

# **IGG LEADERS' TRAINING WEEKEND**



**13-15 SEPT**

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## Key Dates for the Year

### Christmas Term:

25th September: Welcome Evening

29th September: IGG Lunch - Getting going as a Christian in London

13th October: IGG Lunch - Making the most of Sundays

19th October: Bible in a Day + Welcome social

27th October: IGG Lunch - Making the most of your IGG group

24th November: IGG Lunch - Making the most of Christmas

29th November - 1st December: IGG Weekend

6th/13th December - English/Mandarin Christmas Dinner

### Easter Term:

12th January: IGG Lunch - Reading the Bible for Yourself

19th January: IGG Lunch - Applying the Bible for Yourself

27th-31st January: London Mission Week

1st February: IGG CNY Dinner

9th February: IGG Lunch - Relationships

21st-23rd February: IGG Weekend

8th March: IGG Lunch - Reading John 1-2-1

13th-15th March: Leaders' Weekend

### Summer Term:

26th April: IGG Lunch - Choosing a Church at Home

10th May: IGG Lunch - Self Starting in Ministry

18th-22nd May - Week of Talks

24th May: IGG Lunch - Chinese Religion

14th June: IGG Lunch - Praying for Returnees

17th June: IGG Summer Party

# SLOBS Groups

## **Tom Cunningham & Mary Vander Steen (Mandarin students)**

Hanna/Yingchu

Chase/Zhihao

## **John Wood & Yi Wang (Mandarin workers)**

Brian Wong/Ping

Will/Rose

Tom Liu/Michelle Chen

## **Rob & Tjen (English workers)**

Mark Crossley/Belia/Ryan

Chong-U/Adeline/Vanessa Ho

Ethan/Joanne

Ying Peng/Cheryl/Esther

## **George & Laura (English students)**

Paul/Aaron

Abraham/Ben

Gwilym

Cheryl/Gillian

Dorothy/Mel

Jamie/Ah Chee

Michele/Hannah

## **Overview**

Dan/Helena

Derek/Rachel

Sam/Tracy

Mary/Julia/Zoe

# IGG 2019-20 – Overview of John’s Gospel

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Five IGGers in 2019-20...

- a. Boris from Bugis
- b. Theresa from Taipei
- c. David from Dalian
- d. Gordon from George Town
- e. Tony from Tim Ho Wan<sup>1</sup>

... John’s gospel is for **them**

*Firstly, because:*

## 3. John is a book that calls for a decision

### a. The beginning

1:12-13

### b. Along the way

- The ‘whoever’s’
- The 1-2-1 chats
  - Nathanael (John 1)
  - Nicodemus (John 3)
  - The Samaritan Woman (John 4)

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<sup>1</sup> You might find it surprising that someone is ‘from’ a Dim Sum restaurant, but Tony spends so much time in Dim Sum restaurants - especially since coming to London - that no one actually remembers which district of Hong Kong he’s really from.

- Martha (John 11)
  - Pilate (John 19)
  - Mary (John 20)
  - Peter (John 21)
- The blind man (John 9)

#### c. The end

- Nicodemus and Joseph (19:38-42)
- Thomas (20:28) 'My Lord and my God'
- 20:30-31 'These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'

#### d. And so...

- For Boris
- For Theresa
- For David
- For Gordon
- For Tony

*Pray.*

*But how does John actually get you there?*

## 4. John's argument: themes?

Light and dark, old and new, weddings and the bridegroom, the Temple, the Spirit, Passover, the hour, day and night, belief and unbelief, abiding, prayer, truth, judging, giving life, words, works, Exodus, witness, testifying, Scripture and fulfilment, discipleship, sight and blindness, Sonship, life, sending, Sabbath, joy, glory, the nations, Passover, creation, fruit, condemnation etc.

*In other words:*

**Boom!**

"Shallow enough for a child to wade in and deep enough to drown an elephant"

Where do we start?

## 5. John's argument: a starter for 7

Cover the handout, and then...

How many things can you think of that there are 7 of in John?

