

BEFORE THE MEETING

To have a great discussion, every member of the group should read Luke 1–12 ahead of time. That may seem like a lot, but don't treat the reading like homework. Consider it an opportunity to spend some time with your heavenly Father. Don't try to sit down and read the twelve chapters all at once (and definitely not a few hours before the group meeting begins). Read a little bit every day. If you do that, it won't seem like a lot to tackle.

Here's a good plan for reading the chapters:

Day 1: John 1–2

Day 2: John 3–4:45

Day 3: John 4:46–6:15

Day 4: John 6:16–8:11

Day 5: John 8:12–10

Day 6: John 11–12

A little background on John's gospel may be helpful as well. If you have a study Bible, check out the introduction and notes it provides.

DURING THE MEETING

ICEBREAKERS

1. How did your reading of John 1–12 go?
2. Did anything stand out? Take some time to discuss.

Watch the Session 1 video together (John 1–12).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did the video help you see anything surprising or new about John's gospel? If so, how?
2. Did the first twelve chapters of John challenge some of your assumptions about Jesus? If so, how?
3. The video says that the first half of John follows a pattern: Jesus performs a sign or makes a claim about himself and then people misunderstand or get angry. What are some of the reasons Jesus' actions and words would have caused controversy? Do you think Jesus is still a controversial figure? Why or why not?
4. Read John 3:1–15. Does the term "born again" carry any baggage for you? Why do you think this section of John is important to our faith in Jesus?
5. The first twelve chapters of John record many of Jesus' miracles. What are some reasons you think it was important for Jesus to perform miracles? Do you have trouble believing he healed sick people and gave sight to the blind? Why or why not?
6. Read John 11:1–44.
 - Did any details in this story surprise or confuse you?
 - John treats the raising of Lazarus as a turning point in Jesus' story. Why do you think this event moved religious authorities to plot to kill Jesus?

FOR NEXT TIME

At your next meeting, you'll discuss the second half of John. Read those chapters over the next week. Remember to use that time as a way to connect relationally with God. Here's a recommended reading schedule. If time permits, read Day 1 aloud in your group right now.

Day 1: John 13-14

Day 4: John 18-19:16a

Day 2: John 15-16

Day 5: John 19:16b-42

Day 3: John 17

Day 6: John 20-21

