

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD”

The Gospel of John

Who wrote The Gospel of John?

John, a Galilean, was probably a disciple of John the Baptist. Along with Peter, James (his brother) and Andrew, he was one of the members of the “inner circle” around Jesus.

How did The Gospel of John get its name and/or what does that name mean?

This Gospel is named after its author John. John means “God is gracious.”

When did these events take place?

John probably finished his Gospel near the end of the 1st Century A. D. It chronicles Christ’s life from His Baptism until His appearance at the Sea of Tiberias after the Resurrection.

For more on The Gospel of John:

See Page 1135 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

In good times and in bad, a true friend will always be there. You laugh with them and cry with them. They are among the first to congratulate you in your accomplishments or to comfort you when you fail. They accept the way you are because of who you are and they don’t try to make you into someone they think you should be. When you are challenged, they defend you and when you’re in pain they console you. It’s hard to imagine going through life without a true friend.

It makes you wonder if Jesus had a close friend. We certainly know he had enemies and the Gospels tell us that there were many people who loved and respected him. But do you suppose any one of them became something more? Is there evidence to suggest that Jesus ever said anything or did anything that demonstrated this kind of special relationship to just one other person? The Gospel of John suggests that there was.

In fact, in John 19:26, John refers to himself with the words, “the disciple whom he loved.” When you look at the evidence from the other Gospels, this special relationship becomes very apparent. John is always mentioned with Peter, James (his brother) and Andrew as the “inner circle” of disciples of Jesus. It is believed that John was first a disciple of John the Baptist before joining Christ. Along with Peter and James, John was the only witness to the raising of Jairus’s daughter. He was present at the Transfiguration of Our Lord as well as His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Only he and Peter were sent to make arrangements for the Last Supper. While there, he was seated next to Christ. John was the only Apostle that stayed with Christ through his crucifixion and death and was the disciple in whom Jesus entrusted the care of his mother. All of this is testimony to how close John and Jesus were.

John had a unique perspective on the story of Jesus’ life. Yet his Gospel is much more than just a retelling of the events he witnessed. What John relates is a story more about the love of Christ for the world and the faith that this kind of love can inspire. Faith in Jesus is also strengthened in John’s Gospel as he points out the symbolism of the many miracles performed by Jesus. Through these revelations, John leads us to realize Jesus’ divinity as the Son of God. When you read the Gospel of John, you will also notice that he makes it very clear that the only way we can reach heaven is through faith in Christ. John inspires us to see Jesus’ death as a victory not a defeat. Finally, God has sent “The Word” to be fulfilled on earth.

It is believed that after the Crucifixion John worked in Palestine and possibly Asia Minor (part of present day Turkey). Records show he was in Jerusalem in 51 A.D. He spent several years after that proclaiming the Gospel in Ephesus until being exiled to the Island of Patmos between 81 and 96 A.D. It was there that he also wrote the book of Revelation.

Bonus point: What was distinctive about the tunic the Roman soldiers took from Jesus after he was crucified?