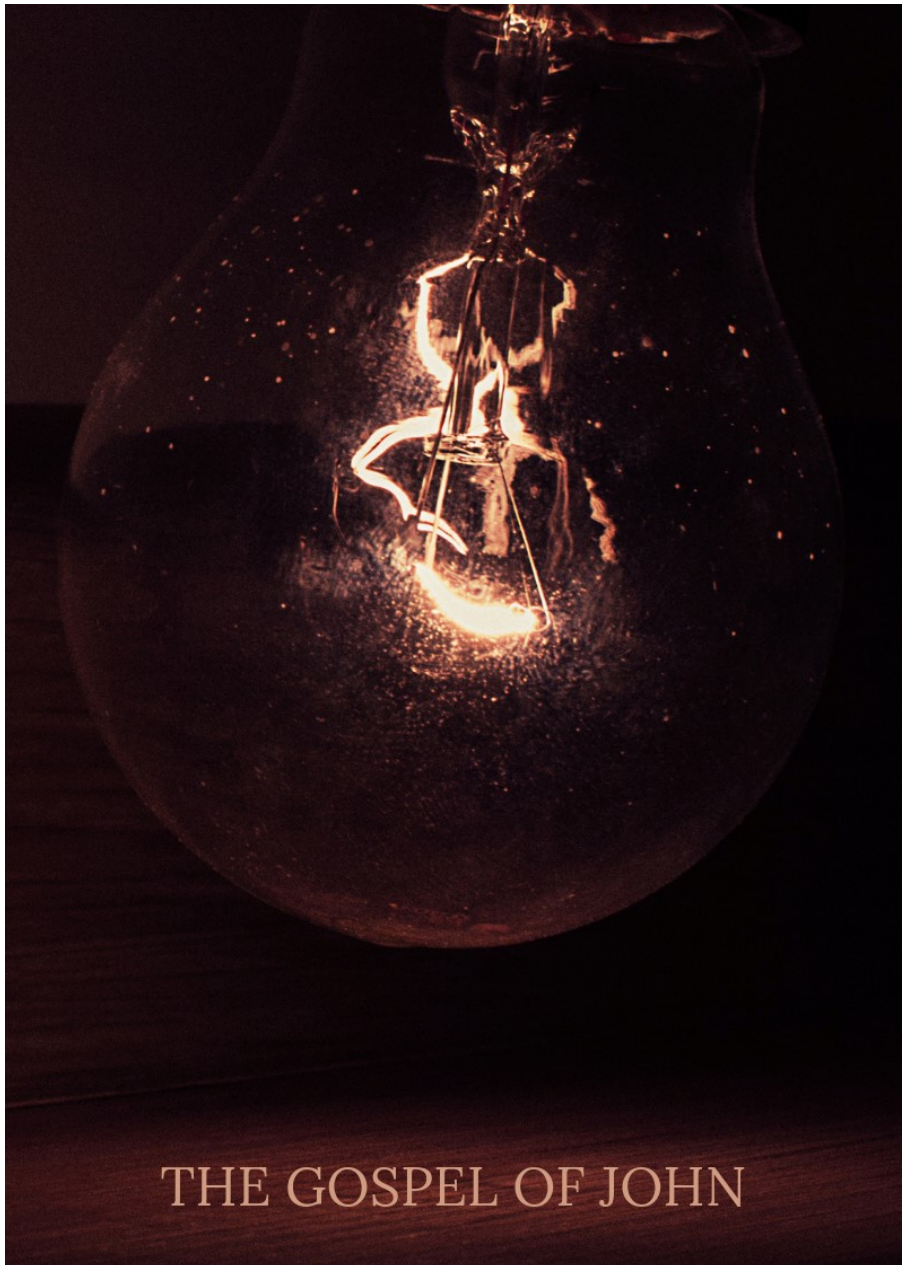


MANLY-LOTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TERM 1 STUDY GUIDE



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

welcome to term 1

It's great to have you joining us as we embark on the adventure of 2019 together. Whether you are brand new or have been around for ages, we're glad you are here.

