

Name _____

Encountering Jesus in the New Testament

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 8 *The Gospel of John: Jesus the Word of God*

Date _____

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

Introduction No Greater Love (pp. 384 – 389)

1. Write this famous verse from John 3:16.

2. Explain the special literary feature in the Gospel of John.

3. _____ Gospel is in three major parts. The first is the short but important _____. The second is called the _____ which includes Jesus' public ministry in addition to seven _____, or miracles, and seven _____ which reveal who Jesus is. The third part is the _____ which begins with the Last Supper through his Resurrection, including theological _____ by Jesus.

4. Briefly note four key themes in the Gospel of John.

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5. True or False? While the synoptic Gospels emphasize love as an expression of the Law and prophets, John's Gospel teaches that the very definition of love is to lay down one's life for another person.

Section 1 Background on John's Gospel (pp. 390 – 395)

6. John's audience was _____. His Gospel was written for _____ Christians who had fled to _____ after they were expelled from synagogues after the First _____. Additionally, it included _____ Christians and Samaritan _____. John tells us he has written the Gospel so that his community would believe Jesus is the Messiah and _____, and that they might have life in his _____.

7. Explain what it means to say that John is very interested in theology.

8. True or False? It is widely accepted that the Gospel of Luke was composed between AD 90 and 100.
9. Church _____ identifies John as one of the _____. Indeed, in AD 180 _____ attributed the fourth Gospel to John, the “_____ whom Jesus loved.” It also holds that John wrote his _____ toward the end of his life at _____. Scholars today, however, believe that it may have been written by a _____ of the Apostle John, who was an _____ of the Church and who was also named John.
10. The evangelist asserts that his Gospel rests on the testimony of _____. He may have used _____ written and oral traditions along with the Gospel of _____, and likely knew about certain traditions that appear in the Gospel of _____. However, his primary sources were a collection of _____ miracles as well as a _____ version of the Passion and Resurrection _____.
11. Briefly note five other differences between the synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John.
12. True or False? John’s Gospel presents a more solemn and holy Jesus, is very poetic, and uses irony, metaphors, and figurative language to clarify misunderstandings.

Section 2 The Word of God (pp. 396 – 400)

13. True or False? The prologue to the Gospel of John was very likely taken from an unknown epistle of St. Paul that the author put into his introduction.
14. Explain the difference between a “Christology from above” and a “Christology from below.”
15. True or False? The synoptic Gospels stress the divinity of Jesus while the Gospel of John stresses the humanity of Jesus.
16. The opening words of the Gospel of John – “_____” – echo the opening words of _____. By using the expression “_____ [Logos in Greek] of God” to refer to Jesus, John appeals to _____ Christians who recognized the reference to creation, the Law, and the prophets. He appeals to a _____ understanding of Greek philosophy which associated the _____ with the spiritual principle that held the _____ together.
17. What does the word *Logos* mean?
18. List the four major conflicts introduced in John’s prologue.
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19. The third _____ provides information about the _____ of the “Word-of-God-made-flesh.” _____ declares himself unworthy to even untie his _____ strap and identifies Jesus as the “_____, who takes away the sin of the world.” Two of Jesus’ disciples address him as _____ and Andrew proclaims, “We have found the _____.” Nathanael proclaims Jesus as the Son of God and _____.

Section 3 The Book of Signs (pp. 402 – 411)

20. The Book of _____ is organized around _____ miracles he performs in the Gospel of John. In each case, _____ plays an important role in _____ the signs. The miracles reveal Jesus’ _____ and the purpose of his Incarnation, his _____ glory, and his relationship to the Father. A long _____ follows each sign to explain the significance of what happened.

21. The miracle at _____ is the first time Jesus reveals his _____ publicly and leads his disciples to _____ in him. The miracle shows _____ as a model of perfect faith and _____. As she intercedes with her Son on behalf of the hosts of the _____, so she will intercede for us when we make a _____ of her.

22. Explain what the changing of the water into wine reveals on a theological level.

23. True or False? The healing of the royal official’s son teaches the power of intercessory prayer and shows that faith in Jesus rescues a person from spiritual death.

24. True or False? In the third sign, the calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus clearly claims equality with God and shows that in order to gain eternal life one a person must believe in Jesus.

25. It’s appropriate that the next _____ miracles occur very close to the _____ feast. They parallel the _____ miracles: manna in the desert and the _____ of the Red Sea. After Jesus _____ the hungry crowd, he delivers his long _____ discourse, explaining that he has replaced the _____ of the Exodus. Jesus’ use of the words “_____. Do not be afraid” echoes the name God revealed to _____.

26. The context of Jesus’ _____ sign are his shocking words to the _____ in which he teaches about his divine _____ and identity. The cure of the man born _____ becomes a lesson in _____. Ironically the blind man can see what the Pharisees cannot, due to their _____ blindness. They refuse to acknowledge who Jesus is and instead call him a _____.

27. The _____ sign in the Gospel of Matthew is a _____ of Jesus’ own Death and Resurrection, the raising of _____. Before he _____ the dead man, Jesus reassures the grieving _____, Martha, that her brother will rise. Jesus stresses how _____ allows the believer to share in the _____, calling himself “the _____ and the life.

28. What profound truth, does Caiaphas, the high priest, utter about the move to eliminate Jesus? Why is his statement ironic?

29. What theological themes are summed up in the seventh sign?

30. True or False? In the Gospel of John Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane that his cup of suffering might pass him if it be the Father's will, however, in Mark he accepts his imminent Death.

Section 4 The Book of Glory (pp. 412 – 421)

31. In the Gospel of John Jesus celebrates the _____ on the day on which Jews annually killed the _____ for the Passover meal. This sacrifice recalled _____ release of the Israelites from _____ in Egypt. Now, Jesus is the _____ whose sacrifice on the Cross has _____ all people from the slavery of _____. Indeed, every Eucharist _____ Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

32. Explain Jesus' message to his Apostles in his final discourse.

33. True or False? The reason why there are some differences in the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection is because eyewitnesses do not all experience an event in the same way.

34. Summarize the essential points the Gospel accounts agree on regarding Jesus' Resurrection.

35. True or False? In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes that Jesus made numerous post-Resurrection appearances including one occasion when he appeared to over five hundred people at once, and further notes that some of the eyewitnesses were still alive to verify it.

36. True or False? After his Resurrection, Jesus recites a priestly prayer in which he intercedes for all people and prays for oneness in community with the Blessed Trinity.

37. Explain what each of the four Gospel writers emphasize in their respective Resurrection accounts.

38. John reports that Jesus first appeared to _____, though she did not _____ him at first. This story illustrates that it is a personal _____ with Jesus, not an empty tomb, that brings about _____. The Apostles first reaction was _____ of Mary's report. Not until Jesus appeared to them that _____ did the disciples know for themselves that the Lord was indeed _____.

39. What is significant about Thomas' reaction when he sees the risen Lord for himself? What is Jesus' reply?

40. In the _____ and final chapter of the Gospel of John, an addition to the original _____, Jesus appears to his Apostles in _____. There he helps the disciples catch _____ which points to their future role as _____ of people. Also, suggests a deeper level of his _____ with them at Eucharistic celebrations by preparing _____ for them

41. True or False? In his appearance to his disciples at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus recommissions Paul who had three times denied knowing Jesus.

42. Summarize the essential beliefs about the Resurrection of Jesus.

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