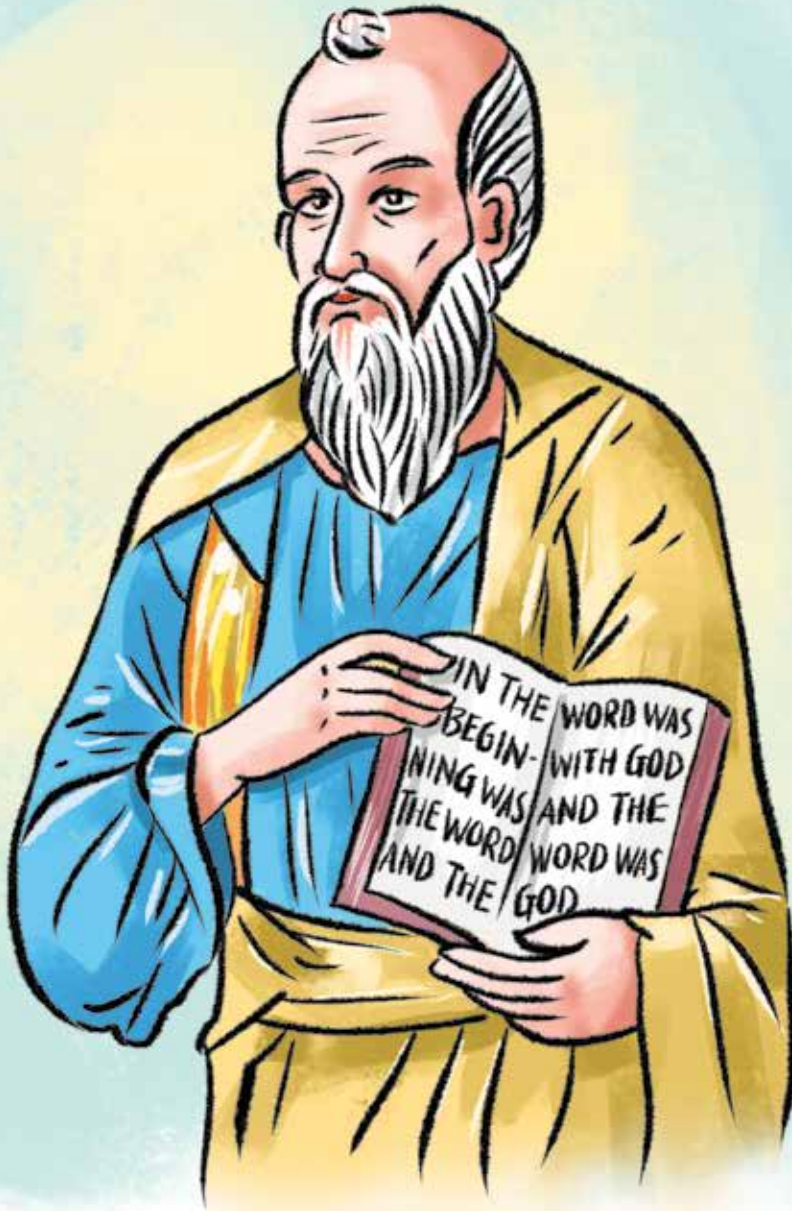




Saint John's Unique Gospel

Among the Gospels, Saint John's portrayal of Jesus stands out as unique in language and style. St. John through his Gospel wants us to reflect on who Jesus really is to us. What is His role in our lives? And what is our commitment to Him?



John was the son of Zebedee and Salome and the brother of James the Greater. The brothers are often referred to as "the sons of Zebedee" and received from Christ the honourable title of Boanerges, i.e. "sons of thunder" (*Mark 3:17*). They were fishermen along with their father in the Lake of Gennesaret. According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, they were for a brief time disciples of John the Baptist, and were called by Christ from the circle of his followers, together with Peter and Andrew, to become His own disciples (*John 1:35-42*).



John's presentation of the man from Nazareth is called the 'spiritual gospel' and John the writer is called 'John the theologian'. The very starting of his gospel is an indication of this. Unlike other evangelists, this most beloved disciple calls Jesus the Word that was one with God from the beginning – total identification of the Son with the Father.

The evangelist wants to find a new life in Jesus and the Son of God who gives that life in abundance (*John 10: 10*) is what matters to John. That is why, in this Gospel, "life" appears thirty-six times more than in any of the other gospels. This life-giving Jesus is portrayed before us through metaphors and the evangelist has used the largest number of metaphors for Jesus, more than all other gospels combined together, Jesus is the 'Bread of Life', he is the 'Vine and we are the branches'.

The Gospel of John was written for all "those who have not seen" Jesus as we read it (*John 20*) in the context of an unbelieving apostle Thomas. Only St. John has given this compliment for us who live 2000 years after Jesus: "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

Jesus came not to condemn but to save and so as the Saviour or Redeemer He is our Messiah. He moves around with sinners and tax-collectors, and converses with ordinary people like the Samaritan woman or Nicodemus a Pharisee. He is not afraid of touching the lepers and healing them against all social ethos and outlook.

Saint John the Evangelist tells us to believe in such a Jesus Who is our Promised Messiah.



Word of God

John 16:13

When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come.



Book: *The Gospel According to John: A Literary and Theological Commentary* by Thomas L.

Brodie. This commentary expands Johannine studies in two directions. First, drawing on the methods of literary criticism, it gives new force to a view which is both ancient and modern--that John's gospel, far from being a poorly-edited mixture of sometimes-conflicting traditions, is in fact a coherent unity, an account of Jesus which, however diverse its sources, is a finely-chiselled work of art. Second, it indicates that the unity of John's gospel is founded ultimately not on history or theology but on spirituality.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ Total _____

Pages Minutes



Find out the Stone House in which Mother Mary and St. John lived. Stick a picture of it if you have and write a short description about it.

Bible@Home - John 1:35-42

MY TASK THIS WEEK

To Watch

To Read

To Do