

The Gospel of John:

“To those who believed, He gave the right to become children of God” John 1:12

Kenwood Baptist Church Sermon Series

Pastor David Palmer

February 2-June 8, 2014

OVERVIEW: The spring New Testament sermon series at Kenwood moves toward the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will engage the presentation of Jesus’ life and the meaning of his death and resurrection in the GOSPEL OF JOHN. In part one (12 weeks), we will follow the series of personal testimonies about Jesus which structure John’s gospel as we move toward the celebration of Easter on April 20th. We hope to gain greater certainty about who Jesus is and greater confidence that our own lives can offer testimony about Christ today. In part two (7 weeks) beginning April 27th, we will devote one week to each of the seven “I AM” statements of Jesus in the GOSPEL OF JOHN. This series builds on the Genesis series in the fall with the theme of God extending His family of faith in Christ to all who believe in His name.

CHURCH INTEGRATION: We will seek to integrate and apply the series with small group meetings during the week using the *Knowing the Bible* Study Series “*John*,” by Justin Buzzard (Crossway, 2013). We will encourage individuals to read the text of Scripture and use the study guide for private devotions. We will follow the broad flow of the Gospel of John for children’s worship and youth group to stimulate the entire congregation to enter the living conversation of God with His people in Scripture.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: We will memorize selected Scriptures from John each week and recite them together in worship on Sundays using the NIV.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: A set of images calls to our mind the testimony of the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ is the central image of Christianity. Within the cross, we find the development of the gospel narrative through Jesus’ public ministry, death, and resurrection. In the background, we read the text of John 1:1-14. The theme verse is signaled near the title with the promise that “to all who did receive him, to those who believe in His name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). This is our testimony of faith.

CREATIVE ARTS: During the second part of the series, we will display original creative artwork in the sanctuary as a visual representation of the seven “I AM” statements of Christ.

WORSHIP EMPHASIS AND KEY HYMNS/PRAISE SONGS:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross –Isaac Watts (traditional)

The Wondrous Cross-- Chris Tomlin/Matt Redman (contemporary)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Joanna (Celtic Hymns arrangement)

Not What My Hands --Aaron Keyes (Not Guilty Anymore- album)

I am Yours

WEEK 1: February 2 (Communion)
Title: “Testimonies that you may believe and have life in Christ”
Text: John 20:30-31
Theme: Introduction to the Series and Overview of the Gospel of John

Pastoral contact: The Gospel of John has a very clear purpose. John 20:30-31 records that “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John’s Gospel is built around a series of testimonies about Christ. Testimonies are given and presented in order to establish the public truth that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God. Our own lives and testimonies should contribute to the ongoing, public realization of this most life giving truth.

Scripture Memory:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

SMALL GROUP: *Knowing the Bible* Series “John,” WEEK 1: Overview

WEEK 2: February 9
Title: “John’s own testimony about Christ”
Text: John 1:1-18
Theme: Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God

Pastoral contact: John the evangelist offers his own eyewitness testimony to the truth that Jesus is the promised Messiah. He links his own testimony with Genesis “in the beginning” and with his own personal and direct contact with Jesus. For John, Jesus is the Word of God, the agent of creation, the one in whom there is light and life. He has really come in human flesh. John testifies that he has seen His glory. He is the mediator of the new covenant. Jesus grants the right to become children of God to all who believe in His Name.

Scripture Memory: “To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

SMALL GROUP: *Knowing the Bible* Series “John,” WEEK 2: Prologue: The Incarnate Word

WEEK 3: February 16
Title: “John the Baptist’s Testimony about Christ”
Text: John 1:19-35
Theme: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Pastoral contact: John the Baptist knew that his role was one of preparation for the Lord Himself. He testifies that the One coming after him is worthy of greater honor. When he sees Jesus coming toward him, he solemnly testifies that He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Spirit of God remains upon Jesus in confirmation. John tells us of the Father’s love for the Son and that He has placed all things in His hands. He calls Jesus the bridegroom. He reminds all of us “He must increase, I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

Scripture Memory: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 NASB

SMALL GROUP: Attention Small group leaders!!! Over the next six weeks, small groups will discuss two weeks per lesson in the John study. There will be two sermons for each of these lessons. Familiarize yourself with the lessons and how best to pace your group. You may also need to create some specific questions based on the messages for these weeks.

