



WHET THE APPETITE

Do you want to experience life in all its fullness?

Do you want to know what real life is all about?

Where can you go to find it?

John's answer is clear: Jesus!



John spent three years hanging out with Jesus. The reason John gave for recording so many stories about Him is that *'...you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'* (John 20:31)



John knows that the only way anyone can truly experience *'life to the full'* is by encountering the One who is *'the way and the truth and the life'*; the One who can bring people like us into thriving relationship with God. (John 14:6).



In this UFG to John's gospel, you'll be sure to hear God's Word to you and your college!

CONTENTS

1

DOES GOD EXIST?

2

WHY DID JESUS COME
INTO THE WORLD?

3

IS GOOD, GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD?

4

IS BAD, TOO BAD FOR GOD?

5

AM I REALLY FREE?

6

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

7

THE GOD WHO SERVES

8

THE GOD WHO CHOSE TO DIE

9

HOW TO CONVINCE A SCEPTIC

10

HOW GOD'S GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING

DOES GOD EXIST?

Session 1: John 1:1-18

KEY VERSE

'No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.'

John 1:18

WAY IN

If your friends said to you: "Prove to me that God exists!" what would you say?

PRAY

READ

John 1:1-18

QUESTIONS

- 1 What does John say is the ultimate proof for God's existence? (1:14 & 18)
- 2 What amazing things do we learn about Jesus? Chat about them.
- 3 In light of what you have just discovered:
 - A What's so surprising about John 1:9-10?
 - B How do the responses people made to Jesus compare with people's responses today? (1:9-13).
- 4 Why did Jesus become a man according to:
 - A 1:12-13?
 - B 1:14 (Glossary may help)?
 - C 1:17 (Glossary may help)?
 - D 1:18?

REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 Think back to the "Way In". Would your answer be any different now? What would you say?
- 2 Pick out a couple of the following. How could you use John 1:1-18 to give a one sentence answer to the following objections/questions about Christianity?
 - There are so many ideas, opinions and beliefs around I never know who or what to trust.
 - God isn't interested in me.
 - If God wants people to believe in Him, why doesn't He just show Himself?

PRAY

Use the different descriptions about Jesus to praise Him right now.

GLOSSARY

'the Word' (1:1) – Jesus is God the Father's message to us!

John 1:1-2 – can be confusing unless we realise that God is: Father, Son & Spirit (Three Persons) who are united (One) in love. If you have time, watch this: <http://vimeo.com/48734715>

'glory' (1:14) – weight i.e. who someone really is.

'For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.' (1:17) – This is the NASB translation of the Bible which helps us to see that Jesus is the fulfilment of everything Moses (Genesis-Deuteronomy) points to.

New Testament

WHY DID JESUS COME INTO THE WORLD?

Session 2: John 2:1-11



KEY VERSE

'What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.'

John 2:11



WAY IN

Imagine you were in Jesus' shoes (er, sandals). If you wanted to show the world that you were God's Son, what would your first miracle be and why?



PRAY



READ

John 2:1-11



QUESTIONS

- 1 Read 2:11. Why did John record that Jesus turned water into wine? Read 20:31.
- 2 What 'time' did Jesus mean when He said: 'My time has not yet come'? Check out: John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23-26; 13:1. So when can people drink the wine (joy) only Jesus provides?
- 3 Jesus produces a ridiculous amount of wine (120-150 gallons!). What does this reveal to us about what He is like? No Jesus is not encouraging people to get drunk! (Eph 5:17-18)
- 4 Why is consuming food and drink (wine Jn 2, water, Jn 4, bread Jn 6) a great image of how we can know and enjoy Jesus?

- 5 The Bridegroom should have provided enough wine for his wedding. Who gets the credit for saving the best wine until last? How is this a picture of salvation in Jesus?



REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 One TV presenter famously said that the Church has produced "...an even greater miracle: the Church has managed to turn wine back into water!"
 - A Do you think he's right? Why or why not?
 - B What impression do you think others have of you as Christians in your college? Do they see the joy of Jesus in your lives?



