

Name: _____

Date: _____

APOSTLE JOHN

“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:21)

Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	Jesus called John to serve; John's life reflected God's glory.
Knowledge of God	God has called us to serve, and He has the power to change us.
Good Work	Follow God's calling; act out God's word and transform ourselves so that others can see Jesus in our lives.

A. The Calling of John

John records the exact hour he met Jesus (Jn 1:39). Later, he and his brother James immediately followed Jesus when He called them, and thus they became apostles (Mt 4:18–22; Mk 1:16–20).

B. Facts About the Apostle John

1. He was the brother of James, another of Jesus' twelve disciples.
2. He wrote the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and the Book of Revelation.
3. He was part of Jesus' "inner circle" (Mk 5:37; Mt 17:9; 26:36–37).
4. He was entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of Jesus' mother Mary.
5. He had quick understanding (Jn 20:8; 21:1–7).
6. Of Jesus' disciples, he lived the longest.

C. John's Early Years with Jesus

When John was first called by Jesus, Jesus called him and his brother James "Sons of Thunder" (Mk 3:17). From this, it appears that he had a flashing temper. It seems he was quick to criticize (Mk 9:38–41), lacked love (Lk 9:51–56), was ambitious, and lacked understanding (Mt 20:20–21).

D. John's Transformation

John grew to understand the need for love and humility during the time he spent with Jesus. His impulsive and rash personality transformed into one of compassion and humility, especially after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

E. An Apostle of Love and Truth

John's letters are filled with teachings that help us understand God's love on a deeper, yet practical, level. He exhorts the members to love one another and also writes much about the truth itself, warning believers not to be deceived by falsehoods. His letters show a character of love and patience.

Life Application

1. **Becoming Fishers of Men:** Like John, we have been called by God to do His work according to the gifts He has given us. But are we able to answer?
2. **Acting Out the Word:** God's word is an important foundation for our faith and always contains the answers to our difficulties. We need only study it and ask God for the wisdom to apply it to our lives.
3. **Transforming into Better Christians:** To become better Christians, we must first understand our own flaws, and then pray for God's help to change us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Lesson 5 Homework Assignment

Apostle John

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (2 Timothy 2:21):

1. What does it mean to be a vessel for honor? How do we become one?
2. How did John answer when Jesus first called him?
3. What were John's characteristics when Jesus first called him? Provide biblical support.
4. How did John's personality change during his time with Jesus and after receiving the Holy Spirit?
5. What is the importance of studying God's word in our lives? How can we better understand it?
6. We learned that to become better Christians, we must first understand our own shortcomings. What is one of your shortcomings? Aside from prayer, how can you work on changing this?