



INTRO TO JOHN: THE BOOK OF SIGNS

BIG IDEA: All signs point to Jesus as being God's Son, our Messiah who will fulfill God's plan.

DATE: Sunday, January 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 20:30-31; 21:24-25

OPENING QUESTION

What do you think of when you hear the word "signs"? *What are some signs that God gave to people in the Bible? Have you ever asked God for a sign? What happened?*

From now until Easter our LifeGroup will be studying the Gospel of John. We're going to walk with Jesus from His birth in Bethlehem to His resurrection in Jerusalem. We'll see how He called His disciples, taught His followers, and most of all, gave us signs to follow. Each of His miracles and teachings point us to something important about who Jesus is and why He came.

SETTING THE STAGE

John is the fourth Gospel telling the story of Jesus's time on Earth. It was probably the last one written. Most scholars believe it was written around 80 A.D. in the city of Ephesus. John was one of Jesus's first disciples. Along with his brother James, they were given the nickname "The Sons of Thunder" by Jesus. The brothers were part of Jesus's inner circle along with Peter. Throughout the Gospel of John, he refers to himself as "the disciple who Jesus loved." He had a close, personal relationship with Jesus during his time on Earth. John was the only one of the 12 disciples to die a natural death of old age. He wrote the books of John, 1, 2, 3 John, and Revelation. John focuses on the signposts of the Savior – showing that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and the Messiah who has come to fulfill God's plan.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 20:30-31 (NIV)

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

JOHN 21:24-25 (NIV)

"This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

DISCUSSION

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIGNS

READ: John 20:30-31 and 21:24-25

- According to John, what is the purpose of the signs that he wrote down about Jesus?
- How do signs help us believe?
- What's the difference between believing in the signs and believing in Jesus?

SEEKING A SIGN OR SEEKING A SAVIOR

Group #1—Asking for a sign shows a lack of faith.

Read Matthew 12:38-41

- Why did the people seek a sign from Jesus?
- Why did Jesus call them evil and adulterous?
- How is asking for a sign from a God show a lack of faith?

Group #2—Asking for a sign is evidence of faith.

Read Judges 6:11-18

- Why did Gideon ask for a sign?
- Did God seem angry about Gideon's request?
- How can asking God for a sign be evidence of faith?

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus gives signs—both to those who ask and those who don't. He uses these signs as a way to reveal that He is God's Son and the long-awaited Messiah. At the same time, he condemns those who are only seeking after signs instead of seeking Him.

RESPONSE

Ask God to develop a faith in you that seeks Him, not just for the signs or what He can do for you, but for who He is and what He has already done. Ask Him to open your eyes to see the signs He has already placed around you to lead and guide you.

100 DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE: READING PLAN

WEEK 1: 1/04-Genesis 1; 1/05-Genesis 2; 1/06-Genesis 3; 1/07-Genesis 4; 1/08-Genesis 5; 1/09-Romans 5; 1/10-Romans 6

Excerpted from The Storyteller series by LifeWay "John: Signs of the Messiah" and the article "Signs in John's Gospel" by Robert E. Jones from Lifeway's Bible Studies for Life Series on John.