

## Signs in the Book of John

(Lesson 1: Introduction, the first sign- Water to Wine)

### Introduction

- A. The book of John was probably written 60 plus years after Christ's death.
1. Would John have been an eyewitness to most of the events he wrote about?  
\* Project for the week – As we read, pick up on details that would indicate that the writer was an eyewitness.
- B. The purpose of the book - Read John 20:30, 31
1. Why did John write the book? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What would be the benefit of that? \_\_\_\_\_
- Thought question – Why would John want that for us so much?
- C. There was an erroneous religious philosophy that was gaining popularity in John's day called gnosticism. It said that either Jesus Christ was not God or he didn't have a real body on earth.
1. Look out for points in John that would contradict those errors.
- D. Things to keep in mind when analyzing a miraculous sign.
1. How many people would have seen the miracle?
  2. What are some details that would make it appear that the history is true and that the writer is sincere? (Or some things that might seem to indicate that it is made up.)
  3. Did the events the author or other witnesses describe motivate them to change their own lives?  
\* What in the future life of the witness or writer indicates that he was sincere?
    - a. Did John get rich off of his story or have an easy life because of his story?
    - b. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 where Paul describes the life that he, John and the other apostle's had because of their testimony about Christ.  
\* Did John and the other apostles have easy lives?  
\* What are some words and terms in this section that describe their hardships?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\* Though they suffered much, they were not defeated in their spirit  
\* Does this type of language sound like that of liars?

### I. The first miracle of Jesus – John 2:1-25\_

- A. Read verses 1,2
1. Where was the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ See if someone can find this place on their map.
- B. Read verses 3-5
1. What did they run out of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Wedding feasts normally lasted seven or eight days. Perhaps Mary, Jesus and the disciples would have arrived a few days after it began.  
\* Verse 4 probably sounds a little more brusque in English than in the original language. The word "woman" is being used tenderly here.
  2. What do you think Jesus meant when he said his time hadn't yet come? (There are different ideas even among "experts.")
    - a. He didn't plan on doing his first miracle that day, but out of respect for her, he did it
    - b. He didn't plan on doing the miracle at that exact moment, but was planning to do it later in the day.
  3. Did Mary want the people to follow her or to follow her son? \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Today, does Mary want us to follow her or her son?
  4. What did Mary say that indicated that she wanted the instructions followed carefully?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. If the servants had not followed Jesus' instructions carefully, would anything have happened?
    - b. Why is it important to follow the instructions of Jesus carefully today?
- C. Read verses 6-8
1. How many waterpots were available? \_\_\_\_\_

\* These waterpots would have probably contained between 18-20 gallons of water. They were used to wash hands before meals or ceremonies.

2. How much water were they supposed to put in the waterpots? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Why might this have been important to make sure there were no doubts about the miracle?

3. What should they do with the waterpots? (vs. 8) \_\_\_\_\_

D. Read verses 9-12

1. Why was the headwaiter (master of the banquet) confused? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* "Good wine" was that which was considered innocent (in other words, fresh). See Barnes Notes. He references Pliny, Plutarch and Horace, Roman writers.

2. How did the disciples respond to this miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

a. They believed here, but did they later show little faith? (See Matthew 8:26; 14:31; 16:8)

b. Are there different levels or degrees of faith?

c. The key is that we be growing in faith!

## II. Some more applications

A. For older students – Some use this passage to justify drinking beer, fortified wine, etc.

1. Thought questions

a. The wedding guests had been drinking wine for several days before Jesus changed the water to wine.

b. If the wine they drank (mixed with water according to custom) was as strong as modern beers, fortified wines and distilled drinks, What condition would they have been in after drinking it for several days? Would Jesus have then made them more wine to increase that condition?

c. What does this tell you about the strength of the wine that was drunk?

B. Changing ourselves

1. What part of your life would Jesus like to change most?

a. Strong temper

e. Too much importance on the physical

b. Pride

f. Too much focus on worldly entertainment

c. Lack of confidence

g. Too much focus on worldly clothing

d. Lack of prayer and dedication

h. Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. What can you do to "fill your waterpots" so Jesus can change you?

a. Spend more time with Christians

b. Pray more with others.

c. Learn to read the Bible

\* Let us help you!

## Signs in the Book of John

(Lesson 2: Paralytic healed, Feeding of the 5,000, Walking on the Water)

Introduction. Review the first lesson briefly.

### I. Jesus heals a lame man (John 5)

A. Read verses 1-4 (verses 1 through 3 in newer versions)

1. What was the name of the pool where the sick went for healing? \_\_\_\_\_

\* For advanced students – Translations based on older manuscripts don't include 3b and 4.

