

## THE GOSPEL OF

## JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

THE GRAND  
FINALE

## Open it

1. What is your favorite dessert?

## Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 21:20–25.

2. Who was following Jesus and Peter?
3. What did Peter want to know about this other disciple?
4. What rumor started about this disciple? Why did it catch on?
5. What does John say about the works of Jesus?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: Not Your Business

### Read John 21:20–22.

Growing up, when one of my brothers would get in trouble I'd always love to sit around the corner or within earshot so I could listen to them getting yelled at by my parents. Kind of sick, I know. But let's be real, if you've got siblings, you probably aren't much different than me.

Turns out there's a bit of a "Nosy Nellie" in the group of disciples, and that is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (aka John). This whole time that Jesus has been talking with Peter down the beach, nosy John has been following them. So, after receiving his "instructions" from Jesus to "feed his sheep" and "tend his sheep" and that he'll one day have his "hands stretched out, etc....", Peter asks Jesus, "What about John?"

In effect, Jesus' answer is, "Don't worry about it."

So often we look at the people around us and try to measure ourselves against them. Am I going to be more successful? Will God use me in greater ways? Will they do more than me? Who is the best? Listen to Jesus' response—when understood, it's so freeing and life changing!! "If it is my will that he remains until I come, what is that to you?" In other words, it's none of your business what my plans are for that person. You are responsible for you and your own walk with Christ. That's why Jesus says, "You follow me!"

Don't worry about the people around you. You worry about walking with Jesus. You worry about following Him and serving Him. That goes for your friends, your family, your future spouse. If you're committed to following Jesus, you have no idea how He might use your life to spur others on.

I joke sometimes that there are things "above my paygrade" meaning that I don't get to make decisions on that, that's for someone more important than me. How God is going to use different people for His glory is above your paygrade. What is in your paygrade (in your realm of responsibility) is your own personal walk with Christ, so walk it well and walk it faithfully.

### 6. How might trying to measure up to people around you be harmful to your walk with Christ?

### 7. The flip side of trying to be like everyone else is expecting everyone else to be like you. Why are both those paths so dangerous?

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Empowered: Rumor Mill

### Read John 21:23.

Did you hear that Mario doesn't actually get older? He just always stays exactly the same as he is right now!!! It's crazy! Apparently a steady diet of Mountain Dew, cheap pizza, and no veggies leads to a long and healthy life!

Sometimes rumors are harmless or at least appear harmless. Sometimes they can be devastating for people and can really harm their lives. But the reality about rumors is that even when they aren't true, there's normally some level of truth to them. I mean, at the bare minimum it needs to be believable.

Rumor had it for a while that John was going to live forever! Not really that harmful of a rumor. But that's what the guys were all saying. Obviously that wasn't true, but that "rumor" developed out of Jesus' statement that "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

Here's the bottom line when it comes to rumors. It's best to not spread them, especially when you don't have all the facts straight and even if you do, nothing good comes from spreading rumors. Let it stop with you!

In 1 Timothy 4, Paul tells his young disciple to "have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. *Rather* train yourself for godliness..." That sounds pretty similar to what Jesus told Peter. Don't worry about him, you follow Me!

Listen, as exciting and interesting as the latest dirt might be, ask yourself this: Is it true? Is it honorable? Is it just? Is it pure? Is it commendable?

Let it stop with you!

**8. What is so enticing about the rumor mill?**

**9. How have you seen rumors ruin peoples' lives?**

**10. What pressures might you face if you were to try to shut down a rumor?**

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: Content Creator

### Read John 21:24–25.

In a social media world, we all have our favorite content creators. Some might be streamers, speakers, comedians, “Good Samaritans,” or just people who happen to have the same interests and hobbies as you. It would seem as though there is an endless supply of “content” to be enjoyed online these days.

As we come to the close of John’s gospel, he tells us that he has compiled all these testimonies and accounts in a trustworthy manner. He is the “disciple whom Jesus loves” and has been there and seen all of this take place first-hand. He’s an eyewitness to the teachings, signs, and glory of Jesus. And he has taken the time to share what he has seen so that we also might have confidence in who Jesus is.

Yet despite all the great things John has shared — Jesus turning water into wine, standing up against corrupt religious systems, bearing witness to God, healing the lame, raising the dead, feeding the multitudes, and more—he assures us that there is so much more! So much so that he says, “I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

**11. What do you think it would be like if Jesus showed up today, in a world with social media platforms, where His story and miracles could be posted for people to see all around the world?**

**12. Here’s the reality—Jesus is alive today and continues to change people’s lives and draw people to Himself. What are some ways you think the Church could continue to use our current circumstances to be Jesus’ witnesses “to the ends of the earth”?**