



The Gospel according to John

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Unlike the other three gospels, John assumes that his readers have a basic knowledge of Jesus. Thus, instead of focusing on the facts, he examines the deeper meaning of Jesus' words and actions.
2. In his first sentence, John highlights the nature of Jesus (Jn. 1 :1 – 4). No image of Christmas appears. John says nothing about the birth and youth of Jesus. He presents him as the adult Son of God. After an eloquent prologue, the book goes on to John the Baptist who humbly presents Jesus as the one whose shoe strap he is not worthy to untie. (Jn. 1 :27)
3. Nicodemus was one of the leaders of the Pharisees, a group fiercely opposed to Jesus. That is why he came at night to talk with Jesus. Two other references to Nicodemus show that he would have been strongly influenced by Jesus. At the council of the Jews, he defended Jesus (Jn. 7 :50 – 53); and after Jesus' death, he helped prepare his body for burial. (Jn.19 :38 – 40)
4. Of all the healing miracles of Jesus reported in the Gospels, only these two occurred at a distance: the healing of the officer's son (Jn. 4:50) and that of the centurion's servant. (Lk. 7:2 – 10; Mt. 8 :5 – 13)
5. John is the only evangelist whose brother was also a disciple of Jesus (Mt. 4:21). He, his brother James, and Peter were the closest disciples of Jesus. In addition, John and James are the only disciples whose mother was mentioned as making a request to Jesus for her sons. (Mt. 20 :20).
6. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet because usually it was the slaves who washed the feet of the dinner guests. Here Jesus, the guest of honor, wanted to teach them a lesson in humility and love. He dressed as a slave, with a towel around his waist, to wash the feet of his disciples (John 13:3 – 15). In Philippians 2 :5 – 8, Paul wrote about Jesus' servant heart.
7. The soldiers broke the legs of the crucified prisoners to hasten their death, so that they could take them away before the Sabbath. But, since Jesus was already dead, His legs were not broken (Jn.19 :33), so that the Old Testament prophecies that the bones of the Messiah would not be broken but that He would be pierced (Ex. 12 :46; Zech.12:10) would be fulfilled, for His side was pierced with a spear (Jn.19:34)
8. At the end of the gospel according to John (Jn. 21:15 – 17), Jesus asked Peter the same question three times, which may have reminded him of the painful memory of his three acts of denial (Jn. 18:15 – 27). This reinstatement and the new mission Jesus gave him gave Peter courage to become one of the most daring preachers in the early church.
9. Among the evangelists, John alone reported, as did Luke, three of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross: the first (Jn. 19:26 – 27), the second (Jn. 19:28) and the seventh (Jn. 19:30). The words

spoken by Jesus on the cross as reported by John were all different from those reported by Luke. Thus, Luke and John together reported six of the seven words of Jesus on the cross.

10. In his gospel, John identified himself as « the disciple whom Jesus loved » or « the beloved disciple » (Jn. 13:23 – 24; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24). At the cross, Jesus entrusted Mary, his mother, to him. And from that moment, John took her into his home. (Jn. 19:27)
11. John, in his gospel, reports almost none of Jesus' parables. He only mentions the repeated proclamations of Christ: « I am » (John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 11, etc.). In addition, he reports twenty-five statements of Christ preceded by the solemn expression: « Truly, truly... ». (Jn. 1:51; 10:7). (Jn. 1 :51; 5 :19, 24, 25, etc.)
12. John is the only one in his gospel, at the time of Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, to report the name of Peter drawing the sword and taking away the ear of the high priest's servant, namely Malchus (Jn. 18:10). The other accounts also relate the fact, but without mentioning names. (Mt. 26:51; Mk. 14:47; Lk. 22 :50)
13. John's life was profoundly transformed by the love of Jesus. At the beginning, John, to whom Jesus gave the name Boanerges, which means son of thunder (Mk. 3 :17), was called, later in his life, the apostle of love.
14. Likely, John lived longer than the other disciples of Jesus. He was over 95 years old when he wrote the book of Revelation on the island of Patmos where he was in exile.
15. Of the four gospels, John is the only one who does not speak of Jesus' baptism, the transfiguration, the institution of the Lord's Supper, or Jesus' agony in Gethsemane. All these facts are reported in the synoptic gospels: Matthew (Mt. 3:13 – 17; 4:1-11; 17:1 – 13; 26:17 – 35; 26:36 – 46), Mark (Mk. 1:9 – 11; 1:12 – 13; 14:12 – 31; 14:32 – 42) and Luke (Lk. 3 :21 – 22; 4:1-13; 9:28 – 36; 22:7 – 38; 22:39 – 46).
16. John presents seven miracles as signs to establish the Deity of Christ, and to describe His ministry. Of the seven, five are reported only by John: the turning of water into wine (Jn. 2:1 – 12); the healing of the son of a royal officer (Jn. 4:43 – 54); the healing of the paralytic in the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1 – 16); the healing of the blind man (Jn. 9:1 – 41) and the raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1 – 46). The other two are found in the synoptics: The multiplication of the loaves for the five thousand men (Jn. 6:15, Mt. 14:21; Mk. 6:44; Lk. 9:14) and the walking on the waters (Jn. 6:16 – 21; Mt. 14:26; Mk. 6:48 – 49).
17. John is the most prolific author of the New Testament after Luke and the Apostle Paul. He wrote the gospel according to John, 1, 2 and 3 John, and the book of Revelation which is the last book of the New Testament and the Bible.
18. There are many details that prove that the book of John is the work of an eyewitness. In chapter 2, the other describes stone vessels (v. 6); in another reference, he gives the exact number of fish caught. (Jn. 21 :11)