

# Back to the Basics

## Knowing My Savior (3)

Knowing My Savior: John 1 - 5

Memory Verse:  
John 3:5-6

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*John 1:1-51*

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In lesson one, we studied part of John, chapter one. In verses 1-5, we saw the fundamental truth that Jesus has always existed with the Father. Chapter one begins, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”* (v 1-2) Verses 3-5 clarified that Jesus took an active role in the creation of the universe. Then, in verses 6-8, we saw the introduction of John as the one who bore witness of Jesus, the Light. In verses 9-13, we learned that some rejected the Light while others received the Light. Those who received the Light became children of God. Verse 14-18 revealed that the Word (the Light, Jesus) became flesh and dwelt on this earth among men. Then, in verses 19-28, we read about the testimony of John the baptizer.

Beginning in verse 29, when John saw Jesus the next day, John said, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (v 29) John goes on to explain how he had seen the Spirit descending upon Jesus. John knew the meaning of this sign for God had told John, *“Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”* (v 33) John testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

*John 1:29-31*

*“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”*

Later that day, John was standing with two of his disciples. John saw Jesus and said, *“Behold the Lamb of God!”* (v 36) Upon hearing that declaration, the two disciples began to follow Jesus. They traveled with Jesus to where he was staying. One of the disciples who followed Jesus was Andrew. Andrew went to his brother Simon and said to him, *“We have found the Messiah.”* (v 41) Andrew then brought Simon to Jesus. (Jesus called Simon Cephas which is translated A Stone or Peter.)

On the next day, Jesus found Philip and said to him, *“Follow Me.”* (v 43) Philip, who was from the same city as Andrew and Peter, followed Jesus. Just as Andrew had brought Simon Peter to Jesus, so did Philip bring Nathanael to Jesus.

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## John 2:1-25

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On the third day, Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. While at the wedding, Jesus' mother asked Him to help because there was no more wine for the guests. Jesus told the servants to fill the six water pots with water. He then told them to draw some out and take it to the master. What the master tasted was not water, but wine. This miracle was the beginning of the signs performed by Jesus so that the world might believe. After the wedding, Jesus, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples traveled to Capernaum for a short stay.

The time was approaching for the Feast of the Passover. (This was the first Passover of Jesus' ministry.) As was the custom, Jesus went to Jerusalem. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He found that the money changers had turned the temple of the Lord into a place of business. They were selling what was necessary for sacrifices and changing money. Knowing that the Temple was a place of worship, not a place for the money changes, Jesus drove the money changers and their merchandise from the Temple and overturned all the tables.

When the Jews saw and heard Jesus, they questioned Him regarding a sign. Jesus said to them, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* (v 19) The Jews, not knowing that Jesus was speaking of His body, thought He was talking about the physical Temple. However, years later, after His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus' disciples would remember this statement.

Jesus continued to do signs so that the people might believe in Him, and truly many did believe. *"But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man."* (v 24-25)

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## John 3:1-36

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One night a man came to Jesus. His name was Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee. Nicodemus said to Jesus, *"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."* (v 2) Jesus replied, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (v 3) Understandably, such a statement would be somewhat confusing to Nicodemus. *"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* asked Nicodemus. Jesus replied, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (v 6)

After hearing Jesus' answer, Nicodemus asked, *"How can these things be?"* (v 9) As stated earlier, it is somewhat understandable that Nicodemus did not comprehend what Jesus was saying. Nicodemus was thinking along physical standards, not heavenly standards. Nicodemus did not understand that Jesus had come down from heaven and would eventually return to heaven. Neither did Nicodemus understand that Jesus, the *"Son of Man"* would be lifted up so that the spiritually sick could look upon Him and be healed. Jesus said, *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in Him should not*

*perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (v 14-16)*

Jesus continued by explaining that God did not send Him to condemn the world. Instead, God sent Jesus to save the world. Whoever believes in Jesus will not be condemned. He who *“does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”* (v 21) However, the person who does not believe in Jesus will be condemned. Jesus said, *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”* (v 19-20)

At this point, Jesus and His disciples went to the land of Judea and were baptizing people. (According to John 4:2, Jesus did not baptize anyone, only His disciples did the baptizing.) At the same time, John was baptizing in Aenon near Salim.