John's gospel is easy and simple, accessible even to children. Yet, it is also dense and difficult and full of amazing treasures about Jesus that need to be carefully unearthed to be understood well.

There is much in the book that will stimulate and challenge us, as we see how at odds humanity is with the Son of God. We will feel the sting of God's Word again and again as we see how good Jesus is in contrast with ourselves. We will be reminded that our priorities aren't in line with God's desires for us, and that we often don't listen to God's Word well. There is much to be rebuked by in John's gospel, and as a community, we'll sit under God's word and feel that together. Let's be ready to pray with each other and urge each other on to greater godliness.

Despite this, there will be moments of great encouragement. We'll marvel together at the majesty of the Lord Jesus, who he is, how he came and who he shows the Lord God to be. We'll see him dealing kindly and truthfully with a number of people, and be reminded that he is good. We'll be amazed at the growth of belief in the most unlikely people. We'll see how his words have eternal life because he comes from God himself and is God the Son. This is the one who carried all our sins in his body to the cross. We will be humbled, encouraged and amazed all over again. Prepare to fix your eyes on Jesus with us this term.

As we go through the book, we'll see the power of God to save and the way God uses witnesses. These are people who encounter Jesus, in one way or another. They are remarkable in the way they are so very ordinary. They remind us, through Scripture, that we are all about to speak about the Saviour we know, to the people that we know as ourselves. We don't need to be clever or gregarious or have any special thing. We can be just like the ordinary people we see in John's gospel. They met Jesus and they told those who were close to them what they had seen and heard. By God's immense power, those they tell come to believe. This is the story of the spread of Christianity throughout 2000 years. It seems mundane. Yet, this is the way the God of the universe spreads his good news through the world. Let's be encouraged that God is like this and pray for ourselves and each other as we take the opportunities that God gives to us. Who would you like to talk to this year? Why don't you ask others to pray for you as you do this? Ask your friends at church for the names of the people they would like to speak to and pray for them³ as well!

Study 1



Read John 1:1-18



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 1:1-18

Have a look at **Genesis 1:1** and compare this with **John 1:1**. What is John trying to help us understand by making such a strong link between these two verses?



How is this introduction to Jesus different to the way the other gospels introduce Jesus? What links does John specifically point us to? What effect does this have for our understanding of Jesus?

What does it mean that Jesus became 'flesh'? Why is that important?

Study 1 continued...

What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

If Jesus is the Lord of all the universe, including all of time, what are some of the ways this makes a difference does this make to you as you try to follow him?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Study 2



Read John 1:19-51



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 1:19-51

What kinds of things do people discover about Jesus in this passage?

What do I want to do differently?

Who can I share something with and how? What would you say to someone who wanted to know why you follow Jesus? How would you encourage them to encounter Jesus for themselves, given that they can't physically meet Jesus?

Study 2 continued...

Who are you praying for opportunities to speak to about Jesus? Write down the name of someone whom you particularly want to be sharing with this term, (regardless of how impossible that might seem now!) How can your group help encourage you as pray for opportunities to speak to this person?

What is one thing you wish you could do better when it comes to telling your friends about Jesus, or even letting your friends know that you are a Christian? How can you pray about this?

Prayer Points



Study 3



Read John 2



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 2

What do we learn about Jesus' attitudes to others in this chapter? To his mother? Other people generally? The temple? The rulers? In one sentence, describe Jesus from this passage.

How are we to understand Jesus as the 'true temple'? What does he mean by this? Why is it important?

What do I want to do differently?

Study 3 continued...

When are we like the rulers or Jesus' mother – with priorities out of step with Jesus' values and desires? How can you pray about these areas in your lives? How can your group be praying for you?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Remember to pray for those people that you and those in your group would love to introduce to Jesus!

Study 4



Read John 3:1-21



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 3:1-21

Describe being 'born again'. How does John 1:13 help us understand this passage? How does knowing how we are made Christian help us to as follow Jesus?

