

Explain the structure first!

# JOHN: BIOGRAPHICAL SERMON

10.17.10 Creekside 1 John 4:16 God's love will not leave us the same. 40 min

## FAMILY CHAT (10-MIN) E: 10min

- Thank you for your prayers this wk. I am feeling better. Not sure what it was. *→ many of you face sickness too. → Run to cross*
- About Q&A Series and finding answers in the future *Black pass-out story*

30-12-9-20 Why we are not continuing the series? It was not best (just good) for us now *my sickness*

- How you can get you questions answered in the future?
  - Use the body: me, elders etc. Don't pool ignorance, but live in community
  - Use the online resources: Our website, gotquestions.org, esvstudyonline.com
  - Use Bible tools: ESV study Bible, Concordances, Lexicons, Bible dictionaries

- About the balcony: 4 empty seats for every 1 prsn, we want you to be close, BUT...
- Andy Bruegger: We are raising \$ for special projects, but also need \$200 more a mo.
- Pic Feast: Next wkend; Chili cook off; Flies in the lobby

## PRAYER AND INTRO TO THE SERIES (10-MIN) E: 10min

- Why we are diving in to the book of John: (we'll be here for 30 weeks or more)
  - o Different from the other Gospels: Matt, Mark, Luke called 'Synoptic' gospels. This tells stories, but from a diff. angel to teach theology and funds of the faith.
  - o Gives the case for Christ as God: John had one main goal: Christ is God! Repeat
  - o Best for where we are at as a church in maturity: Story of CCC staff meeting: I want to ensure that Christ is at our core. If we are patience, this will change us!
  - o Will encourage us to be evangelizing: refer to how Stephen see Denver church: we must be ppl who are so devoted to Christ we can't help but speak about Him.
- Tools to go with the series:
  - o Intro to John: packet with stuff mostly from the ESV study that explains bkgrnd
  - o Family Discussion Guide: Men, we will have huddles to encourage you and help you in this. Not just for the men of the house. Goal: every family study 2gthr
  - o Small Group Guide: Small grps at CBC are messy, but this will help. New grps 2.

## MEET JOHN - Tell like a story: "Imagine if you could meet John..."

- The Son of Zebedee (Father) and Salome (Mother), James (Jacob) was his brother.
- John was among the Galileans that followed John the Baptist until they were called to follow Jesus on the onset of his public ministry (John 1:19-51) & mark 1:20
  - o Later became a fulltime follower of Christ according to Luke 5:1-11 (fishing stry)

### GOD'S LOVE WILL NEVER LEAVE US THE SAME.

- John was among one of the 12 men called to be an apostle of Christ (Luke 6:12-16)
- He was in the inner circle with Christ - Peter, James and John. *SNW Transfiguration*
- He Was present at the crucifixion of Christ (Mark 15:40-41)
- He wrote his gospel with anonymity by always and only referring to himself as the disciple "Whom Jesus Loved." (13:23; 20:2; 21:7; 20; cf. 19:26)
- The way he referred to the Palestinian geography and the Jewish customs makes it clear that he was a Palestinian Jew.
- After Christ ascended, John became one of the "pillars" of the church of Jerusalem along with James and Peter (Galatians 2:9)
- He was a close associate of Peter, mentioned 3 times in Acts - 3:1; 4:13; 8:14.
- Tradition says John eventually went to Ephesus before the destruction of Jerusalem
- He was eventually exile by the Romans to the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9)
- He was probably one of the last living eye witnesses to Christ.
  - o His attention to numbers (2:6; 6:13; 19; 21:8; 11) and names (1:45; 3:1; 11:1; 18:10) indicates that he was an eyewitness.
  - o He also claimed to be a witness to the events he described (1:14; 19:35; 21:24-25)

John was a man who understood what it meant to be loved by God and how it should propel us to love others. He knew:

1. We would not have the love of God if we didn't have Christ: Jn 17:23, "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." *Koinonia - Fellowship*
2. Christ was the ultimate picture of true love: John 3:16, 1 John 3:16, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." Have you ever tried to explain something, but couldn't so drew it?
3. Because we have been loved, we should express love: 1 John 4:11, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."
4. If we loved the world, then we did not love God: 1 John 2:15, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Re: John - leave the love of this world for Christ. What is that for you?
5. If we do not love, then we do not know God: 1 John 4:8, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." Rude ppl. Sad ppl. Hopeless ppl.

### Read 1 John 4:17-18 - We know & rely on God's love as we pass through this life

WE MAY "KNOW" THAT GOD LOVES US, BUT WE DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IT BECAUSE:

- Guilt over sin: We have a hard time loving ourselves, so don't know how God could
- We know our shortcomings: (even though he made me) how could he love that?
- We compare ourselves to others and see God's love in them more. Don't!
- We don't see our life as sustained and ordained by God's love: benefit not neccs.

IF WE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE GOD'S "BELOVED" (LIKE JOHN) WE WOULD:

- Be more grateful for the Gospel: Would realize that it is our lifeblood - what does that mean?
- Would obey his commandments, "Whoever has my cmdments and keeps them, he it is who loves me." John 4:21 & "This is my commandment... love one another"
- Would love others deeper: Because we knew how deeply we were loved by Christ
- Bring more people to the "Light" b/c they would want genuine love of Christ

FOR JOHN, GOD'S LOVE DOESN'T LEAVE HIM THE SAME (IF TRULY EXPERIENCED):

- Cured his insecurity
  - o He was a disciple of John now given greater confidence in his calling
  - o Called the "some of thunder" boanerges in Mk 3:17 b/c of confidence in God
- Assigned eternal purpose
  - o Spoke confidently about salvation in Christ
  - o Served as a "pillar" in the Church after Christ's death
  - o Wrote and spoke boldly to others about Christ - was on an unstoppable mission
- Gained God's Perspective
  - o Wrote the book of Revelation *Probably wrote the books later in life.*
  - o Wrote the Gospel of John and the epistles of John, all from a unique perspective

### JOHN WAS NO DIFFERENT THEN US (TRANSFORM TO JOHN)

- John was seeking love: We all seek love.
- John wanted purpose: We all want purpose.
- John was aware that life was more than this world had to offer: we know this world is fleeting... at very least, we hope there is more even if we don't believe.
- He had heard God loved him (from his Jewish background), but he wanted to believe it...

If you have really experienced (or daily experience) God's love, it will breed life

- Life = hope, joy, relationships, happiness, growth, etc.

"It's All about Jesus" announcement