



# John's Gospel



## Reading the Bible Together

MAY 2015

### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### John : What can we expect?

John was one of the 'inner circle' of Jesus' disciples and a leading apostle in the early church. In 20:30-31 John tells us that his overarching purpose in writing his Gospel is to demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The Gospel begins with a prologue (1:1-18) that explores the profound mystery of the incarnation – the eternal Word becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us. John then presents seven 'signs' as evidence that Jesus is the Messiah and he includes seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus.

Absent from John's account of the life and ministry of Jesus is a birth narrative, or accounts of the transfiguration, the Lord's Supper and Gethsemane. But unique to John Gospel's are the accounts of Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus (John 3), the Samaritan woman (John 4), the raising of Lazarus (John 11), Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (John 13), and the restoration of Peter (John 21). John also includes an extended discourse by Jesus in the Upper Room and his subsequent prayer (John 14-17).

In John's Gospel we find the most well-known gospel verse (3:16) and the concept of conversion as 'new birth'. Also, John presents faith in Jesus in terms of a number of strong contrasts e.g. light/darkness, life/death, love/hate, disease/health.

### Outline of the book

Prologue (1:1-18)

The signs of the Messiah (1:19 - 12:50)

The Farewell Discourse and Prayer (13:1 – 17:26)

Passion and Resurrection (18:1 – 20:31)

Epilogue (21:1-25)

John has 21 chapters, so the book can be completed within a month by reading a chapter a day or 5 chapters a week.

**In-Sync for June : Hebrews**