PRAY

Pray for the joy of Jesus to overflow into your hearts and out to others. Pray that your friends and family would come to taste and see that Jesus is the true Joy-Giver.



GLOSSARY

'sign' (2:11)– John provides seven signs of Jesus in the first 12 chapters of his gospel to show us who Jesus really is and why He came into the world.

'glory' (2:11) – weight: what someone's made of i.e. who someone really is.

New Testament

IS GOOD, GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD?

Session 3: John 3:1-21



KEY VERSE

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

John 3:16



WAY IN

How many people do you know think "I am a good person"? What kind of things do they say to try and prove that they are ok?



PRAY



READ

John 3:1-21



QUESTIONS

1 What do we learn about the kind of person Nicodemus was? Why approach Jesus 'at night'? Discuss what these things mean.

2 Being a Pharisee, Nicodemus would have thought that he was good enough for God. Why does Jesus all of a sudden say what He does in 3:3?

3 What does being 'born again' mean (3:3-8)? If you have time, the following may help: Ezekiel 36:25-27; Ezekiel 37:5-10; John 1:12-13.

4 Jesus wants Nicodemus to know that He's more than a teacher; He's the Saviour (3:14). Read Numbers 21:4-9 (where the 'snake' reference comes from) and fill in the chart:

	Numbers 21:4-9	John 3:16-21
The Sin?		
The Judgement?		
The Remedy?		
What People have to do?		

5 Where was Nicodemus really at with God (3:19-21)?



REFLECTION & ACTION

1 Why do you think good, nice people (like Nicodemus) think that they don't need saving? How can we help them to see that they do need the Saviour, Jesus?



PRAY

John 3:16 is the classic Bible verse! Read it, praise God for the truth of it, and pray for opportunities to share it!



GLOSSARY

'Pharisee' (3:1) – Pharisees were on the ruling council, they were the Bible scholars of their day and would have been very intelligent, moral and wealthy.

'lifted up' (3:14) – Jesus' death on a cross. Nicodemus would see Jesus 'lifted up' on the cross and would later come to trust in Him (see John 19:38-42).

'because their deeds were evil' (3:19) – this doesn't mean that everything people do is evil. Rather, it means that sin infects and muddies everything we do so that even the good things we do are done from a heart that is sinful.

New Testament

IS BAD, TOO BAD FOR GOD?

Session 4: John 4:4-30 & 39-42



KEY VERSE

'Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

John 4:10



WAY IN

Everyone is thirsty for real life. Chat about the big things your mates think will give them the life they crave. What is so appealing about those things?



PRAY



READ

John 4:4-30 & 39-45



QUESTIONS

- 1 Think back to the Nicodemus study. In what ways is this woman completely different to Nicodemus?
- 2 What is so heart-warming about the way Jesus treats this woman in 4:9-10?
- 3 What did this woman think would quench her thirst (4:17-18)?
- 4
 - A Why does Jesus talk about 'living' water and a 'spring' of water? Read 4:10.13-14.
 - B What is this water exactly? (see John 6:35 and 7:37-39)

5

- A What kind of person does God the Father want to give living water to? (4:23-24)
- B How can we worship truly? (4:25-26)

6

- In John 4:29, the Samaritan woman wonders if Jesus can be the Messiah.
- A What does she do with what she's heard from Jesus?
 - B What impact does it have (4:39)?
 - C How does this encourage you?



REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 Jesus shared the good news with both those who are at the top of society (like Nicodemus) and those who were at the bottom of society (like the Samaritan woman). What does this mean for how you view and interact with the people in your college?



PRAY

Testimonies are a great way of introducing people to Jesus. Read 4:42. Think and pray about any ways you could provide an opportunity for your friends to hear about Jesus in college. Festive's "10 Tried and Tested Outreach Ideas" can be a great help here!



