Session 1: John 1:1-14

After your introduction you could stimulate discussion by asking the following questions:
1. What is one thing that you don’t understand but always wanted to know about Christianity or the Bible?
2. What is one thing that really bothers you about Christianity?
3. What is one question you want to have discussed?

Have everyone turn to John, chapter 1
1. Pick out someone to read John 1:1.
2. Ask, “What do you think the Word means here?” (Ask each person.)
3. Ask the same person to read John 1:2. Ask if this gives any more light on what the Word is. (Even if someone gets the right answer, keep asking until all get it. Remember the goal of self discovery.)
4. Do the same with verses 3 & 4.
5. Then go to verse 14 and have another person read it and come to final conclusion.
6. Why do you think Jesus was called “Word”? (Expresses to us what God is like.) Read verses 1-3 and put Jesus Christ in every where the word “Word” is. (Have someone read that.)
7. Tell the “ant illustration”. (If you were to communicate to an ant effectively, you must become an ant.)
8. Why do you think Jesus is described as the “Word”?
9. Summarize (Either you or a believer in the group. The main point is Jesus IS God.)

Have someone read verses 1:4-9
1. Ask if they have any questions.
2. Ask if they know who John is in verse 6.
3. What can you discover about the “light”? (John 8:12; John 3:19-21)
4. Ask what they think the “light” is referring to.
5. What are functions of light?

Have someone read 1:10-14
1. Ask if they have any questions.
2. Why don’t you think the people received Jesus in verse 11?
3. How does one enter into God’s family in verses 12 & 13?
4. What does “believe” mean and who does one believe in?
5. What does “receive” mean and who does one receive?
6. Summarize “light” and “child of God”.
7. Application: Do you think your concept of who Jesus is has changed?

Next week bring a question you would like to ask.
Note: If you go further, have someone read John 1:15-18. But try to stop at verse 14. Spend more time on another question or open it up for questions.

Session 2: John 1:15-51

Purpose: To inform people what Christ did.
Questions to ask:
1. Review “believe” and “receive”. How does one know if they are a child of God?

Have someone read 1:15-30
1. Do you have any questions?
2. What claims does John make about Christ in verse 15?
3. What is Moses known for?
4. What is “The Law”?
5. What is “Grace”?
6. What law did Moses give and why was it given? (Romans 3:20; Gal. 3:24) (An x-ray machine doesn’t cure but it shows the problem.)
7. Do you feel according to the Bible that you could become a child of God through the Law?

Read 1:29-30
1. Why was Jesus called the Lamb of God? (See Is. 53:4-7; Hebrews 10:12-14) (1-14)
2. What is sin? Why do you think we sin?

Read verses 1:31-51
1. Who are the 4 men?
2. How did each man meet Christ and what led each to believe in Christ as God?
Session 3: John 2

Read 2:1-11
1. (Optional question: What is the funniest thing you've seen at a wedding?)
2. What do you think Jesus' attending a wedding tells us about Him? (Matthew 11:16-19)
3. Jesus is not yet known as a miracle worker, so why does Mary approach him in verse 3?
4. Do you find Jesus' solution to the problem of no wine at the wedding believable? Why or why not?

Note: What was said about Jesus in John 1:3? (Creator! He continued to create.)
5. What does Jesus’ conversation with his mother tell us about Him? (Approachable. Mary knew Jesus could do something about it, this word “woman” in Greek meant “dear woman”, a term of endearment.)
6. What “time” do you think Jesus is referring to in vs 4? (John 12:23, 27)

Note: Jesus’ death was not a futile and unforeseen tragedy. It was the reason for His coming.
7. In vs 11 John describes the event as a “miraculous sign.” Why? What is the function of a sign? (A sign informs and helps one understand.)

Read 2:12-22
1. What do you think prompted Jesus to act the way He did when He cleared the Temple? (13-17)

Note: The Passover was one of the principle religious feasts of the Jews. They came to Jerusalem for celebration and spiritual cleansing. However, the temple merchants were exploiting the situation by selling animals and exchanging foreign currencies for the temple currency-all for profit. Jesus accused them of soiling God's name. He told them in so many words, “Don’t use My Father's name to promote your dirty business!” (Romans 2:24)
2. What does Jesus' anger tell you about Him?
3. Why do you think Jesus said about a new birth to Nicodemus? (18-22)
4. Why do you think His resurrection would be the ultimate credential? (1 Cor. 15:12-19)

Read 2:23-25
1. Why do you think Jesus did not respond to the people in 2:23, even though it says they believed in Him? (Real belief implies commitment. Their belief in Jesus did not go that far. They reserved the right to run own life.)

Session 4: John 3

(Purpose: To inform people why Christ came and that they need to experience 2 births to enter God's Kingdom.)

Read 3:1-7
1. Does anyone have any questions on these verses?
2. Who was this Nicodemus and what is a pharisee?
3. Why do you think Nicodemus went to Jesus at night?
4. What question do you think Nicodemus asked Christ that is not recorded between vs 2&3?
5. What does Jesus say about a new birth to Nicodemus?

