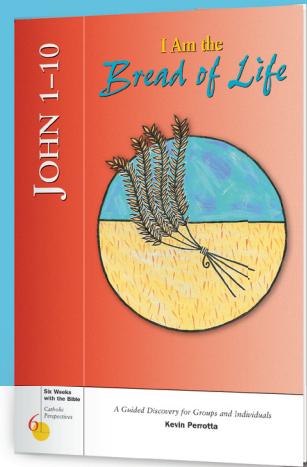


Welcome to **SIX WEEKS WITH THE BIBLE**

An Introduction to the Gospel of John



In this segment we'll explore the Gospel of John.

By about 90 A.D., the Jewish Christians were not only experiencing expulsion from the synagogue, but they were facing martyrdom for proclaiming the essential truth of the Christian faith: Jesus is God. Facing these circumstances, John's Gospel offers us a narrative that places Jesus' death on the cross not only as a declaration of his divine identity, but as the throne of his glory.

John begins with a wonderful prologue that tells us that Jesus is God before the creation of the universe, since he is the Word of God. More than that: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." Jesus is the beginning of everything, the Word that makes everything possible. Jesus is God's self communication.

John's Gospel has two parts: the Book of Signs (Chapters 2–12) and the Book of Glory (13–21). In this Gospel, we find stories that are not part of the Synoptic Gospels: The Wedding at Cana, The Woman at the Well, and, of course, The Washing of the Feet.

Peter, who understands the divine nature of Jesus, does not want Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus has to remind Peter that such humility is essential in those who wish to be disciples. Peter rises to the occasion, telling Jesus he can wash "not only my feet, but my head and hands as well."

John is clear when he has Jesus say the very name that God gave to Moses: "I AM." This is a deep affirmation of Jesus' divinity and the source of all his glory.

Thank you so much for allowing us to be part of your Bible-study experience. We hope you find the next six weeks enriching and fulfilling. If you have any questions, or would like additional information on the Gospel of John, feel free to e-mail us anytime at sixweeks@loyolapress.com. Our experts are available Monday–Friday to answer your questions.

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