

 rsvp INLIGHT BIBLE STUDIES

THE LIFE
WE LONG
FOR MEETING JESUS IN THE
GOSPEL OF JOHN



NEXT CENTURY
PUBLISHING

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Beloved

Lives Are Transformed by God's Love in Christ

Setting the Stage – Legacy

I wonder if everyone comes to a place of reflection, that place where you look back at your life and consider what you have that is worth passing on.

What you have earned.

What you have learned.

What you have experienced.

How about you?

What foundational truth or formative lesson has given meaning to your life?

What do you feel is important for you to pass on to others?

How do you envision your legacy?

John, a follower of Jesus who wrote several books of the Bible, communicated his legacy clearly and fervently. And unlike many of his companions, John, who referred to himself as the disciple Jesus loved, survived to a ripe old age. He had seen much, suffered much and learned much. In his senior years he eagerly devoted himself to communicating Jesus' message in the city of Ephesus, not retiring in a cottage by the Sea of Galilee, as he might once have supposed he would do.

Concerned for the welfare of the new Christ followers in the churches of Asia, John was moved by God to put to papyrus what he

The Life We Long For

had experienced and learned in his life with Jesus. He wanted to be sure that the message he had shared from Galilee to Jerusalem to Ephesus was clear to all.

And so he wrote his Gospel, his legacy to the world, which is captured in one verse.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

To be loved.

Beloved.

Can you imagine what inspired John to communicate his message so passionately?

Let's find out together and meet this man to discover what shaped his life and thoughts.

Our Questions to Discuss

There are four books in the New Testament that tell about the life of Jesus. They are called the Gospels and they were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four men were devoted Christ followers who were prompted by God's Spirit to record the story of Jesus. John wrote the book of John, but we can also find him in the other Gospels, so we're going to start there.

Lesson 1 - Beloved

First Encounter

Read Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁷Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ¹⁸And they left their nets at once and followed him. ¹⁹A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. ²⁰He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.

- How did John respond when Jesus called to him and his brother?

- What did his response cost him?

Disciple

Jesus chose twelve men to be his followers, or disciples. They went with him, learned from him and helped him with his ministry of preaching and healing. Among the twelve were John and his older brother, James. Jesus gave them the nickname *Sons of Thunder*.

Read Luke 9:51-56

⁵¹As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. ⁵³But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶So they went on to another village.