

# Saint Mary Youth Ministry

## The Gospel of John

### *September 2010*

#### The Apostle John

- ◇ Son of Zebedee, brother of James
- ◇ Called from the father's boat to follow Jesus
- ◇ Was part of the Peter, James and John trio who were more intimately involved with Jesus. (They were witnesses of the Transfiguration).
- ◇ Peter, James and John became pillars of the church of Jerusalem.
- ◇ John was very young.
- ◇ John was a working fisherman in the Sea of Galilee
- ◇ This John was not a follower of John the Baptist.



Share some information about yourself in your faith group.

Who are your parents?

Do you have brothers or sisters?

Who do you hang out with?

When is your birthday?

Do you have a job?

**Cell phones must be turned off or will be turned in during your gathering.**

## JOHN'S THEOLOGY

- ◇ John's theology was the major focus of the gospel.
- ◇ The divinity of Jesus was John's major focus of the gospel.
- ◇ Some believe that John wrote the gospel in Ephesus in Asia...and took Mary to Ephesus some time after the crucifixion.
- ◇ Some believe John was the main writer of the gospel and others believe that his followers wrote the gospel from the teachings of John to the followers.
- ◇ This is not resolved as of 2010

The other Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark and Luke) focused more on Jesus the guy...the human. John was the youngest Jesus' followers. John and Peter spent more time with Jesus than the other guys. Jesus trusted them to listen, follow and figure out that he was more than human; he truly was the Son of God - also called Divine.

Does this make sense to you that Jesus would choose a youth to be an apostle? Why or why not?

Is there someone in your life who has guided you in your Faith? Share something about your relationship with him/her.

## JOHN'S PROLOGUE BACKGROUND

- ◇ The prologue gives a perspective on the whole gospel.
- ◇ The gospel was written around 95-100 in the common era
- ◇ The prologue sets the stage for the content of the gospel.
- ◇ The themes of: Light, life, glory, darkness and flesh, rejection, hostility, struggle.
- ◇ The victory of light over darkness is announced...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word is divine and took on human flesh for love of His Father's Will and the people of God.

If you could write the prologue for your perspective of the life of Jesus Christ, just from your studies and life experiences, what might you include?

Do you remember a certain catechist or faith group leader who may have inspired you in your faith?

What kinds of experiences in your life could you give themes...times of light, darkness, rejection, struggle, accomplishments? How does having God in your life make you different from someone who does not know Him?

## JOHN CHAPTER 1

Chapter 1 is like an overview of what the total gospel of John is all about. The prologue may have been written after the gospel was completed. It speaks to God coming to the earth.

Prologue unfolds...

- Vs 1 and 2     The Word of God
- Vs 8            The Son at the Father's side
- Vs 3            The role in creation
- Vs 17          The role of re-creation
- Vs 4 and 5     Gift of human kind
- Vs 6-15        Testimony of John
- Vs 9-11        The Word enters the world
- Vs 15          The Incarnation
- Vs 12-13       Through the Word we become children of God.
- Vs 19-23       John the Baptist prepares the Way
- Vs 21-34       John the Baptist at work
- Vs 35-42       Finding Jesus the anointed one. The people did not understand.
- Vs 43-51       The beginning calls of Jesus to future apostles

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus appeared on this earth. For years, He was an "unknown." At the age of 30, he began his adult ministry. Do you think you would have been the kind of person Jesus would want as an apostle? Why or why not?

## JOHN CHAPTER 2 FIRST SIGN

### **Vs 1-11 The Miracle at Cana**

Usually the best wine was served first...the miracle of Jesus' wine was the best wine.

Jesus' mom knew that God was calling Him to reveal his divine self through this miracle of turning the water into wine. Jesus was a bit annoyed with her basically saying that he was not ready yet. But he changed his mind and did it anyhow. Has anything like that ever happened to you?

### **Vs 13-22 The justified anger of Jesus...His Father's House**

When you come into church, do you remember that it is a sacred, holy place...His Father's House?

Do you daydream or get into little pinching matches with your brother or sister sitting next to you?

Do you pay attention to the various parts of the Mass and understand what each section really means or do you just go thru the motions? What questions do you have?

It's not just kids that are distracted, adults are too, sometimes. Jesus wants us to remember the importance of His Father's House. He sacrificed his life...for YOU!

## JOHN CHAPTER 3

Vs 16-21      Come into the light

Have you ever tried to explain something that seems really simple to you but is totally complicated to someone else that has no idea what you're talking about? This is how things start out in this chapter.

Jesus makes the "rules" clear about his mission as teacher...for us to see and follow the light.

Is it easy for you to see the light in everyday life? When you feel like your life is in darkness, what do you do? Do you go to a friend, a party, your parents or to Jesus?

## SACRAMENT

Jesus, Son of God, gave the 7 Sacraments to help us know God's touch was with us all through life. The Sacraments are God's touch which gives us grace to choose the good and reject the evil. The Sacraments are the light in our life in the battle of evil.

Jesus' influence on John at a young age changed his life forever. Each time you receive Communion remember all the people before you that have sat around this same table. Remember that John was a lot like you.

## LITURGY

The people of God are sacred to God...the places of our worship of God should be sacred.

Space for adoration, communal prayer, sacrifice in the liturgy, Communion and rejoicing..

Jesus was truly upset with others disrespecting his Father's House. Let's always remember this especially during our Youth Masses.

October:	7th grade
November:	8th grade
December:	Reconciliation
January:	Freshman
February:	Sophomores
March:	Confirmation Candidates
April:	Reconciliation
May:	Representatives from each class

## MORALITY

All of our choices in life should be rooted in the example of Jesus...Jesus is the Way, the truth and the light.

What are your biggest concerns, fears or challenges about this school year? Have you been bullied? Are there upper classmen making room for you at the lunch table? Have you been offered drugs or alcohol? What do you think about the new "Bullying Policy" in the Milton School District?

## ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL

You may choose to go through your Rooted in the Gospel booklet for words that relate directly to the content ahead of time...or you can just go thru the booklet at random.

There are a variety of methods for the youth to learn the terms thru games like Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune (wheels are in the YM closet), hangman, charades, baseball....

***Use your imagination and have your faith group create a Rooted in the Gospel game as an Action this year. The winning game will be tested at the May Rooted in the Gospel Scripture Challenge for our final gathering!!***

*Know that you are always welcome to contact Sabrina (868-3334) or Fr. Jim (868-3339) if you need to talk.*