\* What do you think it would have been like with all the sick people around the pool? The signs? The sounds? The smells?

B. Read verses 5-7

1. How long had the man been paralyzed? \_\_\_\_\_

\* What condition would have characterized his legs after 38 years without walking?

\* Would the upcoming miracle be invisible? Or would there be visible changes?

2. Why did the man think he was unable to be healed? \_\_\_\_\_

\* The concept of an angel stirring the water was common among the Jews.

C. Read verses 8,9

1. What did Jesus tell the man to do? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did he do? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Read 10-13

1. On what day had Jesus healed the lame man? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the Jews become angry with the man? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Do you imagine that the man would have been strolling quietly on his first walk in 38 years?

3. What did they ask him? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why didn't he know how to answer? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Read 14-16

1. When Jesus found the man, what did he tell him to do no more? \_\_\_\_\_

\* How do you suppose the enemies of Jesus would have felt when the man began to spread news far and wide about what had happened? (Vs. 15)

2. Why did the Jews begin to persecute Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Read verses 17, 18

1. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus according to verse 18? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions*

\* Why does the son or offspring of someone have the same makeup of their parents?

\* How could this verse be useful in teaching others that Jesus Christ is not inferior to the Father?

G. Some applications

\* What are some hopeless ways that people try to find solutions to their spiritual illness today?  
- What do we mean by "spiritual illness?"

\* If the man had not taken his bed and walked, would he have been healed? What are some things God tells us to do to accept our spiritual healing from him? Could the man have bragged that he was so smart that he had healed himself by being so smart as to take up his bed and walk? Should we think that we're smart and have saved ourselves simply by doing what Jesus tells us to do?

\* What are some ways we can become so concerned with religious traditions that we miss the truth? How can we avoid that?

### II. The feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)

A. Read verses 1-4

1. Why did a great crowd of people follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Does it say something about the crowd that they did not follow him for his teaching?
- \* What less than ideal motives do some have today for supposedly going where others talk about Jesus? (services of the congregation, Bible studies, etc.)

B. Read verses 5-9

1. Why did Jesus ask Philip about food for the multitude? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Do you think that what Jesus did in Cana in John 2 might have had something to do with this "test?" How do you think Phillip and Andrew did with the test? Do you think Jesus did this test often with the disciples and with others?
2. How much food would have been sufficient to feed so many? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How much food was actually available? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Read verses 10-13

1. How does John describe the grass? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Do you think he would have remembered that? If someone hadn't been there would they have known this little detail?
2. After all had eaten, how many baskets full of leftovers were taken up? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Does this teach us anything about how God feels about wasting food?  
 No food waste!  
 \* Do you think it was significant that more food was left over than what they started -with? Why might Jesus have been teaching them?

D. Read Verses 14, 15

1. What did they want to make of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Jesus was King! Why didn't he then accept their desire to accept him as King?  
 \* Would it be easy today to misunderstand what kind of King Jesus wants to be in our lives?

**III. Jesus walks on the water** (Read verses 16-21)

A. Short answers

1. What condition was the sea of Galilee in when the apostles set out on a boat? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the apostles feel when they saw Jesus walking on the water? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Jesus tell them? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions and applications.

1. John didn't repeat the stories of many of the miracles found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. However, these two, the feeding of the 5,000 and the walking on water are also found in those books.
  - a. How might they have affected John in a special way?
  - b. How would you have responded if you had seen those miracles with your own eyes?
  - c. How well do you "see them" now with spiritual eyes on the basis of John's testimony?
  - d. What are some things about these stories that help you see that they are true and not fairy tales?
2. How has your life been "stormy" sometimes?
3. How can you apply Jesus's words, "It is I. Be not afraid" to your fears when you are in one of life's storms?

## Signs in the Book of John

(Lesson 3: Jesus heals the blind man in John 9)

**Introduction** – The context – Jesus is in Jerusalem in the middle of many controversies.

### I. The healing (verses 1-12)

A. Read verses 1,2 and answer the questions

1. What question did the disciples ask about the man who had been born blind?
2. According to Jesús was the man blind because of any particular sin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why had the man been born blind? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions:*

- \* When people are born blind and have never seen, can you tell it by looking at their eyes? When this miracle is performed, what would have been some visible changes?
- Though some tragedies may be caused directly by sin (for ex. drunk drivers), why is it wrong to attribute all tragedies to some specific sin? Can you think of someone in the Old Testament whose friends accused him of sin because he suffered? What did God think about their accusations against their friend?
- Can you think of some who have physical disabilities who have learned to trust in God and therefore let the works of God to be seen in them? Tell about them If you like.