There arose a dispute (question, KJV or discussion, ESV) between the disciples of John and a Jew regarding the subject of purification. This discussion prompted them to say to John, *“Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified — behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!”* John preceded to explain a very important point to those who followed him. John reminded his followers that he was given his task from heaven. John had taught them that he was not the Christ, but that he had been sent before the Christ. John said, *“He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”* (v 29-30) John taught that Jesus, who came from above, is above all. Jesus spoke the words of God because He was sent by God. As a result, whoever believes in the Son has everlasting life, but *“he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* (v 36)

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### *John 4:1-54*

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After a time, Jesus left Judea and went to Galilee. In the course of traveling to Galilee, Jesus went through Samaria. While in the Sychar of Samaria, Jesus came to Jacob’s well about the sixth hour. While Jesus was sitting at the well, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to the woman, *“Give Me a drink.”* (v 7) The woman replied, *“How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?”* (v 9) Jesus answered her saying, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* (v 10) This statement of Jesus puzzled the woman since Jesus appeared to have nothing with which to draw water. Jesus explained to the puzzled woman, *“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”* (v 13-14)

As His conversation with the Samaritan woman continued, Jesus said to her, *“Go, call your husband, and come here.”* (v 16) Jesus knew the truth of the woman’s marital state. The woman told Jesus that she had no husband. Jesus told her that she had well stated that she had no husband. The woman had had five husbands and her current husband was not her true husband. The fact that

Jesus knew such personal information about this woman led her to think that he was a prophet.

As the conversation changed to a discussion on worship, Jesus said, *“Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.”* (v 21) Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the hour was coming when true worshipers would worship the Father in spirit and truth. *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (v 24) The woman then said to Jesus, *“I know that Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will tell us all things.”* (v 25) To the Samaritan woman, Jesus said, *“I who speak to you am He.”* (v 26)

### *John 4:37-38*

*“For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”*

After Jesus’ disciples returned, the Samaritan woman left and went to city. This new believer in Jesus Christ said to the men, *“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”* (v 29) The men left the city and went to see Jesus.

While the Samaritan woman was gone to the city, Jesus’ disciples encouraged Him to eat. Jesus said to His disciples, *“I have food to eat of which you do not know.”* (v 32) The disciples were puzzled, wondering if someone else had brought Jesus something to eat. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”* (v 34)

As if to answer the question of why He was talking to the woman, Jesus explained that He was doing the will of His Father. Jesus came to *“seek and save the lost”* (Luke 19:10). This was the will of His Father in heaven. Jesus explained this very fact to His apostles, saying, *“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”* (v 35-38) Jesus knew that the fields were white for harvest. He knew that souls were needing to be saved. He was doing the will of His Father in heaven. This was the *“food to eat of which you do not know,”* to which Jesus referred.

After a while the Samaritans came to Jesus, being persuaded by the Samaritan woman from the well. (She had returned to the city saying, *“He told me all that I ever did.”* (v 39)) The Samaritans urged Jesus to stay with them. Jesus stayed two days and *“many more believed because of His own word.”* (v 41) These people believed in Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world.

After two days, Jesus went to Galilee, where the Galileans received Him. The people of Galilee had seen the miracles performed by Jesus at the feast in Jerusalem. While in Galilee, Jesus went to the city of Cana. In Cana, a nobleman, whose son was near death at Capernaum, asked Jesus to heal his son. Jesus said, *“Go your way; your son lives.”* (v 50) The nobleman believed Jesus and went towards his home. As he was traveling home, his servants met him, telling him that his son was alive. The nobleman determined that his son was healed the very moment Jesus said, *“Your son lives.”* (v 53) The nobleman and his household believed in Jesus.

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*John 5:1-47*

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After a period of time, Jesus returned to Jerusalem for the feast of the Jews. (This is thought to be Jesus' second Passover feast after the beginning of His ministry.) Jesus came to the Sheep Gate pool, which is called Bethesda. Many people who were blind, lame, and paralyzed would come to this pool, believing that they would be healed if they were the first to step into the water. As Jesus walked by the pool, he saw a man lying there. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed and the man replied, "*Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.*" Jesus said to the man, "*Rise, take up your bed and walk.*" (v 7-8) The man, being healed, did as Jesus said.

The Jews criticized the healed man because he was carrying his bed on the Sabbath. The man preceded to tell his accusers about the One who had healed him. Later, when Jesus saw the man, He told him to sin no more. The man then went and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him of his sickness. Because of this, the Jews began to persecute Jesus. They set out to kill Him because He had healed on the Sabbath and had said that God was His Father.

Beginning in verse 19, Jesus answers His accusers. Jesus began by saying, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*" (v 19-23) Jesus continued by explaining that whoever would hear Him and believe would have everlasting life. The Father had given Jesus authority to execute judgment. All who would hear His voice would live. The judgment of Jesus is righteous because He sought to do His Father's will.

