



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 1:15-23 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What did John the Baptist mean by “he was before me?”

The Holy Spirit led John to testify in a way many could not understand that Jesus existed before John was born, and thus outranked him by His office (He was the Messiah) and by His nature (He was the only Son of God). Jesus existed before He and the Father created the world.

2. Why is the law of God important?

The Law of God reveals how God created us to live. People who love God and others as God intends do not disobey the Law of God. Consider what the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write about the Law of God in Deuteronomy 4:5-6, “See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’” The Law of God also shows us that we need forgiveness, salvation from sin and slavery to sin, and the power to love and obey the Law of God, which our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gives all who receive Him and believe in Him.

3. What came through Jesus Christ? What does that mean to you?

Grace and truth. We do not deserve anything that Jesus has done and does for us, and we need the Holy Spirit to help us love God and obey the commands of Jesus. Jesus is the Truth and Jesus reveals the truth and Jesus will help those who receive Him and believe in Him live according to the truth.

4. What does “confess and did not deny it mean”?

John did not just deny he was the Messiah; rather, he openly confessed to people that he was not the Messiah so there would be no doubt about him.

5. What does the description “God the only Son” mean? Who is this?

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God the Father. In Jesus' nature and essence, Jesus is God. John has taught that the Word is God and the Son is God, Jesus is the Word and the Son. We can worship Jesus as God without being guilty of idolatry.

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