### a. Some 7s in John

- 7 I am \_\_\_\_\_ sayings
- 7 *named* signs
- 7 I am! sayings
- 7 1-2-1s
- 7 days (twice)
- 7 jars
- 7 hours
- 7 'husbands'
- 7 disciples (in John 21)

### b. The significance of 7

#### i. Time / fulfilment

The week, but also...

... the *end* of the week

#### ii. Creation / new creation

Life from the dead

Entering into rest

Restored relationship with God

All things made new

#### iii. Divine identity

The only creator

The only 7<sup>th</sup> day worker

*Putting it together, and applying it to Jesus:*

**Jesus is the LORD himself (iii), at the end of history (i), bringing in the promised new creation (ii).**

*... which is actually what Boris, Theresa, David, Gordon and Tony need to hear.*

But how does John unpack this idea?

## 6. John's argument: the structure

### a. A St Helen's insight – three sign brackets

Pair 1: wedding at Cana (2:1-12) and healing of official's son at Cana (4:46-54)

Pair 2: Sabbath healing of lame man + discourse (5:1-47) and Sabbath healing of blind man + discourse (9:1-10:21)

Pair 3: Lazarus' resurrection (11:1-44) and Jesus' resurrection (20:1-29)

Which, with a bit of smoothing out, leaves you with...

1:1-18 - Prologue

1:19-51 - Introduction

**Section 1:** 2:1-4:54 (Bridegroom)

Sign (2:1-11)

Teaching - Cross and Spirit

Sign (4:46-54)

**Section 2:** 5:1-10:42 (Exodus)

Sign (5:1-47)

Teaching - Cross and Spirit

Sign (9:1-10:21)

**Section 3:** 11:1-20:31 (Glory)

Sign (11:1-44)

Cross (11:45-12:50)

Teaching - Cross and Spirit

Cross (18:1-19:42)

Sign (20:1-31)

21:1-25 - Epilogue

Which really is tremendously helpful, but it's helpful to see that these 3 actually go into 2 main sections:

### b. A tale of two halves

1:19-28 and 10:40-41 - a *John* bracket

11:1-16 and 20:24-29 - a *Thomas* bracket

### c. The *symmetry* of John 1:19-10:42 and 11:1-20:31

- 2 weeks
  - 1:19-2:11
  - 12:1-20:18
- 2 trials
  - Jesus on trial (John 5-10)
  - The world on trial (John 14-16)
- 2 primary witnesses
  - John
  - The beloved disciple
- 2 consecrations
  - Jesus (10:22-42)
  - The disciples (17)



- 2 sendings  
     Jesus (e.g. 3:17, 3:34, 5:23, 6:29, 6:38, 7:16, 7:33, 8:29, 8:42, 10:36)  
     The disciples (e.g. 13:20, 17:18, 20:21)

#### d. The *difference* between John 1:19-10:42 and 11:1-20:31

- The hour - *not yet* (2:4) vs. *Now* (12:23)
- *The past* vs. *The future* (which is intimately tied up with John vs. Thomas / beloved disciple)
- *Jesus* vs. *The disciples*

#### e. Gathering that all together

John 1:19-10:42 - The end of the first week *or* Jesus as the end of (Israel's) history

John 11:1-20:31 - A week to remake the world *or* Jesus as the start of a new creation

*In other words:*

Jesus is the LORD himself, at the end of history (John 1-10)

... bringing in his promised new creation (John 11-20)

*Diving into the details:*

## 7. John's argument: unpacking chapters 1-10

### a. John the baptist's witness and the Old Testament

1:6-8  
 1:15  
 1:19-36  
 3:22-36  
 5:32-36  
 10:40-42

... So John 1-10 is all about Jesus as the fulfilment of Old Testament expectation

### b. John 2-4: Jesus as the long-awaited bridegroom

#### i. The structure

2:1-12 Cana - sign  
 2:13-3:21 Jerusalem - Nicodemus and Temple  
 3:22-36 Wilderness - John's witness  
 4:1-45 Samaria - Samaritan woman and Temple  
 4:46-54 Cana - sign

