

**Reading time:** 2 hours  
**Short of time?** Just re  
6.1-71;



## Anything

There are a couple of trick

John's order and datin  
the other gospels (e.g  
Temple takes place at  
of Jesus' ministry and  
place a day earlier). Yo  
yourself why this migh

The discourses of John  
throughout the Gospo  
chapters 3, 4, 6 and 14  
and confusing. The be  
with the ow and allo  
you, then you might n  
residence within you!



The Gospel itself identifies its author as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21.20-25), but does not go on to say who this disciple was. Christian tradition identifies him as John son of Zebedee, one of the 12 apostles. Other possible identities for the beloved disciple include Lazarus, Mary Magdalene, John Mark, Jesus’ brother James or an unknown disciple of Jesus. No one really knows who the beloved disciple was – the way in which John’s Gospel was written suggests that this was deliberate.

It is also worth noting that the Gospel seems to have evolved over time. The prologue (1.1-18) and epilogue (chapter 21), as well as various sections in the middle of the Gospel, suggest that the final Gospel emerged over time. Some



### About the times

Although some scholars have argued for a very early date for John (around ad 40), the vast majority date it towards the end of the first century (around ad 90) which would allow time for the extensive reflective tone of the Gospel.

*W* *?*

The ad 90s were a time of persecution for the Christian community. This caused them to seek identity over and against the world in which they lived. You can see hints of this in the Gospel itself.

have suggested that this means it wasn’t written by one person but by a community of people inspired by the ideas of their leader (who was possibly John). Look out for the uneven joins as you read – there are quite a lot of them![ha-28](#) [2 ha-1 52-3](#)



### What kind of Book is it?

It’s a Gospel – a story about the life of Jesus with the intended aim of persuading its readers of who he was.

As we’ve already noticed John’s Gospel is a different kind of gospel – it is much more reflective than that rest, spending time exploring the question of who Jesus really was.

