

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES: 22 JANUARY 2023

JOURNEYS WITH JOHN

This term we are on a journey to discover some of the things which a man called John learnt about Jesus.

Who was this John? He was the son of Zebedee who was a fisherman who it seems owned some fishing boats. So we think he probably grew up in a comfortable home.

John had a brother (James) and they were both quick-tempered. They got really mad about things very quickly. In fact they had a nickname 'The Sons of Thunder' because, like thunder, they blasted out suddenly and loudly! They don't sound like they would be useful disciples, but Jesus chose them! One day as he was walking near the lake, he saw them mending the fishing nets. Amazingly when he told them to follow him, the boys did just that – immediately they left their jobs, their homes and their family and they became disciples or students who went around with Jesus. At this stage, it seems that John was probably about 18 or 19 years old.

John often thought in word pictures. So he noticed especially how many of these word pictures Jesus used. These 'pictures' changed his life for ever and God showed him that he must write them down for us too. This is why his book is different from the other 3 books about Jesus' life. When he was an old man, he was exiled for believing and teaching about Jesus and spent many years on an island all alone. His later book (Revelations) tells about what he saw in visions and is also chock-a-block with word pictures!

Each week we shall look at a different word pictures as they can teach us a great deal about Jesus and about how we should follow him.