## ii. The long-awaited bridegroom

- The wedding, and the best wine til last
- John's speech, and the Son above all
- The Samaritan woman, and husband she's been waiting for

## iii. The implications

### 1. Joy

### 2. Breaking the old

- The Temple
- Nicodemus
- Heavenly things
- The Samaritan woman

### 3. Decision

## c. John 5-10: Jesus as the rejected Rescuer

### i. Structure

John 5 - Sabbath healing

John 6 - Rejection in the wilderness

John 7-8 - Rejection in the Temple

John 9-10a - Sabbath healing

*Déjà vu and the argument of the section*

### ii. Jesus is the Exodus rescuer

#### 1. The festivals

- Sabbath (John 5)
- Passover (John 6)
- Tabernacles (John 7-8)
- Sabbath (John 9)
- Dedication (John 10)

#### 2. The signs

'38 years'

Manna

Light to those in darkness

#### 3. The I am \_\_\_\_\_ s

'I am the bread of life'

'I am the light of the world'

'I am the door'

'I am the good shepherd'

#### 4. The I am's

'I am! (John 6:20)

'Unless you believe that I am! you will die in your sins' (John 8:24)

'Before Abraham was, I am!' (John 8:58)

#### iii. Jesus is rejected by his own people

John 5:16-18

John 6:66

John 8:59

John 10:19-21

John 10:39

##### 1. Jesus on trial

- Sabbath-breaker

- Blasphemer

##### 2. Israel on trial

- The Sabbath

- The LORD

#### d. The importance of both 'takes' for John's purpose

#### e. Sharpening our point

**Despite the rejection of his people, Jesus is the LORD himself, coming as he promised at the end of history (to bring in his new creation)**

## 8. John's argument: unpacking chapters 11-20

### a. Jesus brings the promised new creation (John 11 and John 20)

**John 11** - Lazarus' resurrection and the end of the world

John 5:28-29 and 11:43-44

John 11:25-26

**John 20** - Jesus' resurrection and a new creation

The first day, garden, the woman, the angels, peace, the breathing

*And especially restored relationship*

... which is where we began (John 1:1-5)

And so, as you encounter Jesus...

b. Jesus brings the promised new creation through his death (John 12 and John 18-19)

*No surprise* (John 3, 6, 10)

i. The drama of Lazarus and Jewish opposition (John 11-12)

ii. Jesus' words (John 12:23-27)

iii. The Old Testament image: **passover**

iv. Discipleship (John 13)

*But it is hugely important for John's purpose*

And so as you encounter the crucified Jesus...

c. Jesus brings the promised new creation through his death, **and the Spirit-filled words of his disciples**

- The handover(s)
  - John to Thomas
  - John to the Beloved Disciple
  - Jesus to his disciples and the Spirit
  
- The vine (John 15)
  
- The Spirit (John 14 and 16)
  
- The prayer (John 17)

*Which all paves the way for...*

- John 21

And so as you encounter these words...

## 9. Drawing things together

Despite the rejection of his people, Jesus is the LORD himself, coming as he promised at the end of history to bring his promised new creation through his death, and through the Spirit-taught words of his disciples.

John 1-10 and looking back

John 11-20 and looking forward

## 10. John's gospel and IGG

a. Boris, Theresa, David, Gordon and Tony

b. Everyone in this room

## 11. Some resources

John's Gospel

George's notes on how to read John

DA Carson's commentary

Richard Bauckham, Gospel of Glory

Peter Leithart, Deep Exegesis\*

RML John

AT Lincoln\*\*\*

## Looking to Jesus

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If this year of IGC proves successful, what might it look like in five years time?

