

*BEHOLD*  
*A N D*  
*BELIEVE*

M A R I A N J O R D A N E L L I S

# Video Teaching Notes

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## WEEK 1: BEHOLD, THE WAY

*Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — John 14:6*

### I. The Human Condition

*There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ. — Blaise Pascal*

*God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. — C. S. Lewis*

### II. The Redemption Story

The Bible is not a collection of stories or fables; it is not a book of virtues. It's a story about how God the Father redeems us through His Son.

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. — John 5:39*

### III. Key Words in the Gospel of John; John 1:1–18

*Logos:*

*Light:*

*Behold / Beheld:*

Tabernacle:

*And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
— John 1:14 TLV*

Glory:

#### IV. Behold and Become

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. — 2 Corinthians 3:18*

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. The Bible explains that human beings are created by God and for a relationship with God. But when sin entered the world, the union between God and humanity was severed. Now we live with fear, insecurity, emptiness, shame, and suffering due to this broken relationship. Referring to this broken state, Saint Augustine wrote: "Thou hast made us for thyself O Lord and our heart is restless until it finds rest in thee." How are we as human beings restless?
2. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus' words are both an invitation and a prescription for the troubled soul. What does He offer?
3. What is radical about Jesus' claim to be "the way?"
4. Marian taught five key words from the Gospel of John. Take a few minutes to define each term.
5. Read John 1:14. What does it mean that Jesus "tabernacled" among us?
6. What did you come to behold and believe about Jesus from today's teaching?

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 WEEK 1
 

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## Day 1: John 1:1-18

*In the Gospel of John, we don't find a detailed chronology of Christ's life as recorded in Luke or Matthew. Instead, we are given a defense for the Incarnation—that God became a man. John's eyewitness testimony demonstrates that Jesus was and is "the very heaven-sent Son of God and the only source of eternal life." †*

We live in the age of social media where Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok fill our lives with images and ideas instantly captured and shared for the world to see. It's hard for us to comprehend the time in which Jesus walked on earth, when his disciples penned the Gospels. There was no such thing as "going live" on social media to share a story or post an image for those early followers of Christ. But honestly, how cool would it have been for Peter to whip out his phone and record as Jesus walked on water? Alas, that didn't happen, but we do have their eyewitness accounts of these incredible moments.

Those first eyewitnesses of His glory relied on the common method of their day to relay information—pen and parchment. In these accounts, which we call the Gospels, the followers of Jesus shared their up-close and personal moments with the One they came to worship as Christ the Lord.

*The writers of the four Gospels have given us "snapshots" of our Lord's life on earth. Matthew wrote with his fellow Jews in mind and emphasized that Jesus of Nazareth had fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Mark wrote for the busy Romans. Whereas Matthew emphasized the King, Mark presented the Servant, ministering to needy people. Luke wrote his Gospel for the Greeks and introduced them to the sympathetic Son of Man. But it was given to John, the beloved disciple, to write a book for both Jews and Gentiles, presenting Jesus as the Son of God.*

— Warren Wiersbe

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† Barton, B. B. (1993). *John* (pp. viii–ix). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

Throughout this study, we will encounter real people, like you and me, who came to Jesus thirsty, hungry, desperate, and burdened with great need. While he cared for their physical needs with great love, Jesus looked beyond their earthly circumstances to the deeper and more pressing need of their souls. In coming to Jesus, these people came to believe that He was indeed the Son of God, and as a result of this simple belief, they were supernaturally transformed.

*What does John say is his intention in writing this Gospel in John 20:31?*

John's purpose is that we might experience the eternal life that is found only in one Person, Jesus Christ. With this lofty goal in mind, let's begin the prologue (introduction) to the Gospel of John.

