

# Intermediate Bible Class

WINTER QUARTER  
December 2020, January, February 2021



For Teens Ages 12 Through 14

# Intermediate Bible Class

## WINTER QUARTER

### Preparation of Jesus' Disciples

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## LOOKING AHEAD

The preparation of Jesus' disciples is our theme this quarter, and we pray you will determine to follow Jesus and be a committed disciple as the weeks go by.

Our study begins with a lesson on John the Baptist, the promised forerunner of the Messiah, as recorded by another man named John, a close disciple of Jesus.

Lessons 2 and 4 will examine calls made to discipleship to Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael, while lesson 3 is our Christmas lesson from a different perspective.

Lessons 5 and 6 focus on the miracles of Jesus, namely the turning of water into wine and walking on the Sea of Galilee, which were as much for the disciples' sake as for others.

Lessons 7 and 8 are on Jesus as the Bread of Life, and a hard saying of His given to the same audience.

The final five lessons are on the theme of going deeper with Jesus. We will take strides on the journey to know the Lord better, enabling us to be better disciples.

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## SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**JOHN 1:15** John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

**16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.**

17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

**18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.**

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

**20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.**

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

**22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?**

23 He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

**24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.**

25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

**26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;**

27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

**28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.**

### NOTES

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

# The Testimony of John

Lesson Text: John 1:15-28

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 40:3-5; John 3:22-30; 5:31-40;  
Malachi 3:1; Matthew 11:7-14

TIME: A.D. 26

PLACE: east of Jordan River

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

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## LESSON STUDY

The word “disciple” by definition means a learner as well as a follower. It is someone who is interested in the teachings of another and chooses to learn from and follow them. In the case of Christians, they are those who learn the teachings of the Word of God that “testify” of Jesus (John 5:39) and seek to live as Jesus would have them. Our quarter of study will examine the preparation of Jesus’ early disciples as found in the Gospel of John, which gives us insight on becoming a disciple of Jesus ourselves.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST—John 1:15**

Know first of all that this Gospel was written by John, an early disciple of Jesus and the disciple closest to Him, and the John he is writing about is John the Baptist, often thought of as the forerunner of Jesus. The writer had already referred to him before our text begins (vss. 6-8), but here in our lesson text he gives him a name. As the text continues, it will become

clear he is not writing about himself.

He says that John gave witness, or testimony, of the One who had not only created the world but had come into it as one of us, as a human being. Of course Jesus is not merely a human, but He is fully God and fully man. That is a deep theological concept that even scholars struggle with but which is plainly presented without explanation in Scripture.

John’s testimony indicates this One of whom he speaks was already in the world and came after John, though in reality He was here before him in that He is eternal. John also indicates this One has a greater position than he and is of greater importance as well, including a higher rank.

It should be noted that John is making an effort to have those coming to him for baptism not look at him as a man to follow but to look to the One he is speaking of and follow Him. In no way does John want to become the story instead of Jesus, which should be true of each of us as well. When we have opportunity, we should point people to Jesus. It is always nice to receive compliments for something we have done, and we should be gracious about it; but we should give the