WEEK 3A: “John the Baptist and the start of Jesus’ Ministry” (begin)

WEEK 4: February 23
Title: “Mary’s testimony about Christ”
Text: John 2:1-11
Theme: Jesus is the One who should be obeyed.

Pastoral contact: John records a significant moment in the ministry of Jesus at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Mary, the mother of Jesus is present at the wedding. As Jesus begins to reveal the full extent of His glory, his mother shares her own testimony. She points to the authority of Jesus when she tells the servants to “do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5). Jesus performs a prophetic sign of turning water into wine and those present at the wedding are never the same.

Scripture Memory: “Do whatever He tells you.” John 2:5

SMALL GROUP: WEEK 3B: “John the Baptist and the start of Jesus’ Ministry” (finish)

WEEK 5: March 2
 Title: “Nicodemus’ testimony about Christ”
 Text: John 3:1-21
 Theme: Jesus is the One God sent into the world to save it.

Pastoral contact: Nicodemus recognizes even dimly that God is with Jesus in some way. He seeks out a private conversation with Jesus at night. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that he must be born again to see and enter the kingdom of God. Through their conversation, Nicodemus learns and testifies that Jesus has actually come down from heaven to bear the sin of the world. He makes known that this action has come about “for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Scripture Memory:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

SMALL GROUP: “*John,*” WEEK 4A: “Jesus’ Expanding Ministry” (begin)

WEEK 6: March 9
 Title: “The Samaritan Woman’s Testimony about Christ”
 Text: John 4:4-42
 Theme: Jesus is the Savior of the world

Pastoral contact: Jesus travels through Samaria and encounters a woman at a well on the margins of her society. Through their conversation in the heat of the day, Jesus offers water to satisfy her deepest thirst. Jesus sees inside the woman and knows her past, yet his offer remains. She receives Jesus as Messiah and shares this news with her entire community. As a group these Samaritans also believe and testify, “this man is the Savior of the world” (John 4:42)

Scripture Memory:

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

SMALL GROUP: “*John,*” WEEK 4B: “Jesus’ Expanding Ministry” (finish)

WEEK 7: March 16
 Title: “God the Father’s Testimony about Christ”
 Text: John 5:1-39
 Theme: Jesus is the beloved Son of God

Pastoral contact: Jesus performs a miracle by healing a man on the Sabbath. Jesus is accused of dishonoring God by breaking the Sabbath. Jesus responds by teaching that God the Father has placed all things in His hands as the beloved Son. His unique relationship with the Father is one of love. Jesus, the Son of God, does the work that the Father has given Him to do. The Father Himself testifies that Jesus is the Son of God through the works and signs that He does.

Scripture Memory:

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” John 5:19

SMALL GROUP: WEEK 5A: “More Signs amid Mounting Jewish Opposition” (begin)

WEEK 8: March 23
 Title: “The Conflicting Testimony of the Crowds about Christ”
 Text: John 7:12-46
 Theme: Jesus is a good man, a deceiver, perhaps the Christ

Pastoral contact: Jesus’ teaching provokes many different reactions among the crowds. This is true today. Some say that Jesus is a good man. Others say that he deceives the people. Some are astonished at him. Others wonder if dark powers are at work through him. Still others press in more closely and wonder if he is a prophet or even the promised Christ, the Son of God.

Scripture Memory:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” John 7:37-38

SMALL GROUP: WEEK 5B: “More Signs amid Mounting Jewish Opposition” (finish)

WEEK 9: March 30
Title: “The Blind Man’s Testimony about Christ”
Text: John 9:1-39
Theme: Jesus is the light of the world

Pastoral contact: In John 9, we hear the testimony of a man who was born blind. Jesus encounters this man along the way and announces to his disciples that his disability is not a condition of shame but rather an occasion to display the work of God. Jesus heals the man to the astonishment of his family and community. Not everyone, however, reacts positively to this transformation. The man is questioned about Jesus and even insulted. Jesus later finds the man and asks, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he that I might believe,” he asks. Jesus replies, “You have now seen him, in fact, he is the one speaking with you” (John 9:35-37).