B. Read verses 3-5 *Thought* -What does Jesus mean when talking of doing the work while it is day?

C. Read verses, 6,7

1. What did Jesus do with the mud he made from his spit? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he tell the man to do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened when the man did it? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions*

- a. Was the man's healing a gift from God? (Was it by God's grace?) Make sure everyone knows what grace is.
- b. Did he still have to do something to receive that grace? \_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Did the fact that the man did something to receive God's grace, mean that his healing was any less a gift from God?
- d. Some say that if we receive God's grace in baptism, that we are denying God's gift (his grace) and saying that we are trying to earn our salvation. What can you point out to them from this story to show that such a concept is wrong?
- e. Can you think of any other Bible examples, or examples from life that illustrate the fact that sometimes gifts are conditional. ("If you do this, I'll give you that...")

D. Read 8-12

1. What question did the neighbors ask among themselves? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did the blind man say to clear up their doubts? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What question did they then ask him? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was his response? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions*

- a. What do you think was the main motive of most of those who asked the blind man how he was healed: (a) mere curiosity? (b) To find out who did this work of God to follow him?
- b. Do those two groups: (a) curiosity seekers and (b) truth seekers exist today among those who check out the teachings and claims of Jesus? Which group are you in?

### II. Two more responses: Prejudice and Cowarice (Verses 13-23)

A, Read verses 13-17

1. On what day did Jesus do this miracle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* *Thought question* – Why did he like to do so many of his miracles on that day?
2. Why did some Pharisees say that Jesus couldn't have come from God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did some others respond to that point? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* *Thought question* – Why was that such a good response? Why were those in the first group so blinded by their prejudice that they couldn't accept the point made by the second? Can the same thing happen to us if we're not careful?

B. Read verses 18-23

1. Their son said that Jesus healed? Why, then, did the parents try to dodge the question of how their son had been healed? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought question*

- \* Why is it so hard to leave our “synagogues” today to follow Christ? (“Synagogue” can be church, comfort zone, traditions, worldly practices, etc.)

**III. Conflict between the Pharisees and blind man (Verses 24-34)**

A. Read verses 24-25

1. What was the one thing the blind man could answer with certainty to the accusation that Jesus was a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions –*

- a. Why was the man so wise not to enter into an argument about what he didn’t know – sabbath regulations and whether Jesus violated them – and simply talk about what he did know – his healing?
- b. Have you ever seen anyone try argue about something they knew little about? How did that turn out? Be honest – Have you ever tried to do it?
- c. If you don’t know science, is it good to delve deeply into scientific arguments to defend the existence of God? What are some things you know that help you believe, that you can discuss?
- d. Why is it good sometimes to say, “I don’t know anything about \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank: science, math, Greek, philosophy, etc.) but I do know something about this \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank – the miracles of Jesus, the boldness of the witnesses, etc.)

B. Read verses 26 – 34

1. Who do you think did the better in this exchange: the Pharisees or the ex blind man? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why? Was the blind man the more learned scholar? What helped him do better? Make a list

*Thought question – Why is it important today to stick to truths we know in talking with others?*

**IV. Jesus talks to the blind man about true blindness (Verses 35-41)**

A. Read verses 35-38

1. What did the blind man do when Jesus told him he was the Son of Man, the promised King, the Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought question – If God is the only one who can accept worship (Matthew 4:10), what does Jesus’ acceptance of worship indicate about who he claimed to be? He claimed to be ...*

B. Read verses 39-41

1. According to Jesus, he came so that who might see? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions*

- \* Could this be taken in both the physical and spiritual sense?
- \* In what way did he come to “make blind,” those who could “see”?

2. What did some Pharisees ask Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Think about the answer of Jesus in verse 31 phrase by phrase. In which phrases is he referring to physical blindness and in which is he talking about spiritual blindness?

**Conclusion –**

- A. How good is your spiritual vision on a scale of one to ten? (How well can you see who Christ is and therefore who you are?)
- B. Here we see four types of people as they consider the truth of Jesus: (1) The merely curious, (2) Those who are prejudiced, (3) Those who are frightened by changes and (4) Those who accept the truth like the blind man. Which of the first three unacceptable ways tempts you the most? How can you make sure you are like the fourth – the blind man?
- C. The Pharisees ignored “the elephant in the room,” the amazing power of Jesus, because they were so focused on their picky interpretations about the sabbath. How can we focus so much on relatively unimportant issues to the point that we miss deep truths?

## Signs in the Book of John

(Lesson 4: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, John 11)

Introduction – Context – Jesus is Galilee, a few months before his death in Jerusalem.