Note: Often in John you will see two different “planes” of thought. (People on a physical plane and Jesus answering on a spiritual plane.)
6. What do you think was Nicodemus’ description of Christ?
7. What do you think it means to be born again?
8. What are some truths Christ includes in teaching about the Spiritual birth?
9. Talk about water and spirit (water might represent a physical birth and spirit a spiritual birth.)
10. How can you tell if a person is born again? (wind illustration vs 8. How is the wind and new birth alike? by their effects…seen [grass blows – new quality of life.])

Read 3:9-12
1. Why can't Nicodemus understand what Christ is saying?
2. Do you feel Nicodemus felt he was OK spiritually speaking?
3. Do you think people today think they are OK spiritually but aren’t? Why is this?
4. If you could personally visit with Jesus right now in this room, what would you ask Him?
5. What do you think Jesus would say your greatest need is?

Read 3:13-21
1. What questions do you have on this section?
2. What do you feel was Jesus’ purpose in coming to earth?
3. Why must the Son of God be lifted up and what do you think that means from verse 14? (Numbers 21:7-9; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18)
4. What were some reasons for God’s sending His Son?
5. Have person put his own name in John 3:16.
6. What must one do in order to obtain eternal life?
7. What do you feel were the sins Jesus died for? Do you feel your sins were there?
8. What do you feel is the relationship between being born again and believing and receiving from John 1:12?
Session 5: John 4

Read 4:1-18
1. What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?
   Note: It was rare for a rabbi to condescend to talk to a woman, let alone a Samaritan Woman. Discuss the politics of the day (Jews usually walked around Samaria. Jesus didn’t have prejudices of the day.)
2. What can you learn about the woman from these verses?
   a. Verse 6 - she went for water “about the 6th hour”, which was 12:00 noon – the hottest time of day. Getting water was a social time. Why do you think she went when she did?
   b. Why was she surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink of water?
3. What do you think Jesus meant by “living water” (4:10) (Isaiah 44:3-4; John 7:37-39)
4. What claims did He make about the special water?
5. What is the thirst Jesus talks about? (The innate dissatisfaction of a human being; each of us desires significance and security.)
6. How had the woman tried to quench her thirst? (Looking for love in the wrong places.)

Read 4:19-30
1. As soon as the Samaritan woman perceived that the conversation was getting personal, what did she do? (Tried to change topic to “religion”. The differences between what Jews and Samaritans believed.)
2. How did Jesus handle her evasive tactic? (4:21-24) (It’s not the religious system or the form that is important, but true worship.)
3. What do we learn about Jesus from His statement in John 4:26?
4. What decision did the woman face?
5. What happened to the waterpot?

Read 4:31-42
1. Why was Jesus no longer hungry? (4:31-34)
2. What is the harvest? (Matthew 9:36-38) Who are the harvesters?
3. What conclusion did the townspeople come to about Jesus? What was the basis of their thinking?

Read 4:43-54
1. Any questions? Comments?

Session 6: John 5

Read 5:1-18
1. When you were a child, what was the most serious illness or injury you ever had?
2. Can anyone explain what was going on in these verses?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose that particular lame man out of the multitude of diseased people? (5:7)
4. What can you see about Jesus from these verses?
5. Did the lame man demonstrate any faith? Why might this be significant?
6. Why do you suppose Jesus asked, “Do you want to get well?”
7. Imagine being a paralyzed beggar waiting 36 years for an improbable cure. Yet Jesus spoke of “something worse” (5:14). What could it be? (Matthew 16:26)
8. What was the Jews reaction to the healing of the beggar? (vs. 10) Discuss this.
9. Why did Jesus deliberately violate this law? (6:16)
10. What do you observe about Jesus from 5:17-18?

Read 5:19-30
1. What observations can you make about Jesus’ relationship with His Father?
2. In what sense was He dependent on His Father?
3. What do you see Jesus promising in 5:24? How does one receive these promises?

Read 5:31-47
1. Jesus presented six witnesses who attested to His being God. Who or what were they? (Jesus Himself, His works, John the Baptist, the Father, The Scriptures, Moses.)
Gospel of John Questions

Session 7: John 6

Read 6:1-31
1. What is happening here?
2. What motivated the multitudes to follow Jesus? (2, 14, 15, 26, 27)
   Note: Their physical needs, politics, material gain, free bread.
3. Do you think these same things motivate people to be religious today?
4. How did Jesus react to these people? (26-29) (He rejected them.)
5. What do you think it was that disqualified them from being real followers of Jesus?
   Note: They refused to accept the significance of the signs. They were interested only in what Jesus could do for them.
6. What do you think Jesus was really trying to teach the crowd when He fed them? (27)
7. Jesus attached a second meaning to both that bread and the manna Moses gave the Israelites. How would you explain that second meaning? (Isaiah 55:1-2)

Read 6:32-58
1. What do you think Jesus was implying when He referred to Himself as "the bread of life" (vs 35, 51)
   Note: He is from above - the supernatural world (38, 41-42); He gives life to the world (33); He satisfies our hunger and thirst (35); He is eternal (51, 54).
2. How can a person get some of this "bread"? (51-58)
3. What do you think Jesus means by "eat my flesh and drink my blood"?
   Note: It is an individual act. A person must take Christ as the "staff of life" (Gal. 2:20). This is not referring to Communion. With whom did Jesus break bread at the Lord's Supper? Why? (Luke 22:14-23). The Lord's supper was intended to provide a permanent remembrance of the hour of His death.
4. Jesus told the multitude in John 6 that they had to eat and drink of Him for a very different reason. What was it?
5. Why is it impossible for Jesus to be merely a teacher or a philosopher and say what He says in 6:35-38?

