

Session 5: Aligned

Scripture questions:

John 2:1-11

John 4:46-54

John 12:35-40

John 20:19-29

What does John call the miracles of Jesus?

What is the purpose of these miracles? Are these demonstrations of God's power an effective way to convince people to follow Christ, both short-term and long-term?

John 5:19-21

John 6:53-58

John 8:34-36

John 14:12-14

What patterns do you see in the way John communicates Jesus' teachings?

Would you describe Jesus' teachings as drawn-out or compact? Why?

John 5:19-21
John 5:37-47
John 6:35-40
John 7:25-31

How would you describe the relationship between God the Father and Christ the Son?

In what ways are the Father and Son connected?

John 12:25-26
John 13:16-20
John 14:11-14

How do these passages describe the relationship between the believer and the Son?

What relationship similarities do you see between Christ and His followers, and between Christ and the Father?

John 17:18-19
John 17:20-21
John 17:26

In these passages, Jesus is talking about the relationship of the believer to the rest of the world. What is the relationship between the two?

According to these passages, what is John's purpose for writing this Gospel?

The book of John is very different from the Synoptic Gospels. Over 90% of the material in John's Gospel is found only in this book, the order of events in John are different, and the book does not contain any of the Messianic Secret (Jesus' repeated directions that people not tell others about what they experienced or saw).

Signs, or Miracles

1. John's Gospel encourages belief in who Jesus is, but seems to diminish the role of signs, or miracles.
2. John's theology of signs is found in the fact that there are only seven signs in this entire Gospel.
3. John minimizes signs and miracles in the words of Jesus. Jesus says that though He did all these signs, or miracles, people did not believe Him (John 12:37-38).
4. Christ tells those who believe, yet do not have a sign, that they are blessed.
5. The discussion of signs is connected to the idea of belief. To believe in Christ is not simply to say He is the Son of God, but to fully invest our lives in who He is.

What to Believe

1. The Father and Son are inseparable. They are not the same person, but their will, power, and actions are indivisible.
2. We can have a similar relationship with God by fully embracing who Christ is in relationship to God.
3. We are called to bring others into this understanding of the Son and the Father.

Application Questions:

John's Gospel emphasizes that a believer's actions, will, and desires are an extension of the Father's actions, will, and desires. Within your own faith, how can you encourage your actions, will, and desires to reflect the will of the Father?

How does our modern, logical concept of belief and the Biblical concept of belief differ? Which concept of belief is harder for you to understand? Do you think it is easier or harder to stress this understanding of belief? Why?

How does John's Gospel encourage you to share your faith? What is it calling you to share?

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