GLOSSARY

'Samaritan' (4:4,7,9) – Samaritans were people who descended from the Jews and inter-married with other nations. The Jews really did not like them as they viewed Samaritans as half-breeds.

'eternal life' (4:14) – is knowing God the Father and Jesus the Son (John 17:3).

New Testament

AM I REALLY FREE?

Session 5: John 8:31-36



KEY VERSE

'So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'

John 8:36



WAY IN

What does it mean to be free?



PRAY



READ

John 8:31-36



QUESTIONS

- 1 The Jewish people said that they had '... never been slaves of anyone'.
 - A Was this true? Why or why not (think about the Old Testament and Jesus' day)?
 - B What does this tell us about the way we like to see ourselves?
- 2 How does Jesus explain to them that they are not free? What does he mean? (8:34)
- 3 The Jews thought they were ok/free because of their background (8:33 – see Glossary 'Abraham's descendants'). What do people look to in their backgrounds to say, "I'm ok, because..."?

4 What reasons does Jesus give as to why he alone can set us free? (8:34-35 & 8:28)

5 How does Jesus explain what true freedom looks like? Why is this so good? (8:32, 35-36)



REFLECTION & ACTION

1 How would Jesus respond to the statement: "Christianity enslaves you, but I'm different, I'm free"? (8:34)



PRAY

If you've been set free by Jesus, you are no longer a slave to sin (that is, you no longer have to give in to following the sinful desires of your heart). Thank God we are free in Christ. Ask for His Spirit's help to live as Sons and not as Slaves. Nb Rom 8 explains more.



GLOSSARY

'**truth**' (8:32) – Jesus' teachings reveal that He is the Truth (John 14:6).

'**Abraham's descendants**' (8:33) –The Jews thought that because they descended from Abraham a man who trusted God (Rom 4:3) they automatically were right with God.

'**son**' (8:35) – sons in the Ancient Near East were the heirs, which is why all Christians (both male and female) are often called sons. This is not sexist...the Bible also calls all Christians (both male and female) 'the Bride of Christ' (Rev 19:7)!

New Testament

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

Session 6: John 10:1-21



KEY VERSE

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

John 10:10



WAY IN

Why does the Bible so often describe human beings as sheep?



PRAY



READ

Mark 13:20 - 37

Jesus has just healed a blind man. The Pharisees, wanted to rob the blind man of his joy in Jesus. Jesus wants the Pharisees and the crowds to see the difference between the Bad Shepherds/hired hands who take and the Good Shepherd who gives.



QUESTIONS

- 1 Who were the Bad Shepherds and what were/are they like? Read 10:8 & Isaiah 56:9-12.
- 2 What happens to the Bad Shepherds/hired hands when the wolves come (10:12-13)? Why do they do that?
- 3 What makes Jesus THE Good Shepherd? Discuss what the following verses mean:
 - A 10:3-4.
 - B 10:7-10.
 - C 10:11,14-15.

4 What is unique about Jesus' power as the Good Shepherd? (10:17-18)

5 Look at the reactions to Jesus in 10:19-21. What is going on here?



REFLECTION & ACTION

1 How does 10:16 give you passion and confidence as you share the gospel in college?



PRAY

Praise Jesus that He knows each of you by name. He knows all about you. He's come to give you life to the full. He died and rose again for you. Ask that His great love for you will lead you to lovingly obey Him.



GLOSSARY

'He calls his own sheep by name' (10:3) – Shepherds in the middle-east would often share pens for their sheep in their villages overnight. In the morning, each shepherd collected their sheep by giving a group call that only their flock would recognise. As THE Good Shepherd, Jesus goes further and says I know each of you personally.

'I am the gate for the sheep' (10:7) – Out in the open fields, shepherds would keep their sheep in a pen overnight. The pen would be in the shape of a 'U' made of a stone wall (with twigs and brambles lining the top of the wall). At the opening of the pen the Shepherd would lay down and He would be the Gate. No sheep could get out and no wolves could get in.

