

Apostle John

“The Radically Transformed Apostle of Love”

Who was the Apostle John?

- One of the Twelve apostles of Jesus
- Wrote five New Testament Books (gospel of John; First, Second & Third John; Revelation)
- Family background: father was Zebedee; mother was Salome (who was sister of Mary). Making John first cousin of Jesus. John’s brother was the Apostle James.
- John likely lived to be 94 years of age, dying in 100 AD. He was the only Apostle who was not martyred (Judas Iscariot committed suicide).
- John was a pillar of the early New Testament church and often partnered with Peter (Gal 2:9; book of Acts). (Other background scriptures include Mark 1:16-20 and the four gospels).

How was John impacted by Jesus?

- When John and James first started following Jesus he nicknamed them “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). Why? (Refer to Mark 10:35-37 and Luke 9:51-56 for clues)
- John became part of Jesus inner circle (along with James and Peter) and became known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved” and in a sense the “best friend” of Jesus (John 13:21-25, 20:1-2). John’s special relationship with Jesus is evidenced by what happened when Jesus was dying on the cross. Jesus wanted to make sure his mother was taken care of, and asked John to take care of her which he did (John 19:25-27).
- Over the years John’s heart was made soft and tender by the power of Jesus, and in John’s later years he writes a deeply moving letter to fellow Christians whom he had grown to love and care for deeply – the letter (book) of First John.