

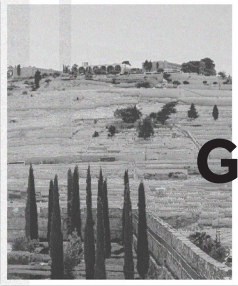
The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



that you may

BELIEVE



GOD'S GRACE TO THE UNDESERVING discussion questions

1. Think back to when you first came to Christ. In what way was your experience similar to the “outsiders” mentioned (the Samaritans and the Centurion)? Has your experience of being a Christian changed over time? If so, in what ways?
2. Read John 4:46-54 and Luke 7:2-10. What is similar between these two stories? What is different? Faced with a similar situation, how would you approach Jesus? Why?
3. When you're dealing with trials or difficulty, do you tend to believe that Jesus could change everything with a word, as he did for the official and the lame man, or do you tend to think he'd work more within natural limitations? How can we grow more in our faith and trust that God is in control of these situations?
4. What “extra-biblical” laws or guidelines do you hold strongly (educational, political, or financial choices)? Do you feel those are a part of your Christian identity? Why or why not? In light of how the Pharisees missed Jesus, how should you think about these “laws” or “guidelines”?

The Book of John

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁷ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁸The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.⁹ He was in the world, and the world did not know him.¹⁰ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹¹ But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹² who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹³And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁴ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁵For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.¹⁶ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁷ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.