New Testament

THE GOD WHO SERVES

Session 7: John 13:1-17



KEY VERSE

'Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.'

John 13:3



WAY IN

If you had unlimited power and could do whatever you wanted, what would you do?



PRAY



READ

John 13:1-17



QUESTIONS

- 1 What did Jesus know according to 13:1-3? Talk about what was going on?
- 2 Dirty feet (covered in cursed dust [Gen 3:17]) were a daily reminder: we all walk in sin.
 - A How did Jesus show His disciples the full extent of His love? (13:4-5)
 - B What did his actions mean (it was coming up to the Passover feast)?
- 3 Jesus speaks of two different ways we must allow him to wash us: a one-off full bath; then an ongoing washing of our feet (13:10). What do these symbols mean?

- 4 How gracious Jesus is! Think about what Jesus knew Judas was going to do (13:2) and Jesus' response (13:5). Was Judas forgiven – why or why not? (13:11)
- 5 How should inviting Jesus to wash you, impact the lives of others (13:12b-17)?



REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 How does knowing that Jesus is the Servant King help you deal with:
 - A The thought that: "I'll only be happy when other people do what I want"? (see 13:17)
 - B How you treat those who mistreat you?
 - C How you can demonstrate His serving love in your college?



PRAY

Do you feel out of touch with Jesus' loving presence and empowering? Then ask Jesus to personally wash your feet, to clean you up, so that you can feast with him and serve others for their sake.



GLOSSARY

'Passover Festival' (13:1) – Passover celebrated how anyone who took shelter in a home sprinkled with the blood of an innocent lamb, was passed over when it came to judgement during the time of the Exodus. John wants us to link the meaning of Passover with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Check out Exodus 12:3, 7-12 for a quick recap of the 1st Passover.

New Testament

THE GOD WHO CHOSE TO DIE

Session 8: John 19:10-37



KEY VERSE

‘When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.’

John 19:30



WAY IN

What would you say to friends who asked you: “Why did Jesus die?”



PRAY



READ

John 19:10-37



QUESTIONS

- 1 Some people say that Jesus didn't really die. What reasons does John give to show that Jesus did in fact die? (See 19:31-37)
- 2 Despite being falsely tried and executed, what impresses you about Jesus from the following verses: 19:10-11a, 24,28-30,36-37?
- 3 Why is it so significant that Jesus was tried and crucified at Passover (19:14)? See Glossary and read John 1:29.
- 4 Jesus is the source of living water (i.e. the life of God the Father overflows through Jesus to all who will receive Him). Yet He says: “I am thirsty” (19:28). What huge thing is happening on the cross, for the first time in eternity?

- 5 Jesus' last words were: “It is finished” (19:30). What was finished?



REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies, especially during His death on the cross.
 - A What other prophecies can you think of that Jesus fulfilled?
 - B How does this fill you with trust in Jesus and the Bible?
- 2 Think about all that was happening to Jesus at His trial and crucifixion. Why is 19:25-27 so striking in revealing what Jesus is really like?



PRAY

Praise God that He promised He would send Jesus to die for you. Thank Jesus that He endured the cross for the joy of bringing you home to His Father, so that you would thirst no more.



GLOSSARY

‘Passover Week’ (19:14) – Passover celebrated how anyone who took shelter in homes sprinkled with the blood of an innocent lamb, was passed over when it came to judgement during the time of the Exodus. Check out Exodus 12:3, 7-12 for a quick recap of the 1st Passover.

‘It is finished’ (19:30) – means paid in full!

‘gave up his spirit’ (19:30) – Jesus is the only person (after Adam and Eve) who chose whether to die (every single human will die at some point).

New Testament

HOW TO CONVINCe A SCEPTIC

Session 9: John 20:24-31

“ KEY VERSE

‘But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.’

John 20:31

WAY IN

What kind of things cause people to doubt whether they should trust Jesus?

