

JOHN

DISCIPLE OF JESUS

HIS BEGINNINGS

- Son of Zebedee and the brother of the disciple James (Luke 5:10)
- His mother is thought to be a woman named Salome. In one verse, she is referred to by name, and in another she is referred to as the Mother of Zebedee's sons, making her the mother of James and John (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:56)
- From Jewish descent
- Grew up in Galilee
- Worked as a fisherman with his father and brother in Capernaum (Matthew 4:13, 18)
- Before they met Jesus, John and James worked alongside Simon Peter and Andrew as fishermen (Luke 5:10)
- John may have followed John the Baptist before he followed Jesus (John 1:35-40)
- Typically thought to be the youngest of Jesus' disciples

HIS LEGACY

- Known for his role in developing the Christian church through the spiritual and theological teachings of his writings and the evangelistic work He did in spreading Christianity
- His time with Jesus taught him how to be a compassionate and humble leader
 - He had once hated Samaritans (Luke 9:51-56) but later ministered to them and prayed on their behalf (Acts 8:14-15)
- His story teaches us that Jesus was never looking for perfect disciples but was simply looking for those who were willing
- He had some character flaws and often made mistakes. But in the end, it was his willingness—to follow Jesus and to allow his character to be transformed—that led him to become John the Apostle and John the Revelator

HIS CALLING

- Witnessed the miracle catch of fish with Peter, Andrew, and James (Luke 5:7)
- After Jesus invited Peter and Andrew to follow Him, Jesus turned to John and James and asked them to follow Him too (Matthew 4:21)
- John left behind everything he had to follow after Jesus, along with his brother James (Matthew 4:21-22)

HIS DISCIPLESHIP

- Both he and his brother James were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus because of their especially strong personalities that could be hasty and judgemental at times (Mark 3:17)
 - Rebuked a man for casting out demons in Jesus' name because this man wasn't part of the 12 (Mark 9:38-41)
 - He and James called Jesus to send fire down on a Samaritan village to punish them for rejecting Jesus (Luke 9:51-56)
- Was present at the raising of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:40-42)
- Experienced Jesus' Transfiguration (Luke 9: 32-33; Mark 9:4-6)
- Helped prepare the Passover dinner (The Last Supper) for Jesus and the rest of the disciples (Luke 22:7-13)
- Refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved" (John 21: 20-25; John 13:23-25; John 19:26-27)
- The only disciple believed to be present at the crucifixion of Christ
- Was asked by Jesus to take care of His mother, Mary, when He died on the cross (John 19:26-27)
- Was the first of the 12 disciples to reach Jesus' tomb after Mary Magdalene told him and Peter that the stone of the tomb had been rolled away (John 20:4)
- Concluded that Jesus had risen from the dead (John 20:6-8)

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AS AN APOSTLE

- Performed miracles (Acts 3:1-10)
- Prayed for the Holy Spirit's guidance (Acts 8:14-15)
- Made administrative decisions (Acts 6:6-7)
- Preached the Gospel message (Acts 3:11-26)
- Apostle Paul called Him one of the pillars of the early Christian church (Galatians 2:9)
- Wrote the Gospel of John, the epistles of John, and the book of Revelation*
- Exiled on the island of Patmos for preaching about Jesus; likely during this time, John wrote Revelation**
- Is believed to have written more of the Bible than any other disciple

THE TEACHINGS OF JOHN

- His writings mention events other accounts had left out or had not been able to witness, like the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:38-44)
- Gospel of John was written as a biography of Jesus' life and mission
- The epistles of John were written as letters of counsel to early Christian believers
- Revelation was his account of a prophetic vision he received, which provides theological insight about what will happen in the last days right before the Second Coming of Jesus

*"24 Surprising Things."

**John at Patmos: Why Was He Exiled and Why Was it a Blessing? General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. <https://www.herosbibletrivia.org/en/john-at-patmos-reasons-of-exile/>.

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