

Welcome to the 2026 Lenten Bible Study! We're glad you can join us on a journey through the Gospel of John, which offers deeper insights into Jesus and how to live as His disciples. John's Gospel contains 21 chapters with many lengthy verses. Unfortunately, we won't be able to read and study all the chapters during Lent. We will pick up again after our two-week Easter vacation and continue with the remaining chapters until June 30, 2026. During Lent, we will focus on chapters related to the Passion of Christ, specifically Chapters 13, 14, 18, and 19. After Lent, we will proceed with the rest of the Gospel. Please prepare to engage deeply with both John and Jesus throughout this study. Rev. Dennis Condon and Pastor Amos will co-facilitate the study together.

2026 Bible Study Gospel of John February 17 – March 31

February 17, 2026	Overview and Chapter 1: The Prologue & The First Disciples
February 24, 2026	Chapter 2 The Wedding at Cana & Cleansing the Temple
March 03, 2026	Chapter 3 The New Birth and conversation with Nicodemus
March 10, 2026	Chapter 4 The Woman at the Well & The Official's Son
March 17, 2026	Chaps13 & 14 Jesus Washes Feet & The New Commandment
March 24, 2026	Chapter 18 The Arrest and Peter's Denial
March 31, 2026	Chapter 19 Trial and Crucifixion (Holy Week)

Overview of the Gospel of John.

Purpose: The purpose of John's Gospel is outlined in John 20:30-31, which reveals a twofold intention. Firstly, it was written so that readers would come to believe in Jesus. Secondly, it was meant to demonstrate how our lives can be transformed through Christ.

John selected seven specific miracles to document in his Gospel:

- 1. Turning water into wine (2:1-11)**
- 2. Healing the royal official's son (4:46-54)**
- 3. Healing the invalid at Bethesda (5:1-9)**
- 4. Feeding the 5,000 (6:1-14)**
- 5. Walking on water (6:15-21)**
- 6. Restoring sight to a man born blind (9:1-41)**
- 7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)**

Six of these miracles are unique to the Gospel of John and specifically illustrate Jesus' identity as the Messiah, not just His ability to heal or perform acts of mercy. Alongside these miracles, Jesus makes important declarations, in the Seven "I Am" Statements: Bread of life (6:35), Light of the world (8:12), Gate of the sheep (10:7), Good shepherd (10:11), Resurrection and life (11:25), Way, Truth, Life (14:6), True Vine (15:1). John's purpose is to affirm Jesus as the Messiah rather than to provide a biography, as seen in the other three Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Authorship: Internal evidence suggests that the author is "the disciple whom Jesus loved," who leaned on Jesus' breast at supper (John 21:20, cf. 21:7). This individual is identified as the Apostle John and is supported by numerous lines of evidence indicating he was a contemporary of the events described.

Date: John lived to an old age and spent his later years in Ephesus. It is widely accepted that the Gospel of John was written in the late first century AD, likely in the late 80s or early 90s. This positions John's writings as the last to be completed in the New Testament canon. By this time, the early church was already well established, and since John was likely one of the last church leaders to witness Jesus' life, he felt motivated to preserve that account (as noted in 1 John 1:1-3)