PRAY

READ

John 20:24-31

? QUESTIONS

- 1 What does Thomas want to receive if he's to believe that Jesus is alive again?
- 2 Jesus could have slammed Thomas for not believing that he would rise from the dead. Instead, how does Jesus respond to Thomas?

3 What does the resurrection prove to Thomas about who Jesus really is and what this means for him? (see 20:26-29)

4 Christians today ‘...are those who have not seen and yet have believed’ (20:30). Why is this resurrection appearance of Jesus to the sceptic Thomas recorded for us who weren't around then?

! REFLECTION & ACTION

- 1 People often say that Christianity is blind faith; a leap in the dark. What would you say to them?
- 2 What kind of evidence would you point people to, to show that Jesus really did rise from the dead?

PRAY

Praise God that Jesus is risen! He has new life to give. Pray for friends and family members to trust in the risen Jesus and receive His new life.

New Testament

HOW GOD'S GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Session 10: John 21:1-25



KEY VERSE

'Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.'

John 21:12



WAY IN

What is the biggest 'epic fail' you know about? Share it with the group. (Epic Fail: Complete and total failure when success should have been reasonably easy to attain. Urban Dictionary)



PRAY



READ

John 21:1-14



QUESTIONS

- 1 Having seen Jesus' miracles and His incredible power over death, what strikes you about what he does for His disciples by the sea?
- 2 As Peter sees the fire and sees Jesus, what do you think He would be reminded of? Read John 18:15-18 and 25-27.
- 3 Why does Jesus ask Peter three times 'Do you love me?' How do Jesus' responses to Peter encourage you?

4 Although Peter is enjoying breakfast on the beach with Jesus (something we'll all enjoy when Jesus returns!) what does Jesus say will be the cost of following him? (21:18-19).



REFLECTION & ACTION

1 It's easy to get side-tracked by how God uses other people to share the gospel. What does Jesus say should be our focus? (21:20-23)



PRAY

There is clearly a huge cost to following Jesus. Sometimes it can cost Christians their physical lives. Print off some prayer points from barnabasfund.org and pray for Christians who are being persecuted around the world. Also, read 21:25. Jesus is greater than you ever thought. Praise our Father in heaven for His Son and how great it will be to spend eternity with the Jesus described in 21:25!



GLOSSARY

'...the disciple who Jesus loved...' (21:7) – is John's way of talking about himself.

'...do you truly love me more than these?' (21:15) – it's hard to know for sure what the 'these' are. The key thing is that Peter acknowledges that Jesus knows Peter loves him.

'...the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.' (21:19) – history records how Peter endured a violent death by crucifixion (Clement of Rome; Tertullian; Eusebius)

New Testament

USER FRIENDLY GUIDES TO THE BIBLE

WHAT ARE THEY?

UFGs are short Bible studies, designed for Christian Groups with not much time to meet. They are aimed at guiding you into a **deeper love for Jesus**. The format is simple: you **dig into the Bible** to hear what the **Holy Spirit** is saying and then you **think and pray** through the impact of His word into your lives.

HOW LONG DO THEY TAKE?

They can take anything from **15 minutes upwards**. Most of the questions are open questions, so that more discussion can take place. You can always ask extra questions such as: *“What do other people think?”* *“What makes you say that?”* *“Why do you think that’s so important?”*.

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE IN OUR GROUP, SHOULDN'T WE JUST FOCUS ON OUTREACH?

The whole point of the Bible is to **reveal Jesus**. The more you see of Jesus, the more you love Him and want to talk about Him and live for Him. So the best way to get **fuelled and fired up** for talking to people about Jesus, is to get to **know and love Him** through the Bible.

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED?

Aside from the study questions, everyone will need to be able to see the passage. Encourage everyone in the Group to bring their own Bible and have a couple spare for visitors. The Bible version used in this guide is NIV. Ideally someone in the group should read through the study beforehand and lead the time you spend together. If you want any help in preparing your study, please email: **info@festive.org.uk**