

# BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 1

## 1. Introduction

- a. Prayer
- b. Why are we here? Purpose of having Bible Studies –to meet God in person and in group
- c. Get to know one another – Individuals introduce their personal experiences, current situations and expectations to the Bible Studies.
- d. The first book of study: John’s Gospel

## 2. Bible as Word of God

Bible is a collection of scriptures spoken/ written by men of God who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

II Timothy 3: 16-17: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

II Peter 1: 20-21: *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

## 3. Different approaches to Bible Studies

As we go through the study lessons of John’s Gospel, let us view the Scripture from these different approaches and consider what we can glean from them to profit our spiritual growth and to benefit those around us.

- a. Biblical Theology: What does Bible say?
- b. Systematic Theology: What is the enduring truth?
- c. Historical Theology: What has the church believed on this subject?
- d. Practical Theology: How should Christians live out the teaching?

## 4. John’s Gospel and its Author

- a. “Synoptic Gospels” vs. “Supplemental Gospel”
- b. Author: Apostle John, “the beloved disciple”
- c. When was John’s Gospel written and the significance?
- d. Focus of John’s Gospel: Jesus as the “incarnate God”

## 5. Some rules for guiding the studies

- a. Sequence
  - i. Always start a lesson with voluntary prayers of two to three persons
  - ii. Read the Scripture of the lesson, one verse by each person taking turns
  - iii. Leader’s presentation of thoughts: 5~10 minutes
  - iv. Topical discussion following the Lesson Plan, question by question, where participants share own thoughts/ insights/ knowledge as moderated by the Leader.
  - v. Leader summarizes/ concludes each topic and move onto the next topic with time apportioned to cover all topics with reasonable depths.
- b. Ensure wide participation and prevent dominance by one person—encourage participation and seek Holy Spirit’s guidance in all discussions.
- c. Leave inconclusive topics for further study and revisit.
- d. Conclude with a prayer by Leader or Assistant Leader