*Read John 1:1–18. As you slowly read and meditate on each verse, note how many times "the Word" is mentioned.*

*Read the definition of "the Word" in the margin. What insight does this definition give you into the text?*

*Review John 1:1–5. What specifics do you learn about "the Word?"*

John begins his Gospel with the phrase, "In the beginning." For the Jewish reader, these three powerful words would immediately connect their thoughts to Genesis, and the very first words of the Bible.

## The Word

*John 1:1 reads, "In the beginning was the Word." The term translated as "Word" is the word logos, in Greek meaning "word, speech, or utterance." Logos refers to divine reason or the power that puts sense into the world, making order instead of chaos. Greek philosophers sought to answer the ultimate questions of reality. They wanted to find the ultimate reality that lies behind all other things. As the ancient philosophers pondered these questions, they came up with a term to describe this ultimate reality, which was logos. The logos came to be understood as that which gave life and meaning to the universe.*

*"The light which reveals the world does not make the darkness, but it makes the darkness felt. And this is what Christ has done by his coming. He stands before the world in perfect purity, and we must feel as men could not feel before he came, the imperfection, the impurity of the world. Whether we know it or not the light which streams from Christ is ever opening the way to a clearer distinction between good and evil. His coming is judgment. The light and the darkness are not blended in him, as they are in us. The coming of Jesus into the world exposed the world's darkness."*

JAMES M. BOICE

*Read Genesis 1:1–3. What occurred in these verses?*

*Notice that God's method of creation was the spoken word. What came forth when He spoke the words, "let there be?"*

*According to John 1:3, what was made "through Him?"*

John beautifully begins his introduction of Jesus by telling us that He, the Word, was there with God at the creation of the universe; that He IS God. Marvel at this revelation: it was through Jesus that God spoke the world into being!

*Write John 1:4–5.*

In verse 6, we are introduced to a new character. His name is John the Baptist. It can be a little confusing when the author's name is John, and he is speaking about someone else named John. We will talk much more about John the Baptist later; just note for now that these are two different men.

*Read John 1:6–8. What was John the Baptist's primary mission?*

*According to verse 9, who was coming into the world?*

The one whom John calls “The Word” is now called the “Light.” Just as light reveals, illuminates, guides the way, exposes the darkness, and unveils hidden things, the same is true of The Word.

*How do you feel when in pitch-black darkness? Do you recall a time when you desperately needed to find a light or escape a dark place?*

*According to verses 12–13, which is the key to unlocking the entire Gospel? What rights are given to those who “receive the light?”*

To “receive the Light” means to believe in Jesus. As we walk verse by verse through John’s Gospel, we will discover the vital importance of the word “believe.” We will note the cause-and-effect relationship that results when one believes in Jesus and behold the blindness of those who do not believe.

*Read Word Study: “Believe” in margin. How is belief in Jesus more than an intellectual exercise?*

Now we turn our attention to some of the most important verses in the entire Bible. Without exaggeration, I would say that throughout all of Scripture, since sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, humanity has waited for this declaration. All the pain, brokenness, and dysfunction of humanity has led to this divine moment—the revelation of the Word of God.

### **Believe:**

*“This verb is used 78 times in the Gospel of John. It is interesting that John never uses the noun form, only the verb. Belief is not primarily an intellectual or emotional response, but basically a volitional response.” Volitional means that is a choice of the will to do something with the belief. “This Greek term is translated by three English terms: believe, trust, and faith. It is parallel to “welcome Him”, and “accept Him.” Salvation is free in the grace of God and the finished work of Christ, but it must be received.”†*

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† Utley, R. J. (1999). *The Beloved Disciple’s Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John* (Vol. Volume 4, p. 11). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

*"The Son of God  
became a man  
to enable men to  
become sons  
of God."*

C. S. LEWIS,  
MERE CHRISTIANITY

*Read John 1:14–18 once more and answer the following:*

*According to verse 14, what mind-boggling event  
has occurred?*

*Pulling together all that we've discovered about "The  
Word", what makes this revelation that He became flesh  
(or human) so astounding?*

*Verse 14 tells us that the Word comes from the Father, "full  
of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."*

*According to verse 16, what do we receive from His fullness?*

*In verse 17, John reveals the identity of the Word. He says  
that "the law was given through Moses" but "grace and  
truth" came through \_\_\_\_\_!*

Now we conclude John's introduction of Jesus, the Word. We are told that Jesus brings grace and truth to the world and in Him we have life. But John concludes with one last startling statement.

