John, the Gospel of Belief

The apostle John wrote his gospel to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ (John 21:30-31). In the prologue (1:1-18), he outlines the major themes that will appear in the rest of the book. He shows us that Jesus is worthy of our trust and worship. **Come to Jesus—**

**1. Because Jesus *reveals* the Father**

A. Jesus is the *eternal Word* of the Father

B. Jesus is *true God* along with the Father

C. Jesus is the *Maker* of the Father’s world

D. Jesus is the Father’s *Life and Light* for all men

**2. Because *rejecting* Jesus is death**

A. Human darkness *suppresses* the Light

B. Jewish unbelief *crucified* their Messiah

**3. Because *receiving* Jesus means life**

A. Receiving Christ = *believing in His name*

B. Those who receive Christ are *God’s children*

 C. Faith and new birth are the *work of God*

**Concluding Application—**Come to Jesus

A. For *eternal* life

B. For *daily* life

**For Personal Reflection or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you in this message? What might you need to do or change as a result of God’s speaking to you?

2. The Jehovah’s Witness Bible (*The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*) renders the last phrase of John 1:1, “and the word was a god.” Jehovah’s Witnesses say that since in Greek, “god” does not have the definite article “the” in front of it, we must translate it “a god” rather than “God.” There are several fallacies with this argument, but the simplest way to show that it is wrong is to note that in the Greek “the” is missing before “God” in John 1:6, 12, 13, & 18 (“No man has seen God”). However, in all these cases the *New World Translation* has “God,” rather than “a god.” They don’t even abide by their own translation rule.

3. You might profit from personalizing John 1:1-18 and using the following sentences to stimulate your meditation and prayer.

*Jesus is the Father’s Word about Himself to me. I can’t really know the Father without knowing Jesus.*

*Jesus is my God.*

*Jesus made me.*

*Jesus is my Life and Light.*

*God has granted me the privilege of believing in Jesus and becoming His child.*