

BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: JOHN



BEST NAMES

Nicodemus, learned and wise leader who seeks the counsel of Jesus in the cover of night; **Mary Magdalene**, faithful friend of Jesus, disciple to us all, and an alliterative name to boot!

COOLEST CHARACTER

Lazarus has to be high on the list -- he is resurrected! But he's not as cool as the **Samaritan Woman** at the well. She's mysterious, theological, and colorful.

FAVORITE STORY

The Wedding at Cana and the Feedings of Thousands:

I do like bread and wine, but that's not what makes these my favorite. It's the abundance part. Jesus doesn't just provide subsistence; he provides abundance.



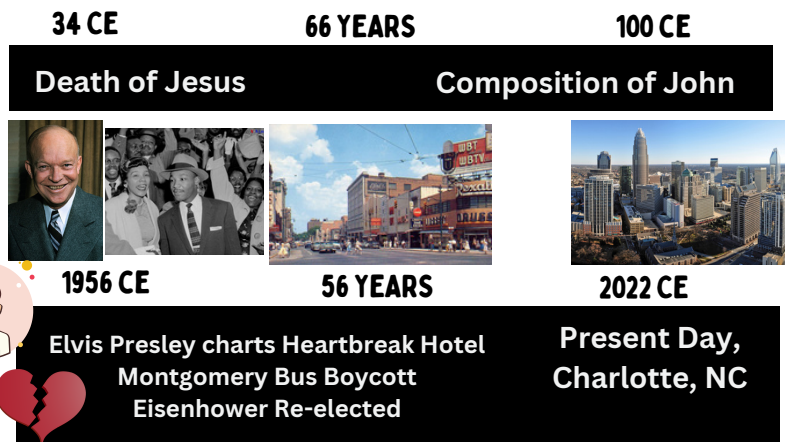
UNIQUE TO JOHN

- **A Prologue**
 - The who and why of the Word made flesh
- **Light and Dark**
 - Recurring metaphor of John's gospel
- **The Raising of Lazarus**
 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead as a preview of his own resurrection



TIMELINE

The Gospel According to John was composed more than 6 decades after the death of Jesus. This community was as far removed from the life of Jesus as we would be from 1956 in 2022.



TROUBLESOME STORIES

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light, and too often Christians contort these words to make God rigid and inflexible. We need to be VERY careful not to dismiss the infinite grace and creativity God offers to everyone. Also, "brood of vipers," is not the healthiest way to characterize those with whom we disagree.

THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Jesus is the human manifestation of the Word or Logos -- the organizing principle of creation; Jesus as an avenue of truth and redemption; The enduring power of light over darkness

IF JOHN WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

LET'S GO WITH **THE YOUNGBLOODS**, WHOSE FAMOUS HIT, **GET TOGETHER** IMPLORES EVERYONE: "COME ON PEOPLE, NOW, SMILE ON YOUR BROTHER. EVERYBODY GET TOGETHER. TRY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER RIGHT NOW."