What is your impression of Nicodemus? What do you learn about Jesus by listening in on his conversation with Nicodemus? Was anything interesting, surprising or puzzling for you?

Study 4 continued...

Nicodemus doesn't seem to respond, but we see him responding as we read through John's gospel. Have a look at John 7:50 and John 19:39. How does Nicodemus change over the course of the gospel?

What do I want to do differently?

How is the example of Nicodemus an encouragement or a challenge to you personally? If Jesus were to speak to you, what inadequacies do you think he'd challenge? What gets in the way of you believing in him, and living it out?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Pray for each other that you will learn to bravely stand with Jesus, even if you don't like being the centre of attention.

Study 5



Read John 3:22-36



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 3:22-36

How is John the Baptist an excellent witness? How does he define his life?

How is this an encouragement or a challenge to you as you follow Jesus?

Describe the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. What does God the Father give his Son? Why? How might knowing this help us to keep following Jesus?

Who can I share something with and how?

Study 5 continued...

Prayer Points



Spend some time thanking God for his incredible love to humanity: sending his precious Son, whom he loves to this world to die for our sins. God is love.

Study 6



Read John 4:1-42



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 4:1-42

List the Samaritan woman's problems. Which problem is the deepest problem? How does Jesus address it?

Describe the Samaritan woman's testimony. How compelling is it? Why do the Samaritans say that they believe? How is this an encouragement as you seek to talk to others about Jesus?

What do I want to do differently?

Study 6 continued...

Who can I share something with and how?

Share how it has been going with your relationships with those you'd love to talk to about Jesus. What opportunities have you had? What has been hard? How can your group keep praying for you with this?

Prayer Points



Study 7



Read John 4:46-5:15



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 4:46-5:15

Compare the responses of the two men to Jesus in this passage. Who believes Jesus? How do you know? Who does not believe Jesus? How do you know? From these two examples, what insight do we get into what Jesus really cares about?

What does it tell you about Jesus that he doesn't need the man in chapter 5's faith to perform the miracle?

What do I want to do differently?

Study 7 continued...

What do you do when you feel like you don't have faith? How can your group encourage or challenge you with this?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Spend some time thanking God for Jesus: who was so patient with people on earth and kept on being compassionate despite their unbelief. Thank God that Jesus hasn't changed, and is still profoundly kind and compassionate to us in the face of our struggles to believe and trust him.

Study 8



Read John 5:16-47



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 5:16-47

List the different witnesses that Jesus calls on as he sets out proof that he is the Messiah. Why does he have such a list? Which witness is most compelling for you?

How does this chapter help you to be comfortable with encouraging your friends and family to examine the claims of Jesus for themselves? If you were able to have that conversation with someone, what would you point them to as a good help to understanding Jesus' claims and whether they are true?

What do I want to do differently?

Study 8 continued...

Are there questions or doubts you have that you could invest time into investigating? How might you do this? Where would you look?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Pray for each other that you will remain in Christ, trusting him, whether you have many doubts or feel full of faith. Thank God for the work he has begun in us and pray that he will continue faithfully to transform us into the image of Jesus for His glory.

Study 9



Read John 6:1-40



What stood out to you this time through?



What questions do you have?



What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

John 6:1-40

How does Jesus' teaching and his miracle fit together here? In one sentence, sum up what Jesus is doing in this section of Scripture and what it means or how we are to respond to it.

How does Jesus describe the relationship between himself (God the Son) and his Father? How does this relationship show itself in the things he does and says? How does this help you to trust Jesus, that he is one who truly reveals God?

What do I want to do differently?

Study 9 continued...

How would it affect your attitude to life if Jesus was as in control of the details of your life as he is over the kinds of situations he has faced so far in John? How does knowing Jesus make a difference to how we face the future? How can you pray about this in a way that both reflects real fears you might have, as well as real confidence that Jesus is true Lord of all?

Who can I share something with and how?

Prayer Points



Pray for each other that you will trust Jesus with all the details of your lives.

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**MANLY-LOTA
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Growing Followers of Jesus