Scripture Memory:

“For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” John 9:39

SMALL GROUP: Option 1: You can discuss and apply John chapter 9 in your small group
Option 2: You can use “John,” WEEK 7: “The Messiah’s Death at Hand”
Option 3: You can use this week to share your own personal testimonies about Christ

****SPECIAL EVENT: DR. KEN ELZINGA AT KENWOOD BAPTIST ON APRIL 2ND****

WEEK 10: April 6
Title: “The Holy Spirit’s Testimony about Christ”
Text: John 14:15-27; 15:26-16:15
Theme: Jesus is the One who carries our sin, offers us His righteousness, and will return as the Judge of the world

Pastoral contact: Jesus explains to His disciples that He will send the Holy Spirit upon all of his disciples. The Holy Spirit will testify that Jesus’ words are true. The Holy Spirit will help us to remember the words and teachings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will also function in the world to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and future judgment. All of these actions point us toward our need to believe in Jesus for eternal life. In this way, the Holy Spirit offers His own testimony about Jesus as the promised Christ, the Savior of the world.

Scripture Memory:

“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:8

SMALL GROUP: “John,” WEEK 8: “Jesus’ Final Teaching and Prayer”

WEEK 11: April 13 **PALM SUNDAY**
Title: "The Scripture's Testimony about Christ"
Text: John 12:12-33
Theme: Jesus is the Fulfillment of God's Promises in Scripture

Pastoral contact: Jesus enters into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with great intention. He rides upon a young donkey in deliberate fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:25. The crowds acclaim Him as Zion's returning and true King. They shout praise "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12:13). John tells us that the disciples did not fully understand this at the time. Later, however, they recognized the testimony of Scripture that Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises to His people.

Scripture Memory:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."
John 12:13,15

SMALL GROUP: "*John,*" WEEK 9: "Jesus' Arrest, Trial, Death, and Burial"

WEEK 12: April 20 **EASTER SUNDAY**
Title: "Mary Magdalene's and Thomas' Testimony about Christ"
Text: John 20:1-31
Theme: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God

Pastoral contact: On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene visits the tomb of Jesus and discovers that the stone has been removed from the entrance. Her initial fears that his body has been stolen are banished when she is met with the risen Jesus himself! Later that night, Jesus appears to the rest of his disciples and filling them with joy. A week later, Jesus visits Thomas who is moved by this encounter to belief. Jesus then promises this same joy to all of us who would one day believe based on the testimony of those who saw Him with their very own eyes.

Scripture Memory:

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

SMALL GROUP: "*John,*" WEEK 10: "Jesus' Resurrection Appearances"

NEXT SERMON SERIES: (PART 2: April 27th to June 8th)
“JESUS IN THE PRESENT: THE ‘I AM’ STATEMENTS IN JOHN” SPRING 2014

1. 4/27 “I AM WHO I AM”
(Exodus 3:1-15; John 1:14-18)

2. 5/4 “I AM the Bread of Life” (Communion Sunday)
(John 6:1-14, 28-51)

Scripture: “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry.” John 6:35

3. 5/11 “I AM the Light of the World”
(Genesis 1:1-5; John 1:1-5; 8:12)

Scripture: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

4. 5/18 “I AM the Gate, the Good Shepherd for the Sheep”
(Ezekiel 34:11-16, 22-23; John 10:7-16)

Scripture: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
John 10:11

5. 5/25 “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”
(John 11:1-27)

Scripture: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

6. 6/1 “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (Communion Sunday)
(Missions emphasis: Kit Ripley, KBC missionary in Thailand, preaching)
(John 14:1-7)

Scripture: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

7. 6/8 “I AM the True Vine”
(John 15:1-16)

Scripture: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.” John 15:1

SERIES HYMN: When I Survey the Wonderful Cross by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

CONVERSATION PARTNERS: (These are the major commentators I will use this series)

John Chrysostom (AD 347-407): preacher and leader of the Christian church in Constantinople during the 4th century. A series of eighty-eight sermons on the Gospel of John were recorded and circulated at the time. These have been preserved in Greek and reveal a preaching style that is theological, pastoral, and personal.

