

# A few quick facts on the apostle **John**



According to church tradition, John is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" in *The Gospel of John*.



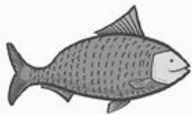
Jesus gives John and his brother James the nickname "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). The Bible doesn't tell us where this nickname comes from, but it could refer to their speech, tempers, or ambition.



John is one of the three disciples Jesus keeps closest. Peter and James are the others (Mark 5:37; Matthew 1-7:12, 26:37).



John is considered a "pillar" in the church, along with Peter and another James (Jesus' brother) (Galatians 2:9).



John was a fisherman along with his brother James.



Before he died on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of his mother, Mary.



According to church tradition, John is the only apostle who died of natural causes. (The rest were martyred.)



Prominent leaders in the early church claimed to learn directly from John, including the bishops Polycarp of Smyrna and Ignatius of Antioch.

## John writes the most

John has written more of the New Testament than any other member of the twelve (Matthew's next). According to tradition, John wrote:



That's just under 5% of the Bible. In fact, only Luke and Paul write more of the New Testament than John.



According to church tradition, John ministered in Ephesus, and was exiled to the Isle of Patmos for his faith. Traditions vary on how the apostle John died (Revelation 1:9).

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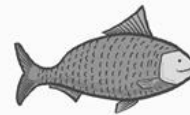
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## 18 Fast Facts about John

1. The Gospel of John was written by the apostle John, the son of Zebedee, a Palestinian Jew and a member of Jesus' inner circle of apostles during his earthly ministry.
2. The book was most likely written in Ephesus (modern-day Turkey), which was one of the most important urban centres of the Roman Empire at the time.
3. It was written between 70AD (the date of the destruction of the temple) and 100AD (the end of John's lifetime).
4. John refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved."
5. There are almost no parables in this Gospel.
6. The Gospel of John is different from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in that more than 80% of its material is unique.
7. The Gospel writer gives us a clear and distinct thesis in **John 20:30-31** which makes it appear that John wrote with an evangelistic intent. The Upper Room Discourse give us insight into Jesus' mission.
8. John uses the most metaphors for Jesus of all the Gospels, giving us some of the most famous word pictures for Christ.
9. John's brother was James, who was another one of the twelve disciples.
10. Many believe that John was first a disciple of John the Baptist.
11. John focuses on our life in Jesus
12. John was written for "those who have not seen"
13. John focuses primarily on communicating that Jesus is Messiah, including miracles that testify Jesus is the Son of God.
14. John focuses a lot on Jesus' dialogues and on having belief in Jesus
15. John's gospel is more theology than history
16. John addresses misunderstandings about Jesus
17. John introduces Jesus as the Word of God
18. John is an eyewitness testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

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