GLORY
In the Old Testament, glory represents God's holiness and his goodness. But human beings couldn't see God in his glory because it's too good, too great—kinda like how the sun gives life but you can't stare at it for too long or get too close. But John recognizes that Jesus is the glory of God, and people can look to Jesus and see exactly what God is like. Pay attention to see the different ways Jesus reflects God's glory.

SIGNS
John's gospel is focused on signs that reveal Jesus' true identity. John's hope is that through his testimony others might believe and experience the glory of God in Jesus. In his gospel, John explicitly mentions seven signs that reveal who Jesus is before he reveals the ultimate sign of Jesus' identity: the Resurrection. Be on the lookout for these signs as you read John's gospel and consider what they mean about who Jesus is and why that matters for you.

"I AM" STATEMENTS
In the Old Testament, God revealed his name to Israel as Yahweh or "I Am." God's name is holy, and people used it with respect. In John's gospel, Jesus uses the name "I Am" for himself in seven different metaphors, revealing that he is Yahweh, he is God. One thing to look for while you read is the connection between these "I Am" statements and the signs because they often help explain one another.

LIGHT & DARKNESS/DAY & NIGHT
John has the heart of a poet, and he loves a good metaphor. He frequently uses the symbols of light and darkness and day and night to illustrate the ways people respond to God and Jesus. Those who are in the light or who do things during the day love God and Jesus. Those who are in darkness and do things at night are often opposed to Jesus and are living in sin. Pay careful attention to these metaphors because they'll tell you who is who in John's gospel.

TRUTH
John's gospel is deeply concerned with truth. John writes as a witness who testifies to the truth. And the truth is none other than Jesus. John testifies as one who has seen Jesus, who has experienced the truth with his own eyes, so that we might also know and believe the truth about Jesus: that he is the Son of God.