Jesus explained that He did not bear witness of Himself. Jesus said that John had witnessed to His truth. He also said that there was a greater witness than John. The works which the Father had given Jesus to finish bore witness that the Father had sent Jesus. In addition to the works bearing witness, the Father Himself had also testified of Jesus. Then, as Jesus rebuked the Jews for not believing in Him, Jesus said, "*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*" (v 39)

Jesus continued in His rebuke of the Jews because they did not have the love of God within them. Jesus had come in His Father's name, but they did not receive Him. They did not seek the honor that comes from the Father in heaven. Jesus warned these unbelieving Jews that He would not accuse them before the Father. Instead, Jesus said, "*There is one who accuses you — Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*" (v 45-47)

## Ten Questions

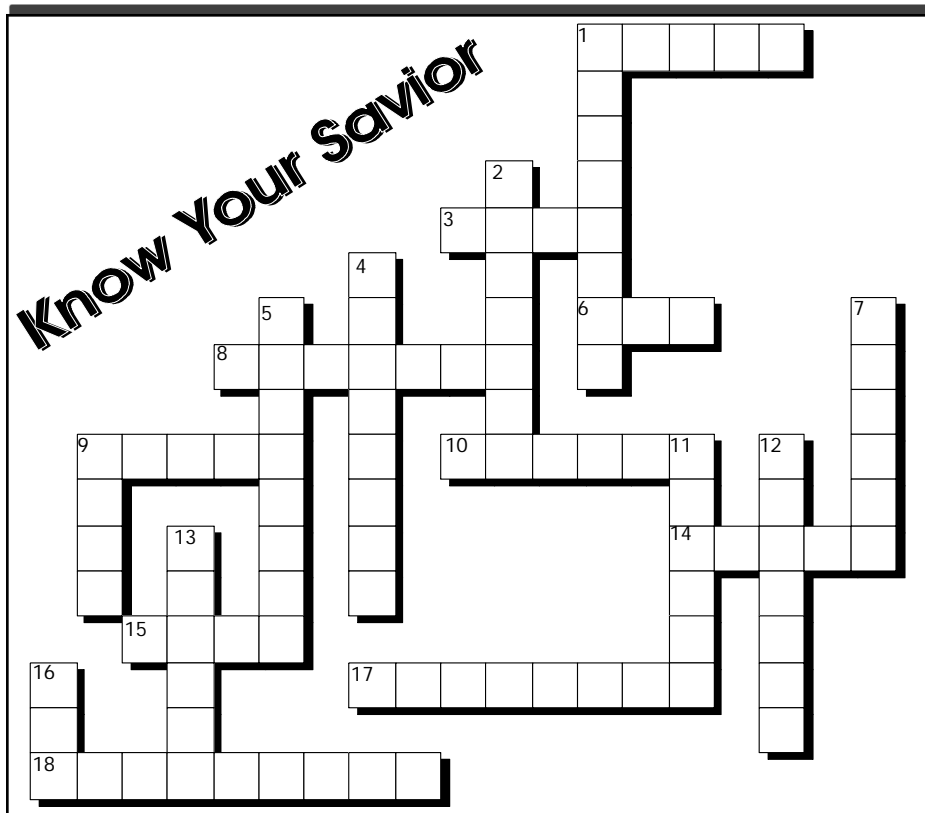
1. Who followed Jesus after John said, “Behold the Lamb of God”? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Andrew say to his brother Simon? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the first miracle performed by Jesus in Cana? \_\_\_\_\_
4. To what city did Jesus go for the Feast of the Passover? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To whom did Jesus say, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God?” \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who will not be condemned? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When the Samaritan woman came to the well, what did Jesus say to her? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When she returned to the city, what did the Samaritan woman tell the men? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Whose son did Jesus heal in Cana? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What or who did Jesus say bore witness of Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## True or False

1. T or F : Simon Peter brought Nathanael to Jesus.
2. T or F : Nicodemus was a Pharisee.
3. T or F : Jesus turned water into wine in Cana of Galilee.
4. T or F : The Jews understood Jesus’ statement, “Destroy the temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
5. T or F : John said, “Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”
6. T or F : John the baptizer was jealous of Jesus’ popularity.
7. T or F : The Samaritan woman told others about Jesus.
8. T or F : Jesus came to “seek and save the lost.”
9. T or F : Jesus healed the nobleman’s son at the Sheep Gate pool, which is called Bethesda.
10. T or F : Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life”

# A Little Fun

(Use the lesson text to answer these questions.)



## Across

1. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "Give Me a \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "... unless one is \_\_\_\_\_ again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
6. "... He who does not believe the \_\_\_\_\_ shall not see life, ..."
8. Andrew said to Simon, "We have found the \_\_\_\_\_."
9. "That which is born of the flesh is \_\_\_\_\_, ..."
10. "... and that which is born of the \_\_\_\_\_ is spirit."
14. "And as \_\_\_\_\_ lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, ..."
15. Jesus and His disciples went to a wedding in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. "He must \_\_\_\_\_, but I must decrease."
18. Philip told \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.

## Down

1. "... that the light has come into the world, and men loved \_\_\_\_\_ rather than light, ..."
2. "God is Spirit, and those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him will worship in spirit and truth."
4. Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This was the other name for the pool where Jesus healed a lame man.
7. Jesus referred to Simon as \_\_\_\_\_.
9. "My \_\_\_\_\_ is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."
11. "Destroy this \_\_\_\_\_, and in three days I will raise it up."
12. "Go, call your \_\_\_\_\_, and come here."
13. "You \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; ..."
16. "... even so must the Son of \_\_\_\_\_ be lifted up that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

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