



Baptism and Discipleship

Lesson Overview

1. Read

What was Jesus' mission?

2. Watch a Video

Watch *John Chapter 1* at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from 4min 32sec to 12min 50sec (8min 22sec).

3. Discuss

Discuss John the Baptist, and Discipleship. p. 2.

New Church Concept God Comes to Us

The Lord is present with every person, urging and pressing him to receive Him. When a person receives Him, which happens when he acknowledges Him as his God, the Creator, Redeemer and Savior, this is His first coming. From this time the person begins to have his understanding enlightened as regards spiritual matters, and to advance to more inward wisdom. As he receives this wisdom from the Lord, so he advances through morning into day; and he continues in this daylight up to old age and until he dies. After death he comes into heaven to the Lord Himself, and there he is brought back to the morning of his life, and continues for ever to develop the wisdom which was implanted in him in the natural world. See *True Christian Religion* 766

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FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 6 | Gospel of John

What Was Jesus' Mission?

Jesus knew he had been sent by God. The Word says this repeatedly and in a variety of ways. As a twelve-year-old Jesus's parents lost Him while traveling home from Jerusalem, and became anxious. When they finally found Him and questioned him about staying behind in the temple, He replied, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49)

The Old Testament prophesied of a Messiah who would come. When Jesus was given the Word in a synagogue in Nazareth, He chose to read this prophecy: "The Lord has anointed me to preach the gospel...to heal the brokenhearted...to set at liberty those who are oppressed...." (Luke 4:18) The prophecy is about His coming, and the mission He would fulfill.

By the time Jesus came to earth some 400 years after the Old Testament was written, many Jews had hopes for what the promised Messiah would do for Israel. They wanted a Messiah who would restore Israel to its former glory—to the rich and powerful status it enjoyed during Solomon's reign. They believed the Messiah would start a new age; that other nations would be gathered in by Israel and become God's people as well.

1. What is a "messiah"? (anointed one; expected deliverer)
2. What predictions does the Old Testament make about a Messiah? (See Luke 4:18-19)
3. What did Jesus believe He was sent to do?
4. What did Jews hope Jesus would do?
5. Given that the Jews had specific hopes for what Jesus would do, would it have been easy or difficult for them to recognize Jesus as the Messiah?
6. What kind of healing does the world need today? Are our concerns similar to the concerns of the ancient Jews? What kind of "messiah" might people want today?

Watch a Video

Watch a video of John 1:19-51, *The Life of Jesus. Official Full HD Movie . English*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) (*Start video at 4min 32sec and watch until 12min 50sec; 8min 22sec.*)

Discuss

Have copies of the Word available for students to use during the discussion.

Choose a few questions for discussion.

1. John the Baptist appeared out of the desert like a wild man. He ate locusts and wild honey. His clothing, made from rough camel hair, was fastened with a leather belt. He preached a simple message: the Kingdom of God was coming and the end was near. What impact did meeting John have on people?
2. What was John the Baptist's mission? (See John 1:7)
3. What in our lives is like John the Baptist?
4. What purpose does baptism serve today?
5. Why was it important for John to prepare the way for Jesus? How would Jesus' ministry have been different if John had not been there?
6. Why are witnesses important? Why was John's witness of Jesus essential?
7. What question did Jesus ask John's followers? (John 1:38) In what ways does the Lord ask us this question?
8. "Disciple" and "apostle" are two words used to describe Jesus' closest followers. What do they mean? (Disciple = pupil, follower, or student; apostle = one who is sent out)
9. In what sense does the Lord want us to be His followers or students?
10. How is being an "apostle" or sharing the Lord's message with others an important aspect of following the Lord?
11. How does the Lord call us to become His disciples today?
12. What was Jesus promising Philip when He said Philip would "...see greater things than these?"
13. Who else in the Word saw "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending...?" (See Genesis 28:12.) How is heaven be opened to us?
14. At the end of John Chapter 1 Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man" for the first time. What does this mean to you?

Son of God | Son of Man

Truth Divine in the Lord is what is called the "Son of man," but Good Divine is what is called the "Son of God." Of the "Son of man" the Lord says many times that He was to suffer, but never of the Son of God. *Arcana Coelestia* 2813

That the Lord is called "the Son of man" when Redemption, Salvation, Reformation, and Regeneration are treated of, is evident from these passages:

The Son of man came to give His life a redemption for many (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:5).

The Son of man is come to save, and not to destroy (Matthew 18:11; Luke 9:56).

The Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).

The Son of man is come that the world through Him may be saved (John 3:17).

He that sows the good seed is the Son of man (Matthew 13:37). *Doctrine of the Lord* 27

New Church Concept Seeing the Lord

External people do not know what good is and what truth is, for they imagine that everything which comprises self-love and love of the world is good, and that everything that panders to those loves is truth. Thus they do not know that the things which they imagine to be good are in fact evil, and that those which they imagine to be true are in fact false. But when a person is conceived anew, first he starts to recognize that the good in him is not really good, and then, when he enters more into light, to recognize the existence of the Lord and that the Lord is good and truth themselves. The Lord Himself says in John that men ought to know He exists, "Unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24)

The point that the Lord is good itself, which is life, and truth itself, which is light, together with the consequent point that no good or truth exist except from the Lord, is made once more in John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness. He was the true light that enlightens every man coming into the world." John 1:1, 3-5, 9. *Arcana Coelestia* 20

Disciples in the Gospel of John*

Unlike other Gospels, the Gospel of John does not offer a simple list of twelve disciples, though it does mention that there are twelve (John 6:67,71; 20:24). In fact not all twelve disciples are named in John. Instead many are listed as becoming disciples who are not among the twelve. Choose a few disciples from the list below. Look up the references in John to out why they are significant, and what they did.

*Based on an activity developed by Rev. Chris Barber.

Name (First mention)	What did this disciple do? Why is he or she significant?
John the Baptist (1:6-9)	(1:6-9, 15, 19-36; 3:22-36)
Andrew (1:35-40)	(1:35-40; 6:8; 12:20-26)
Philip (1:43-44)	(1:43-46; 6:5-7; 12: 21-22; 14:8-9)
Mary of Bethany (11:1-45)	(11:1-45; 12:1-8)
Martha of Bethany (11:1-45)	(11:1-45; 12:1-3)
Simon Peter (1:41-42)	(1:40-44; 6:68; 13:6-9; 18:10; 15-27; 21:15-19)
Nathanael (1:45-51)	(1:45-51; 21:1-13)
Nicodemus (3:1-21)	(3:1-21; 7:45-52; 19:38-42)
Lazarus of Bethany (11:1-45)	(11:1-45; 12:1-2, 9, 10, 17)
Mary Magdalene (19:25)	(19:25; 20:1, 11, 18)
Judas Iscariot (6:70-71)	(6:71; 12:4; 13: 2, 26)