### I. Jesus in Galilee (vss. 1-16)

A. Read verses 1-5

1. What did Mary and Martha communicate to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to Jesus, the illness would not end in what? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read verses 6-10)

1. How many days did Jesus wait? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think he waited?
2. Why did the disciples not want to go to Judea where Lazarus was ill? \_\_\_\_\_

C.

C. Read verses 11-16

1. According to Jesus, what was Lazarus doing? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he clearly tell them later? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* thought question – Why do you think that Jesus and other disciples spoke so often of death as sleep?
3. Why was it good for the apostles not to be present when Lazarus died? \_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Thomas, what was going to happen if they accompanied Jesus to Judea?

### II. Jesus arrives in Bethany (Verses 17-29)

A. Read verses 17-19

1. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does verse 19 describe the number of Jews who came to console the family? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read verses 20-22

1. Who met Jesus as he was approaching Bethany? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did she say to Jesus in 21? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought question* - Do you think she was thinking of her brother's resurrection?

C. Read verses 23-27

1. According to Jesus, what was going to happen to her brother? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus claim to be in verse 25? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What will happen to the one who believes in him? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions* –

- a. Many things are involved in Jesus' statement that he is the resurrection and the life. Discuss them.
- b. What phrases in the last part of verse 25 and verse 26 should be taken physically, and which should be taken spiritually, or might they have double meaning?
- c. What are some good things about Martha's confession in verse 27?

D. Read verses 28, 29

1. Who did Martha tell about the arrival of Jesus?

### III. Events before the resurrection of Lazarus (Verses 30-37)

A. Read verses 30-32

1. According to Mary, what would not have happened if Jesus had been present? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read verses 33-37

1. What did Jesus do according to verse 35? \_\_\_\_\_ (The shortest verse in the Bible!)  
\* *Thought question* – Why do you think Jesus did this when he knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead?
2. What question did some of the Jews ask in verse 37? \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. The resurrection of Lazarus (verses 38-45)

A. Read verses 38-40

1. What did the tomb have to seal it, to close it up? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Probably would have been a shaped more or less like a large donut, to be rolled across the mouth of something like a cave to close it up.

2. What did Jesus tell them to do with the stone? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was Martha surprised that he would request that? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Jesus say was necessary to see the glory of God? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought questions*

\* When Jesus wants us to “remove the stone,” to reveal our lives, what are some “smells” (bad things in our lives) that we don’t want others to notice? Why must we trust Jesus to take care of those “smells” if we believe?

\* Why is faith necessary to see the glory of God?

B. Read verses 41-445

1. Why did Jesus give thanks to God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he cry out in a loud voice? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Lazarus have on him when he came out of the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Notice the detail. Amazing how John remembered it after so many years.

*Thought questions*

\* Why was faith necessary for this miracle to become obvious? What did they have to do?

\* What are some symbolic ways we can “roll the stone back” in our lives to see the glory of God? Why do we sometimes fear doing that?

- What are some “grave clothes” that we still may need to take off about being raised to a new life in Christ? (old hard to get rid of habits, etc.)

**V. The aftermath of the miracle** (verses 45-57) If you have time. If not, skip to the conclusion

A. Read verses 45, 46

1. According to verse 55, what did many of the Jews do that saw this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. But, according to verse 56, Who did some others tell? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought question* – Do you think their motives were good or bad?

B. Read verses 47, 48

1. According to some leaders, what three things were going to happen if they didn’t stop Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Read verses 49-53

1. According to Caiphas, why did Jesus need to die? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Was what he said true in a way that he didn’t intend? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thought question* - In what way was what he said true in a way he didn’t intend?

*Final thought questions*

\* Was Caiphas a prophet in a way?      Were all prophets in the Bible good people?

**Conclusion**

A. What is most impressive to you about this miracle?

- The hundreds, probably thousands who would have witnessed it?
- That Lazarus was in the tomb for four days?
- The miracle necessary to halt the decay and raise the body?
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

B. Spiritual “resurrection

- Why is it so important?
- Why will you need it one day? or why might you need it now?
- Who will you need to go to when you need it?



## Signs in the Book of John

(Lesson 5- The resurrection of Jesus)

Intro. To understand the resurrection, we need to understand events surrounding Christ's death. After being condemned unjustly by the Jews and Romans, Jesus was nailed to the cross and spent several hours there. We'll start reading in chapter 19:28. Hope you can read the early verses in your private time.

### I. The death of Jesus and events immediately afterwards (John 19:28-37)

#### A. Read verses 28-30

1. What did they give to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the final words of Jesus recorded by John? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Can you think of other things besides the physical life of Jesus that were "finished" here?

