



Jesus

in the movies
and
The Gospel
of John

“The Word Made Visual”

A Study Guide

JESUS IN THE MOVIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A 3-hour movie released in 2003, about the same time as Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ

Narrated by Christopher Plummer and performed by an international cast

Using a word-for-word script from the “common language” Good News Translation of the Bible from the American Bible Society (1976)

Shown and discussed in five Wednesday night hour-and-a-quarter sessions

Over-all Questions to Consider During the Five-week Series

1. Did you see anything that was different in this enactment of this Gospel from what you expected? Anything different about the portrayal of Jesus? Are these differences troublesome to you?
2. Several important questions about the Gospel of John are actually in the text. What are your answers?
 - a. "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?" (2:18) That is, what is Jesus' authority?
 - b. "This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?" (6:60) (Bread of Life)
 - c. "What do you mean, then, by saying, 'You will be free'?" (8:33) ("The truth will set you free.")
 - d. "Who are you?" (8:25)
3. Note the many times that Jesus introduced a teaching with these words: "I'm telling you the truth ...?" But note this response: "Tell us the plain truth: are you the Messiah?" Yet He didn't answer questions directly, and he seemed to talk in riddles about "living water," "born anew," and such. Why didn't He speak more clearly?
4. Why did many accept Jesus' teachings and follow him? And why did most others turn away?
5. Did the movie live up to the stated purpose of the (written) Gospel, as stated in John 20:30-31?

In his disciples' presence, Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

Was the movie a powerful witness? Or just another long movie? (If you have heard the story of Jesus all your life, in one form or another, you may have a hard time with this question. The story may be too familiar.

Session 1, September 1 — Covering John 1-5

Discussion Questions	Notes
<p>Are there any new insights or ideas based on the portrayal of the scriptures in this video?</p> <p>How does this Gospel introduce Jesus?</p> <p>What was the purpose of having “the Word become a human being”?</p> <p>What was the function of John the Baptist?</p> <p>What does “Lamb of God” say about Jesus?</p> <p>How did Jesus acquire his first disciples? Why did they follow Him?</p> <p>What was the first sign that revealed Jesus’ glory?</p> <p>What was the evidence that Jesus was God’s Son?</p> <p>Why did Jesus heal the official’s son?</p> <p>Did Jesus deliberately stir up trouble, confuse people, cause the hostility of the religious authorities? Why?</p>	

Session 2, September 8 — Covering John 6-9

Discussion Questions	Notes
<p>Are there any new insights or ideas based on the portrayal of the scriptures in this video?</p> <p>Why did large crowds follow Jesus? Why did some people believe and others turn away?</p> <p>Did the miracles and signs increase the number of followers?</p> <p>“This teaching is difficult. Who can accept it?” (6:60)</p> <p>“How does this man know so much when he has never been to school?” (7:15)</p> <p>Why did the authorities not arrest Jesus? (No one laid a hand on him.)</p> <p>Why was the adulterous woman not stoned?</p> <p>Why did the religious authorities have trouble with the question of Jesus’ authority for doing miracles and stirring up the crowds?</p> <p>Did the miracles authenticate Jesus’ identity?</p>	

Session 3, September 15 — Covering John 10-12

Discussion Questions	Notes
<p>Are there any new observations/insights/ideas/inspirations based on the portrayal of the scriptures in this video?</p> <p>Why did the blind man come to believe in Jesus?</p> <p>What was Jesus' explanation of himself as a Good Shepherd?</p> <p>What interpretation did Jesus give in raising Lazarus from the dead?</p> <p>How did Jesus explain so many turning away from his teachings?</p> <p>Why did the religious authorities plot against Jesus? Were their motives entirely selfish?</p> <p>What did Jesus mean by saying "his hour has come"?</p> <p>Why did so many people shout "Hosanna" to Jesus entering Jerusalem?</p>	

Session 4, September 22 — Covering John 13-17

Discussion Questions	Notes
<p>Are there any new observations/insights/ideas/inspirations based on the portrayal of the scriptures in this video?</p> <p>Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet?</p> <p>Why did Jesus accept his impending arrest and death? Why didn't he avoid it so he could continue preaching and saving?</p> <p>What other things did Jesus predict?</p> <p>What general messages did Jesus try to convey to those who would listen?</p> <p>What did He say would happen after He has left the earth?</p> <p>How should his followers behave after He is gone?</p> <p>What did He mean by promising a "Helper, the Holy Spirit" coming?</p>	

Session 5, September 29

Discussion Questions	Notes
<p>Are there any new observations/insights/ideas/inspirations based on the portrayal of the scriptures in this video?</p> <p>Why was Jesus arrested? What were the charges against him?</p> <p>Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus?</p> <p>Why was Jesus condemned to death? By whom?</p> <p>How did Jesus handle his crucifixion?</p> <p>Why did Jesus appear to his followers after the crucifixion?</p> <p>What did Jesus tell them to do in his (physical) absence?</p> <p>What was the purpose of writing this Gospel?</p>	