

## **INTRO // HEART BEHIND NEW SERIES “THE BOOK OF JOHN”**

Now more than ever, there are so many different opinions on who Jesus is. Some say he was a good teacher but misunderstood by many. Some say he never even existed, that He is a created character. Others claim that he was a liar. And others claim that Jesus is the Son of God. The Savior of the World. And with all those opinions coming at us, it can be hard for us to figure out where we stand on the issue.

### **ILLUSTRATION // Pictures where people see something different...**

- laurel vs yaney // Color of the dress. Blue and black?
- People see/hear things differently. Each are correct.
- THAT IS NOT THE CASE W/ JESUS. There is not more than 1 answer.
- We must figure out who he actually is. There is truth that must be found

So for the next year we are going to look to answer that those questions...

**WHO IS JESUS? WHAT DID HE SAY? WHAT DID HE DO? AND WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH HIM?**

### **SET UP SCRIPTURE //**

- **Author:** John the apostle/Disciple. 1/3 of Jesus' inner circle.
- **Audience:** Greeks who are just learning the gospel & Jews.
- **Purpose:** There were a lot of disagreements happening concerning who Jesus actually was. So he wrote this letter to make it extremely clear who Jesus is, what He said, what He did, and why we should believe in Him.

The main point to the entire letter is the same as ours tonight. John wanted everyone to understand...

**MAIN POINT OF JOHN // Jesus IS God!**

### **THINK OF JOHN 1:1-14 AS AN EPIC MOVIE TRAILER!**

John tells you the main point of the book at the very beginning. He lays out everything you need to know about Jesus before you dive into the miracles and teachings.

### **JOHN 1:1-5 (NLT) PAGE 102 Streetlights Bible**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

## PRAY OVER SERMON/DISCUSSION

### TRUTH #1 // JESUS IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

#### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE //

VS1 - In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God.

#### WHAT DOES “THE WORD” MEAN?

Remember, John was writing to the Greeks and the Jews to explain that Jesus IS God. So John uses a phrase that both of those groups understand.

- **GREEKS:** “Logos” means THE WORD. Greek philosophers, didn’t know God but they looked at creation and the universe and knew that it could not have happened by accident. There was order to it and had to be created on purpose by some creator. But they didn’t have a name for that creator so they called the **PURPOSE FOR CREATION AND LIFE... LOGOS = The Word**
- **JEW:** The name for God in the Old Testament was YAWEH. But the Jewish people were so honoring towards God that they didn’t think they should even say His name. So instead of using God’s name they would say “The Word of God”.
- John knows that saying JESUS IS THE WORD = JESUS IS GOD

John is choosing his words with great intentionality. His desire is to help paint the clearest picture of who Jesus is for his audience. So he uses a phrase, “THE WORD” in order to help them understand that Jesus is in fact God. He is the reason for everything. The source of everything...

#### **SOMETIMES WE MISUSE THINGS BECAUSE WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR PURPOSE...**

- Use funny examples of missing something...

Many of us spend our entire lives doing things and chasing things that are pointless. We think if we gain enough admiration, fame, success, friends, followers, money, etc that we are fulfilling our purpose. All to end up empty.

*“If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

**Ecclesiastes 1** tells us that everything outside of knowing & obeying God is pointless.

- The wisest man of all time came to this conclusion.

***We misuse & miss out on our lives because  
we misunderstand its PURPOSE.***

**Matt 16:25** - For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

**CHALLENGE // What're you living for? What's the purpose for life?**

**TRUTH #2 // JESUS IS THE CREATOR OF LIFE**

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE //**

VS 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,

**ILLUSTRATION // Clock maker theory**

- Apple Watch had to have come from somewhere
- If I told you evolution created the watch you'd laugh at me
- We are so much more complex than an apple watch
- We must have a creator and that creator is Jesus.

**APPLICATION //**

- Jesus was not a passive person standing by watching creation take place.
- He was active, involved and working with purpose.
- That means he created you!

**CHALLENGE //**

- We cannot treat our lives as if it is an accident or a mistake.
- Jesus created you and has a purpose for your life
- If He created you than you are HIS! Do you live as if you are His?

**TRUTH #3 // JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF LIFE**

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE //**

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

**When somebody opens the blinds while you're asleep.**

- "CLOSE THOSE BLINDS!"
- Turn off all the lights in the room and light a single candle.
- No amount of darkness can overcome light

## APPLICATION //

- He brings light to us by revealing sin, truth and who God is.
- He fights against the darkness by being light.
- Jesus brought light into creation. When we receive Him we become “sons of Light” John 12:35-36)
- As “sons of light” it is our job to bring Him into the darkest places
- As “sons of light” it is our opportunity to reveal the darkest places of our hearts to Him so his light can overcome it

## CHALLENGE //

- What is in the darkest areas of your heart? In your mind?
- Are you going to let Jesus in so He can bring His light into those places?

## TRUTH #4 // JESUS GIVES LIFE

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES //

- **VS 4** - The Word **gave life** to everything that was created...

You’ve been given life by Jesus whether you like it/believe it or not. The fact that there is breath in your lungs is a reason to live with purpose. The fact that your heart is beating is a reason to worship. The facts that there’s thoughts in your mind is a reason to give Jesus your everything!

**John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

- **VS 10-14** 10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, **he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.** 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. **He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.** And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

How will you respond to Jesus? The Purpose of Life... The Creator of Life... the Light of Life... The Giver of Life...

You cannot hustle your way to a better life. You cannot work your way into becoming a child of God.

What will you do with Jesus?