Read 6:59-71
1. Why didn't Jesus try to smooth things over when He saw that His followers were offended by what He said? (60-66)
   Note: The people were only superficially accepting Jesus. He wanted all or nothing. He did those people a favor by sending them away. They had long been under the illusion that they were "followers of Christ". But Jesus' non-negotiable terms are: "Give Me your whole self or forget it!"
2. When Jesus asked His 12 disciples why they didn't leave, what was the answer?
3. What do you think Peter meant by that?
4. Have you learned anything new about being a follower of Jesus Christ through this Gospel?

Session 8: John 7

The theme of this chapter is the controversy that continually went on over the question "Who is He?"

Read 7:1-52
1. List the factors that contributed to the people's bafflement on this question, as indicated in these verses: John 7:14-15; John 7:19-20; John 7:25-27; John 7:31; John 7:40-44; John 7:46-49; John 7:52.
2. To what extent did their confusion result from their preconceived notions about the Messiah? Where do you suppose these misconceptions originated?
   Note: Ignorance of the Scriptures and/or failure to understand them. (Luke 24:25-26) Religious traditions. (Mark 7:6-9)
3. Do you think people have similar misconceptions to deal with today before we can come to understand Jesus Christ? What are some of those misconceptions?
4. What clues do you find in this chapter that suggest Jesus was divine?
   Note: John 7:15-16, 46 - His wisdom; John 7:28-29 - What He Himself claimed to be; John 7:31 - His signs; John 7:33-34 - His prediction of His resurrection; John 7:37-39 - His claims to give life to others; John 7:41-42 - The prophets.
5. What impresses you about the offer Jesus makes in vs.37-39? To whom did He make it? What kind of thirst was He talking about? (John 4:13, 12; 6:55; Isaiah 55:1-3) Exactly what was He offering? (John 14:25,26; Romans 8:9) How does one respond to this offer? (Rev. 3:20)
6. The guards were impressed with Christ's words. How did the authorities try to diminish this impression? (John 7:48-49)
7. What point was raised by Nicodemus, and how did the authorities react to it? (50-52)
8. What attitude would you say characterized the authorities? How does this attitude affect objective thinking? (Psalm 10:4)
9. What do you think about Nicodemus?
Session 9: John 8

Read 8:1-11
1. Why do you think the Pharisees took this woman to Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus attitude was toward the woman caught in adultery? (Did He approve of what she had done? Then why didn’t He condemn her?)
   Note: Was it that He closed His eyes to her sin? (John 3:16-18, 1 Peter 3:18) Jesus paid dearly to be able to offer her the pardon she needed. He took the woman’s place.
3. What stands out to you about Jesus’ attitude toward the Pharisees?
   Note: He tried to help them see that they were no different than the woman. But their case was more difficult. She knew she had a problem, they didn’t.

Read 8:12-20
1. In 8:12 Jesus made another of His “I am” statements. How do you understand His claim to being the “Light of the world”? What could this imply for you?

Read 8:21-38
1. In John 8:24, 28, 58 we see more “I am” statements. To what was Jesus referring? I am WHAT? He said that after His crucifixion people would know the answer to the question of His identity (8:28). What is it?
2. What was the reason for the conflict between Jesus and His enemies?
3. Why do you think this is so hard to accept?
   Note: To admit that Jesus is God is to admit need for change.
4. What do you think He means by “truth”? What is a truth?
   Note: A truth is something tested and proven. Jesus said in John 14:6 “I am the truth.” This was the ultimate expression of egotism- or He was right!
5. How can we determine whether He was right or wrong?
   Note: We must put Him to the test - on His terms.
6. Jesus offered a spiritual maxim on freedom: Committing sin results in slavery (34). What do you think this means?
   Note: The person who says, “I am free to do whatever my inner voice suggests” soon finds himself enslaved to what he sought to be free to do (Mark 7:14-23).
7. Why do you suppose the Jews couldn’t perceive their spiritual slavery? (33)
8. What must happen before a person can be really free?
   Note: Submitting to Christ requires an unconditional surrender (Luke 14:25-33). We must fully submit before He can do anything for us. Example: The sick must submit to the surgeon so that he can do whatever is necessary to produce the cure.

Read 8:39-59
1. Why did Jesus say that the Jews who rejected Him weren’t sons of God (42)? How did He support that (27-47)?
2. Do you think it is possible to believe in God and not believe in Christ? Why? What are the characteristics of one who knows God and of one who doesn’t?
3. What were the Pharisees thinking at this point about Jesus?
4. What was the basis of this judgment?
5. How did Jesus answer them (49-59)?