George Beasley-Murray (AD 1916-2000). *John*. Word Biblical Commentary Series volume 36 (Waco, TX: 1987). Beasley-Murray became a Christian in 1932 through the preaching of a student from Spurgeon's College in South London. As a youth, his interests lay in music, and he developed into an accomplished pianist. His talent for piano took a backseat when Beasley-Murray discovered New Testament Greek. He enrolled in Spurgeon's College in 1936 to study and became a leader among his peers. After college, Beasley-Murray became a minister in Ashurst Drive Baptist Church in East London. He guided the church through the tumultuous times of the Second World War and led it in sustained evangelistic mission to a broken country. During this pastorate, Beasley-Murray married Ruth Weston and pursued his Master's in Theology in New Testament Studies at King's College, London. Prior to serving as the Principal of Spurgeon's College from 1958 to 1973, he labored in another pastorate and worked as a tutor at Spurgeon's College. He also taught New Testament at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Rüslikon, Switzerland. Beasley-Murray established a reputation through this body of work as a scholar marked by evangelical conviction and openness to conversation with the broader interdenominational church movements of his day.

Frederick Dale Bruner (AD 1932-present), *The Gospel of John: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012). Dale Bruner was Alex Aronis' Sunday school teacher and is an emeritus professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. Bruner became a Christian under the teaching ministry of Henrietta Mears at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, CA. Other significant attenders of this adult Sunday school class were Bill and Vonette Bright who founded Campus Crusade and Jim Rayburn of Young Life. It was there that he met his wife Kathy and discerned his call to be a professor. He taught at the Union Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines from 1964-1975. From 1975-1997, Dr. Bruner taught New Testament Theology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. Since then he has been at the Fuller Theological Seminary, in Pasadena, California working on commentary on the Gospel of John. Dr. Bruner has a gift for connecting biblical scholarship with the life and ministry of the church. He has traveled around the country speaking at hundreds of churches.

SERMON AND SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE (at a glance):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Text:</u>	<u>Small Group:</u>
2/2	John 20:30-31 Testimonies to believe	<i>John</i> WEEK 1: Overview
2/9	John 1:1-18 John's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 2: Prologue
2/16	John 1:19-35 John the Baptist's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 3: John the Baptist and the start of Jesus' Ministry (begin)
2/23	John 2:1-11 Mary's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 3: John the Baptist and the start of Jesus' Ministry (finish)
3/2	John 3:1-21 Nicodemus' Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 4: Jesus' Expanding Ministry (begin)
3/9	John 4:4-42 The Samaritan Woman's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 4: Jesus' Expanding Ministry (finish)
3/16	John 5:1-39 God the Father's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 5: More Signs amid Mounting Opposition (begin)
3/23	John 7:12-46 The Crowds' Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 5: More Signs amid Mounting Opposition (finish)
3/30	John 9:1-39 The Blind Man's Testimony	<i>John</i> WEEK 7: The Messiah's Death is at Hand (optional) Dr. Ken Elzinga visit to Kenwood 4/2
4/6	John 14:15-27; 15:26-16:15 The Holy Spirit's Testimony about Christ	<i>John</i> WEEK 8: Jesus' Final Teaching and Prayer
4/13	John 12:12-33 The Scripture's Testimony about Christ	<i>John</i> WEEK 9: Jesus' Arrest, Trial, Death, and Burial
4/20	John 20:1-31 Mary Magdalene's and Thomas' Testimony about Christ	<i>John</i> WEEK 10: Jesus' Resurrection Appearances