


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

John the Baptist's Testimony About Jesus

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

Q1. "He spent some time with them" – what do you think happened during this time?

Q2. Again, what does "baptism" represent?


Romans 6:3-5 [The Message (MSG)]

³⁻⁵ That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father, so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

Q3. Can you imagine having the rite of baptism administered to you by the Son of God?

Lesson 5: John 3:22-36

Day 2

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²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.

Q4. Since it provoked an argument that was recorded in the Bible, what does “ceremonial washing” provide?

Matthew 15:1-2 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (Phillips)]

The dangers of tradition

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem came and asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples break our ancient tradition and eat their food without washing their hands properly?”

Q5. If it hasn't been answered, is “ceremonial washing” important to Believers in Jesus?

Q6. Do Believers, today, divide over inconsequential issues?

Yes? Why?


No?

Any examples?

Q7. Who promotes division within Jesus' church?

Lesson 5: John 3:22-36

Day 3

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²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan — the one you testified about — well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."


Q8. What attitude (or motive) prompted John's disciples to say to John "everyone is going to him"?

²⁷ To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven."

Q9. What does John mean?


²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'

Q10. What is John's role? And from where or from Whom did John get his mission statement or marching orders?

 John the Baptist: See John 2:29-34, Matthew 3:1-6, and Isaiah 40:3

Lesson 5: John 3:22-36

Day 4

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^{29a} The bride belongs to the bridegroom.

Q11. Who is the "bride" and who is the "bridegroom"?

Bride?

.....
Bridegroom?
.....

Revelation 19:6-9

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

^{29b} The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. ^{29c} That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

Q12. How would you describe John's attitude toward his mission?

.....
.....


Q13. Is John's attitude pretty normal or is it extraordinary?

Normal: Yes? Why?
 No?

Extraordinary: Yes? Why?
 No?
.....

Lesson 5: John 3:22-36

Day 5

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³¹ "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.

Q14. To whom is John the Baptist referring, when he says "The one who comes from above"? And who is the "one... from the earth"?

Above/Heaven?

Earth/world?

Q15. John is contrasting the perspectives between a person "from above" and "one... from the earth"; how might those perspectives be different?

Q16. When John states "no one accepts his testimony" to whom does "no one" refer?

Q17. We've discussed "testimony" previously; how would you explain "testimony"?


Q18. Why would John state that "no one accepts his testimony"?

John 1:10-11 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Lesson 5: John 3:22-36

Day 6

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³³ The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

Q19. Does God, today, give “the Spirit without limit”?


³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

Q20. Is the phrase “placed everything in his hands” important to our salvation?

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Q21. I thought “God is love”, what does this verse really mean?

Q22. What is meant by “God’s wrath”?

 Heaven? Or Hell? Jesus intercedes for those who believe in His saving grace. Those who do not believe remain stuck – stuck because they are judged against the Law, against the Ten Commandments. You might say that God grades this class-on-earth as pass/fail. If you believe in Jesus, you ‘pass’; if you do not believe in Jesus, your behavior and deeds are judged against the Law and, if you have broken one law, then you are judged as a ‘fail’. Period. No intercession. No ‘do-over’. No A, B, C, or D ‘passing’ grade. No grading on a curve. Remember, neither of us – you or I – are God; you nor I set the rules. Free-choice is given. We freely choose. Pass or fail. And when our physical bodies die, our free-choice decision becomes final.

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