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## *More About Jesus*

### **John 1:15-51**

**We recently began a study of the book of John. John was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, one of His closest men. He lived with Jesus and observed Him. He walked with Him for three years. He watched Him die on a Roman cross and claimed to have seen Him risen from the dead. His words are those of an eyewitness.**

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1. What did John the Baptist (a different John than the man who wrote this book) say about Jesus in verse 15? John was six months older than Jesus according to Luke chapter 1. How is it that he could say that Jesus existed before him?

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Jesus existed before His birth to Mary. "He was in the beginning with God." (Review John 1:2)

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2. According to verse 18, "No man has seen God at any time." Yet we read in Exodus 33:11, "The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend." In Exodus 24:9 we read, "Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel..." In Isaiah 6:5 we read, "In the year of King Uzziah, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne..." Are these contradictions?

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Each of these saw a *manifestation* of God. They did not truly see Him. He is Spirit. (John 4:24). He is invisible. (Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17) But He has, at times, manifested Himself in a visible way (burning bush, pillar of cloud and fire, etc.)

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3. According to verse 23, what was the role of John the Baptist? What do you think this means?

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John's job was to "make straight the way of the Lord." He preached a message of repentance (see Matthew 3:2). This was a message for people to turn away from their sin (i.e., straighten their crooked ways) and turn to God.

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**4.** Why was Jesus called "The Lamb of God" in verse 29?

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See Isaiah 53:4-7. The penalty for sin is death. God mercifully allowed that animals could be sacrificed as substitutes in the Old Testament in the place of guilty men. In the New Testament, Jesus is the substitute.

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**5.** What do you think might be the significance of the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven upon Jesus in verse 32? What did John say it meant in verse 34?

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**6.** In verses 35-51 we read of how five people became followers of Jesus. Describe how each of them came to follow Him?

Two disciples (one was Andrew) -

Simon Peter -

Philip -

Nathanael -

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The two disciples came because of the testimony of John. Simon Peter came based on Andrew's testimony. Philip responded to Jesus' calling directly. Nathanael responded due to Philip's testimony.

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**7.** Below is a list of reasons why some people become followers of Christ today. Which one do you think is the most common? Why? Do you think it is a valid reason? Are there other reasons?

Reason #1 - Examination of the historical evidence.

Reason #2 - Inherited from parents

Reason #3 - To fulfill a personal need

Reason #4 - Changed life of someone else

Why do you think some people *don't* become followers of Jesus when they know about Him?

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Some possible answers: Historical evidence not understood, hypocritical parents, no perceived needs, never seen a sufficiently changed life in another person. (This question will give you insight into where your students are in their spiritual journey.)

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**8.** Look at verse 42. Given the custom of Bible people being named according to personal characteristics, why do you think Jesus changed the name of Simon (it means "sinking sand") to Peter (it means "rock")? Has the presence of Christ made *that* much difference in the lives of any Christians you have observed?

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This is a chance to bring out the way Christ can change lives in very real people. Your students may have some interesting stories to tell. You might consider having an account of someone you know ready in case no one shares anything.

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