

# STUDY QUESTIONS

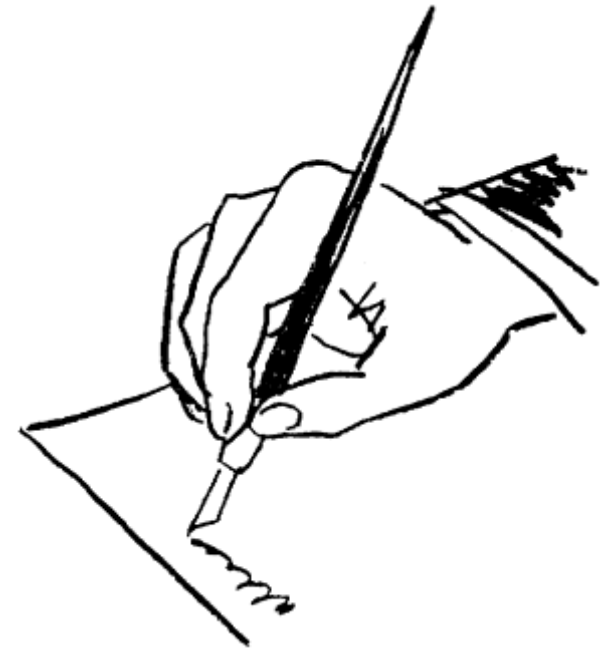
- 1) John chooses to obscure his own identity through most of his gospel account. What statement is he making by doing this?
- 2) From verses 36-37, why did John and Andrew follow Jesus?
- 3) Jesus' response to them is not what we might expect. Rather than asking: 'who are you seeking?'; why does He ask: 'what are you seeking?'
- 4) John goes on to become the more prominent of the two men who follow Jesus. However, he particularly focusses on Andrew in this encounter. What do we learn about Andrew?
- 5) What is particularly significant about what John writes in verse 41?
- 6) In what way might this passage challenge our own discipleship with Jesus?

## This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things...

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INTRODUCTION & STUDY 1

Reading: John 1:35-42



*At the Start*

**Home Fellowship Group Bible Study Questions**

Tuesday 8th/Wednesday 9th January 2019

## Introduction

William Carey was a pioneer Missionary and is seen as the founder of modern missionary movement. On his death bed there were those who spoke highly of what he had been able to do. However, he is reported to have said to a friend: *"You have been speaking about William Carey. When I am gone, say nothing about William Carey-speak only about William Carey's Saviour."*

At the beginning of the New Testament we have four books which give us the account of the life and work of Jesus while He was here on earth. They were either written by an eyewitness himself, or were based on the eyewitness testimony of someone else.

The gospel of John is one of those eye witness accounts. He makes a brief reference to this at the cross in 19:35; and later in his first letter makes it clear about what he had been a party to in **1 John 1:1-4**.

But what's interesting about his account is that although he was involved in some of the major moments of Jesus' life and teaching; he is careful never to use his own name. He does refer to two men of that same name; John the Baptist on 19 occasions and Simon Peter's father an additional four times.

Here is a very unassuming man who is mentioned a number of times by the other gospel writers. He was one of three disciples who Jesus choose to share key moments with him; including the Transfiguration and his intimate prayer time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Most of the time in his gospel account, John refers to 'the disciples' as a collective group; of which he would always be part of in the story. Interestingly, in chapter 1 we have a declaration of faith by John as he sets the scene for his account. He still doesn't give his name, but uses the term 'we' to show the difference that the gospel has made in his life: John 1:14, 16 *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."*

Where it is necessary as part of the unfolding story, we find him mentioned under various obscure terms: such as *"one of the two"*; *"the sons of Zebedee"*; *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"*; *"the other disciple"*; *"he who saw it"*; and *"another disciple"*.

Right at the end of his account, John finally reveals his identity in **21:24**. This is only to confirm that what he has written is true and is a first-hand witness to the life and work of Jesus. For, as we see in 20:31; John's focus is not on himself; or on any other of the disciples. No! *"these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name"*.

In these eight Home Fellowship Studies leading up to Easter, we look behind those events during which John makes some reference to himself. What do we learn about him? What do we learn about discipleship? But most importantly, what do we learn about Jesus?

### Suggested further study:

#### Books:

'Opening up John's Gospel' by Andrew Paterson (Day One)

New Bible Commentary (IVP)

'John - Jesus Christ Is God' by William F. Cook (Focus on the Bible)

#### Online:

Matthew Henry

[www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/john/](http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/john/)

John Calvin

[www.studylight.org/commentaries/cal/john.html](http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/cal/john.html)

J C Ryle

[www.studylight.org/commentaries/ryl/john.html](http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/ryl/john.html)