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.'* Heb 12:1-2

### **Constant Pressure:** LIVE FOR THIS WORLD

- Original Readers (10:32-39)

- Members of IGC

### **Core Priority:** LOOK TO JESUS

- His Example - he endured the cross with joy

- His Exaltation - he's sat down at the right hand

*'"Looking unto Jesus", the duty, the privilege, the safety, the unspeakable happiness of a believer, are all comprised in that one sentence'* John Newton

## Praying to God as Leaders

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*'When you get to heaven and realise all that prayer did on this earth, you will be ashamed that you prayed so poorly'* William E. Sangster

### The Priority of Prayer

#### **Often we DON'T pray**

Why do we pray less than we know we should?

#### **Of course we SHOULD pray**

- What we know about God and his people
  
- What we see taught and modelled in God's word

### The Practice of Prayer

**HOW?**

**WHAT?**

Praying for IGG Disciples of Jesus...

*'...we have not ceased to pray for you...that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...'* Col 1:9-10

**pray for our ENGAGING with God's word...**

- for illumination
  
- for penetration

**...to result in gospel GROWTH**

- for transformation
  
- for glorification

...to be established for a lifetime of Disciple-making

How can we help IGG members get clear on the importance of prayer?

How can we encourage IGG members to be praying now for life beyond London?



**Praying for individuals in our groups**

**G**RATITUDE for the Lord's work in them

-

-

**R**ELATIONSHIP with the Lord

-

-

**O**PPORTUNITIES for the work of the Lord

-

-

**W**ALK by the Spirit

-

-

A PRAYER that we could pray that we would pray!!!

*Our Father...*

*'The great intercessors remain men and women of secret influence in all communities. To be mentioned in their prayers is incomparably more enriching than to be mentioned in their wills!'*  
William E. Sangster

## Listening to God in Prep

When you think about spending 3 hours on each IGG passage...  
... what excites you?  
... what do you expect to struggle with?

### What is the Bible?

- it's unlike any other book, because...

so...

- it's a lot like any other book, because...

so...

### Learning to Read

*“Acting upon what we’ve just read, rather than stopping to meditate and think, is an impulse that we bring to reading books... I am quick to Tweet and slow to think. I am quick to Google and slow to ponder.*

*So ask yourself the next time you read: When you come across a provoking or perplexing portion of a book, what are you more likely to do: react or think? When you are tempted to react, stop, and simply think and meditate about what you are reading.” (Tony Reinke, Lit!, 142-143)*

How should the process of reading a Bible passage differ from the process of reading your Facebook newsfeed/ WeChat Moments or an online article?

## How should we use prep time?

### 1. Pray

*Why?*

*How?*

### 2. Get familiar with the text

### 3. Observe freely (“What does it say?”)

### 4. Focus your thinking (“What does it mean?”)

### 5. Summarise: Main point and contribution to John’s overall purpose

### 6. Consider response (“So what?”)

*Beginning in our heart...*

*...and shaping our whole life*

### 7. Pray

General:

Using the suggested stages above, try to map out prep time for John 2:1-12:  
Write a list of questions for yourself to consider under each heading.  
Which questions are worth spending most time on?  
Try to allocate rough timings for your prep on this passage.

## Some Implications for...

a) SLOBS

b) Bible study leading

Map out a potential study on John 2:1-12 using the headings above.

c) Co-leading

Imagine your co-leader has thoroughly prepared the passage you're leading... how might this help you (before, during and after the study)?

Imagine your co-leader has done no prep on the passage you're leading... how might this hinder you (before, during and after the study)?

For more on leading Bible studies:

- *Unleash The Word*, Karen Soole
- *The Why and How of Bible Study*: <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/56319/> (Gwilym Davies, TFM Weekend 2019)

# **IGG Leaders' Training Weekend Timetable**

## **Friday**

From 6:30 Dinner

8.30pm Introduction

## **Saturday**

From 7:30 Breakfast

9.30am Teaching John / Overview

11:00 Coffee

(12.30pm Children's lunch)

1pm Lunch

4:15 Afternoon Tea

5pm The Priority of Prayer

(5.30pm Children's tea)

7pm Dinner (in SLOB groups)

## **Sunday**

From 7:30 Breakfast

9.30am Preparing to Teach God's Word

11:00 Coffee

(12.30pm Children's lunch)

1pm Lunch