*Read John 1:18. What does Jesus do?*



This statement brings us full circle. The purpose of a spoken word is to reveal a hidden thought. For example, I cannot know what my husband is thinking unless he reveals his thoughts through words. The same is true of God. For us to know Him, to understand His heart and to experience life in Him, He uses His Word. The Word, Jesus Christ, became flesh (a human) so that we can know God. Jesus is God revealing Himself to us.

*Take a minute to marvel: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Talk to God about what you learned in today’s study. Use this space to express your adoration and thanksgiving.*

## *Day 2: John 1:19–51*

I love hearing stories of how people came to know and follow Jesus. In the church world, we call these “personal testimonies.” My husband’s testimony is one of my favorites. Justin was always what you would call a “good kid.” He grew up in church, and following the rules was something he did pretty naturally—unlike me, his wife, who excelled in breaking all the rules! But that’s a story for another day!

There’s a powerful lesson we learn from Justin’s story. Striving to be a good person and practicing religious rituals does not equal a relationship with God. Justin would tell you that he knew religion, but he did not know Jesus.

Justin was in his early thirties when life as he knew it fell apart. During the recession, he lost his job. Then a few months later, his marriage fell apart. At the same time, his mother was diagnosed with

stage-4 cancer. Religion did not prepare him for this crushing season. He found himself desperate for God, for His direction, healing, and hope. This is the moment when Justin truly experienced his personal need for God's grace and encountered Christ.

I love to hear him describe this scene: On his face, crying out to God, confessing his need, Justin heard Jesus speak these simple words, "Get up and follow me." A clear command—follow Me. Rising from that place of brokenness, Justin entered a living and breathing relationship with Jesus marked by total surrender and daily dependence. Since that day, Justin has been following the One whom John describes in this Gospel.

Today we dive into the Gospel of John and hear several people share their Jesus testimonies. We begin with John the Baptist, who will testify to the religious rulers of that day about Jesus' identity and mission. Next, we will see when the very first disciples heard Jesus say, "Follow me," and how these men left everything to do just that.

*Read John 1:19–28. Describe this scene in your own words.*

Here we see a delegation of religious leaders from Jerusalem (priests and Levites) coming to question John the Baptist about his identity and the reason for his ministry.

*What did John the Baptist say the purpose of his ministry was in verse 23?*

John the Baptist is the forerunner to the Messiah (or Christ). God chose him as the announcer of the Messiah's arrival. It was common practice in that day for a king to send a "forerunner" into a region announcing the king's coming so the people of the land could prepare for his arrival. Upon hearing the news, citizens would clean

the village streets, arrange festivities, and prepare the visitation. This ministry of preparation was the role John the Baptist played.

*Read the Word Study: "Christ" in the margin and answer the following:*

*When the religious leaders ask John the Baptist if he is the Christ, what are they trying to find out?*

*Is the title Christ (or Messiah) an important one for Jesus to carry? Why?*

One Bible scholar notes: "The Gospels portray Jesus as accepting the title and role of "Christ the Messiah." At His baptism by John, Jesus received the outpouring of the Spirit and God's mandate to begin His ministry. Jesus' baptism should be understood as His anointing to the threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. John himself denied being the anointed one and identified Jesus as "the Christ." Jesus' first disciples followed Him because they knew He was the Messiah.

