

# 2020 New Testament Reading Plan

Living Hope Fellowship, Chico  
Directed Study, Week 10  
John 1–2

## Purpose

As we begin the fourth gospel, it's helpful to read the back of the book first. John's purpose for writing couldn't be more clear: he wants you to believe 1) that Jesus is the **Christ** 2) that he is the **Son of God** 3) and by **believing**, 4) you would have **life** in his name (20:31). To serve this purpose, John selects 7 signs of Jesus (out of many) to prove his points (20:30).

Every page of John will be talking these things. You can't miss them if you look!

## Christ

Christ means messiah, not Jesus' last name (see John 1:41). Christ and messiah both mean "anointed" and have a particular emphasis in the roles of Prophet, Priest, and King being combined in Jesus.

1. How many times can you find the word "Christ" in the first chapter?

## Son of God

The title "Son of God" is a rich one that denotes, among other things, both Christ's relationship to the Father (a dominant theme in John) but also the equality of nature that the Father and the Son have. Jesus has just as much of a divine nature as his Father. In a human analogy, my sons are just as human as I am though our relationship will always be one of father and son. My sons are not less human than I am. Our familial relationships say a lot about who we are.

2. In the first chapter, what changes OUR family relationship in relation to God. Be thinking of John's purpose statement!

## Believe

Belief is always a verb in John. Belief is not something you have but something you *do*. Belief is *action*. Keep this in mind as this gospel calls you not to just believe facts about Jesus but to respond in obedience to the person and work of the Messiah.

3. There are multiple authoritative witnesses in these first two chapters to testify to things John desires to prove and call individuals to BELIEVE. How many different witnesses/sources of authority can you find in these two chapters? (Don't give up easily, there are a lot!)

## Signs

Chapter 2 introduces us to the first of Jesus' 7 "signs" in John, turning water into wine. Note how John's purpose statement is all over this chapter.

4. Reread those first two chapters again. Is there a paragraph that doesn't talk about one or more of these themes: Jesus being the **Christ** (think of Prophet, Priest, King), **life**, **Son of God**, **believing in his name**?