#### B. Read verses 31-33

1. Why didn't they break Jesus' legs? \_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Read verses 34-37 – Notice how graphic the description is!

1. What did one soldier do to the body of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What flowed out? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who saw this event and gave his testimony?  
\* Though he doesn't give his name, we know this is John's way of referring indirectly to himself.  
\* Thought question – Probably more than sixty years had passed since this event and yet John seems to remember it graphically. Why? Does this sound like something he made up or something that really happened. Do you think he made up the rest of the things he wrote, or did they really happen?

### II. The burial of Jesus (John 19:38-42)

#### A. Read verses 38-40

1. What two men prepared Jesus' body for burial? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* What risks, social and even physical might they have incurred?  
\* What risks might we take to honor Jesus today when he is unpopular?

#### B. Read verses 41,42

1. Where did they bury Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Usually it would have been in a common grave with other criminals. Why was it important that Jesus be buried in a new tomb? (It would have been like a cave.)

### III. The empty tomb! (John 20:1-10)

#### A. Read verses 1,2

1. Who went to the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ According to the other gospels she went with others.

#### B. Read verses 3-8 – Notice again the detail

1. What two men ran to the tomb when hearing that it was empty? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who got there first? \_\_\_\_\_ (Remember, we are talking John)
3. Who went into the tomb (like a cave) first? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Would you like to go into a cave where they buried bodies?
4. What did they see inside the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Thought question – Talk about all the little details in this story. Why do lots of little details indicate that a story is true and written by an eyewitness? Would someone wanting to write a "fairy tale" have thought of all these details?

#### C. Read verses 9,10

1. What did they still not understand?  
\* Thought question – Why were they so slow to understand? Why are we sometimes?

### IV. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (John 19:11-18)

#### A. Read verses 11-13

1. Who did Mary Magdalene first see when arriving back at the tomb by herself?  
\* She probably didn't realize at first who they were.

2. What question did they ask her? \_\_\_\_\_ How did she respond? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read verses 14-18

1. When did Mary realize that the one speaking to her was Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Jesus want Mary to do instead of holding on to him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* When he said, "for I have not yet ascended," perhaps his point that there would be other occasions for her to see him and that she needed to go tell the others what she had seen.

\* Thought question – The Jews of that day didn't respect the testimony of women. It was not allowed in a court of law unless backed up by the testimony of a man. Of all the people who could have had the honor of seeing Jesus first alive after his resurrection, God chose Mary Magdalene. Why? Does God always elevate women?

**V. Jesus appears to the disciples except for Thomas (John 19:19-23)**

A. Read verses 19 -23 (Other passages say that the disciples didn't believe Mary Magdalene)

1. How were the doors when Jesus appeared to the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did he show them? \_\_\_\_\_

\* I wonder if the wounds might have still been oozing blood. Doesn't say here.

\* Was Jesus in "ghostly" form or in the form of a body? (And yet look what he did in vs. 19!)

3. What did Jesus give them? \_\_\_\_\_

\* They were going to receive it in an even greater measure 49 days later on Pentecost.

\* Verse 23 is a little tough. Perhaps the best idea is that through the proclamation of the gospel and their testimony, they would have the privilege of seeing people's sins forgiven if they accepted the message, or condemned if they rejected it. They would be given a powerful message that had the capability of removing sins or condemning unbelievers.

**VI. Jesus appears to Thomas (John 20:24-31)**

A. Read verses 24-26

1. Who wasn't present when Jesus appeared first to the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

\* You never know what you're going to miss when you don't meet with brethren on Sunday!

2. What did he say he would need to see before believing? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Why do you think it was so difficult for him to believe?

B. Read verses 27-29

1. What did Jesus show Thomas? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the only thing Thomas could say to Jesus when seeing this evidence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Some try to say that Thomas didn't call Jesus "My Lord and my God" but rather just made this exclamation to the heavenly father. What words just before Thomas's indicate that he was addressing himself directly to Jesus and not just making an offhanded exclamation?

3. Did Jesus accept this direct reference to himself as God?

\* If Thomas could call Jesus, "my God," (literally, "my the God") Why shouldn't we?

4. Who are even more blessed than Thomas? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Read verses 30,31 – Why was this book written?

\* Why do you think John wanted this so much? Do you think the other apostles and witnesses also wanted it?

**Conclusion** – What do you think of the evidence? Thought questions

\* Does this testimony written by John sound sincere or made up?

\* If John really saw the things he believed he saw, does God exist? Do we need to obey him?

\* Should this testimony change lives? Should it change your life?

\* Do you believe that Jesus is Lord and God? Would you like him to be your Lord and your God?