*Read John 1:29–34 and answer the following:*

*What title does John the Baptist give Jesus in verse 29?*

*According to verse 31, what was the purpose of John's entire ministry?*

*What does John testify to having witnessed in verses 32–34?*

### **Christ:**

*Many say the name Jesus Christ without realizing that the title Christ means "the Anointed One." The Greek word is "Christos", which is a translation of the Hebrew word, Messiah. Both terms come from verbs meaning "to anoint with sacred oil." In the Old Testament, Messiah was applied to prophets, priests, and kings. All of them were anointed with oil, which was the symbol that God had specifically chosen them for their respective offices. But the preeminent Anointed One would be the promised Messiah.†*

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† Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In *Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained* (p. 249). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

*What title does John give to Jesus in verse 34?*

John's testimony is this: The Lamb of God is the Son of God. This is divine mystery revealed in the person of Jesus. In the rest of this study, we will spend a great deal of time investigating Jesus' role as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. But for our purposes now, let's look at this phrase in context of John the Baptist's testimony. When John points Jesus out to the gathered crowd, he prophesies concerning Jesus' destiny.

John the Baptist is considered the last prophet of the Old Testament. After literally hundreds of prophecies concerning the long-awaited Messiah, John stands up as the last of the prophets and declares HE IS HERE! Concerning the significance of this declaration, James Boice writes:

*For centuries Israel had known all about the sacrificial lamb. They had learned about it first from the story of Abraham, who was the father of their nation. At God's command Abraham had been going up the mountain to sacrifice his son Isaac when Isaac had turned to him and asked, "Father, ... Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb?" Abraham had answered, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." And God did!*

*Israel had also known about the lamb as a result of the institution of the Passover. On that occasion the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the house was the sign for the angel of death to pass by. Moreover, they knew that daily in the services of the temple lambs and goats were sacrificed. They knew that in every instance the sacrifices meant the death of an innocent substitute in place of the one who had sinned.*

*Take a moment to contemplate the promise that Jesus is the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world (v.29). How do you think the original hearers would have comprehended John's declaration?*

*How does this truth hit your heart today?*

We conclude today's study by seeing how those who heard John's testimony responded to it. As we will discover throughout this Gospel, there is always a response to Jesus. There is no neutral ground. One either believes and follows Him as Lord or turns away in unbelief.

*Read John 1:35–51.*

*What was the response of John's disciples when they heard him declare, "Jesus is the Lamb of God" (verse 37)?*

*What did Andrew do after he began to follow Jesus (verses 40–41)?*

*Who did Andrew testify Jesus to be (verse 41)?*

*What did Jesus say to Peter when they first met (verse 42)?*

*"There is a ripple effect to the gospel that's inevitable. There's a ripple effect to true grace. It doesn't lead us to only sit and contemplate what happened to us. It leads us to proclaim what's happened to us—and what can happen to anybody and everybody on the planet."*

LOUIE GIGLIO,  
FINISH THE MISSION

*What does Philip testify about Jesus to his friend Nathanael in verse 45?*

*What simple phrase does Philip say when faced with Nathanael's doubts about Jesus (verse 46)?*

*After encountering Jesus personally, what was Nathanael's testimony (verse 49)?*

These confessions and declarations about Jesus are wonderful, but they are only the beginning of what we will discover about Him. I love what James Boice writes concerning Nathanael's confession that Jesus is the Son of God:

*The first chapter of John reveals Jesus in a variety of contexts and under an unusual variety of names. He is the Word, the Light, the Lamb, the Son of God, Rabbi, the Messiah, the King of Israel. These titles culminate in the confession of Nathanael who, after some initial skepticism, declares, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel" (v. 49).*

*At this point, however, Jesus answers that all the insight and experience that these confessions embody, wonderful as they are, are only a prelude to an infinite series of such experiences that lie ahead. That is, there is more to come. He therefore declares, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (v. 51).*

Friends, there is more to come! Throughout the next eight weeks, we will see Jesus and by beholding His glory, we will experience life abundantly.

*Take a minute to marvel at Jesus' words: "You will see heaven open." Use this space to express your worship and praise.*