the GOSPEL of JOHN

The content of the Gospels must come to life in such a way that the Gospels become a permanent presence in and possession of the mind of the disciple.

Dallas Willard

The Gospel of John was *"written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that **believing** you may have **life** in His name."*

~ John 20:31

Jesus' Seven "I am ..." Statements

John 6:48	John 8:12	John 10:9	John 10:11	John 11:25	John 14:6	John 15:1
"I am the bread of life."	"I am the light of the world."	"I am the door."	"I am the good shepherd."	"I am the resurrection and the life."	"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."	"I am the true vine."

John wrote his gospel to convince people that Jesus is the Messiah, but his gospel also strengthens the faith of those who already know that Jesus is the Messiah.

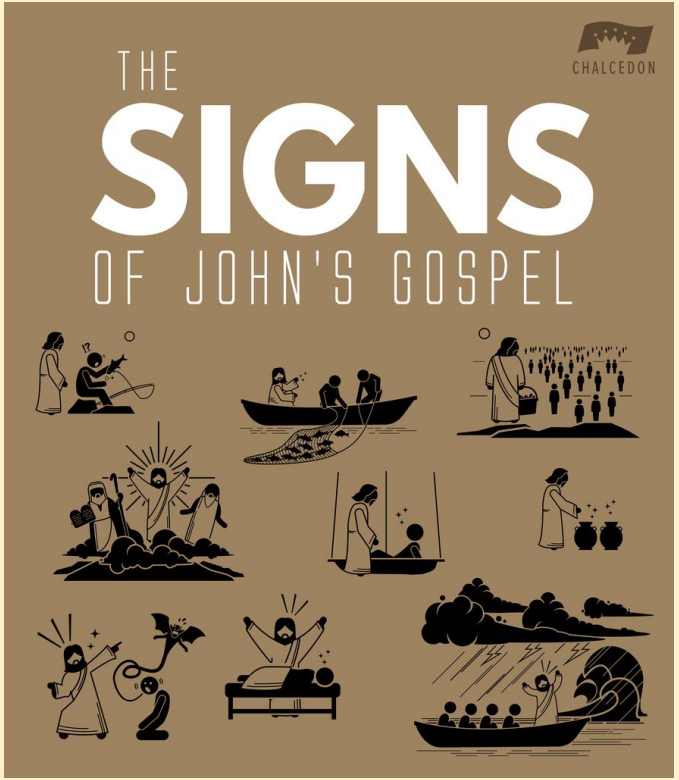
Two-fold purpose:

(1) Bring initial readers to saving faith in Christ

(2) Foster the faith of disciples to continue to entrust themselves to their life in Christ.

Prominent words to reveal the theme:

*"30 And truly Jesus did many other **signs** in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, 31 but these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have **life** in His name." John 20:30-31*



Signs (Koine Greek), when applied to a miracle, implies that the deed is an indication of some meaning behind it.

Seven Signs of Jesus

Jesus Turns Water into Wine	John 2:1-11
Jesus Heals the Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Jesus Makes the Lame Walk	John 5:1-15
Jesus Feeds the Multitudes	John 6:1-15
Jesus Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Jesus gives sight to the Blind	John 9:1-38
Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:1-44

Q. What do you think could be the meaning in each of Jesus' signs?

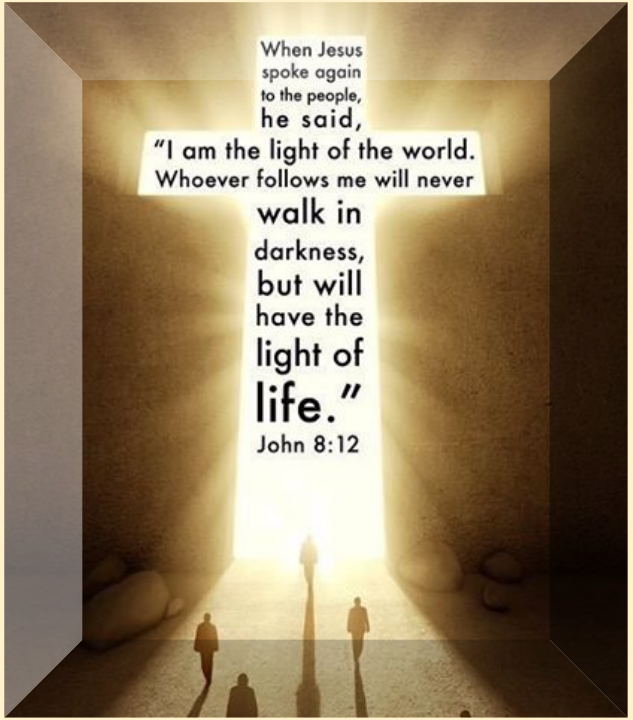
Theological considerations:

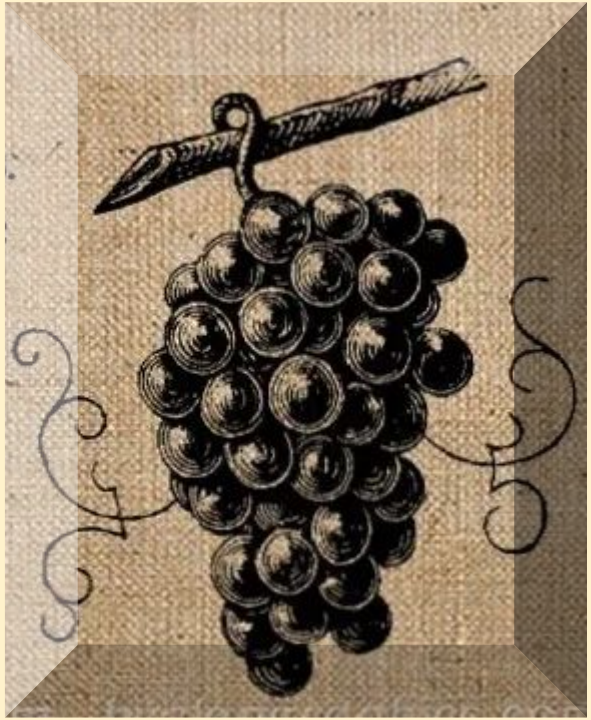
1. Each miracle or sign spotlights the deity of Jesus and His Messiahship - to **bring people to belief**.
2. The word "**believe**" is used 98 times in the Gospel.
3. Idea: respond with complete belief - trust brings life.
4. ***Believe*** in John is stressing an active and vital trust in Jesus. (M. Tenney: revelation, reaction, and result)

Focus point

John focuses on our **life** in Jesus

- Other gospels - the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven
- John- **new life** found in Jesus - examples?
  - John 10:10
  - John 14:6
- The word "**life**" appears a total of 36 times in John
  - > x2 gospels combined
  - > New Testament book





Q. Why did John focus so much on life in Christ?
(think of VIM)

Interpreting John - John 1:1-18

Q1. **(John 1:1-3)**

a. What does it mean that Jesus is the "Word"?
b. What does this say about him and his ministry?
    i. What is the significance for us?

Q2. **(John 1:7-8)**

a. What did it mean that John was sent to "testify" to the light?
b. In what sense are you put here with the purpose of "testifying" to the light?
c. How can we do that? How are you doing in this regard?

Q3 **(John 1:12-13)** To "receive" Jesus means to **“lay hold/take”**.

a. In what ways is God wanting you to continue to take hold of life in Jesus?

PRAY