



Week 39

John

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

***'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'***

**The purpose of the Gospel of John is contained in Chapter 20: 31**

*But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.* The purpose of the book is simply twofold, firstly that we will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and secondly that we will have life by the power of his name.

**John talks very little about the kingdom of God but talks consistently about eternal life.**

**4 Key thoughts for what this book from the Bible might mean for us today:**

- God's infinite majesty.
- How different He is from us.
- His desire to communicate with us.
- His charge to us to be both 'sowers' of the word and 'harvesters' to eternal life.

### **God's infinite majesty**

How can Christ be the key to the universe? What does it mean for Christ to unlock the mysteries of the universe? The greatest mystery is the mystery of God himself. How can finite and sinful human beings speak of God?

The key to that mystery is Jesus Christ, the one who appears in John's gospel as the Word of God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God: Chap 1 v1

### **His desire to communicate**

What do we use words for? To express ourselves in speech or song. If Jesus Christ is the Word of God, we can say that in him God is expressing himself.

Words communicate. They take what is in my heart and mind and communicate it into yours. If Jesus Christ is the Word of God, He is God communicating God's own self in order to unlock the mystery of who he is. Because Christ is God's son, we know that there is a Father, of whom Christ is the image and likeness, a Father that wants to penetrate the darkness and make himself known to us. In Jesus Christ we see the Father.

Jesus is the great translator and the great translation of the living God; God's cross-cultural communication.

***St Paul's Dorking***

***Exploring the Bible Together!***



## How different he is from us

God is not human. How could God who is not human possibly identify himself with us who are, after all made in his image? Only by making himself like one of us. But then the trouble comes, because we start to think that he thinks and acts like us; He doesn't! – Read 1 John 4:16,17.

When we get stroppy or grumpy, - He doesn't. When we get angry, even hateful, - He doesn't. When we don't forgive, - He does. When we don't forgive ourselves, - He does. When we think ourselves insignificant and useless, - He doesn't. He never ever tells you that you're useless; He always speaks of your worth. This mysterious, awesome, magnificent Holy God whispers He loves you.

The gospel of John is so different from the synoptic gospels in that it seeks to unravel this amazing mystery, so that we might believe that *'Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name'*.

In Matthew, Mark & Luke eternal life is generally regarded as a future experience, but John differs from them in his emphasis on eternal life as a "present possession". In John, those who accept Christ can possess life "here and now" as well as in eternity, for we have "passed from death to life", as in John 5:24: Read also John 17:3 and John 4:13-14

## His charge to us to be both 'sowers' of the word and 'harvesters' to eternal life.

But what are we going to do with this life, this life of faith with all its infinite possibilities? (Read John 4:25-42 NLT)

- ***Wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest!***

Through this gospel of John, Jesus is calling us, speaking to us that we are to become sowers and harvesters. Can we do that for those he is calling each one of us to be alongside? The imperative to usher in anew the refreshing reign of God is as important now as it ever was.

St Francis said preach the gospel everywhere - use words if you have to! You might be the only Bible someone else gets to read!

Because St John wrote what he did so that we would continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him we, and those yet to come to faith, will have life by the power of his name.

For further study in John, the following websites are useful:

Doctrine .org: [http://doctrine.org/?page\\_id=2583](http://doctrine.org/?page_id=2583)

Theology Network: <http://www.theologynetwork.org/christian-beliefs/the-bible/getting-stuck-in/johns-gospel--good-news-for-today.htm>



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