

The Gospel of John

By MC Conti

Cast size can be as small as 10 or as large as 44, no scene has more than 10 people in it so cast members can play multiple parts if needed. A diagram of the scene breakdown is attached.

(Lights up on a single desk and two chairs, center stage and slightly upstage. This will leave room for two spaces on either side of the desk for the scenes to take place. This gospel will be told through memories that Old John has as he is dictating to his scribe who is writing it for him. The lights will dim on John and Pat during the memory scenes but not go out completely. After the lights are up, John and Pat enter. John is very old and walking as such. Pat tries to help him, but he shoos him away.)

Scene 1

John: I can do it.

Pat: I'm just trying to help, sir.

John: I can still walk. *(Pauses to look at the chairs and desk)* You could help me find the chair.

Pat: Yes, sir! *(Pat helps John sit down. John sits and takes a big deep breath. Pat pulls out a long scroll and a feather pen)* whenever you're ready, sir.

John *(pauses and looks off into the distance)*: Where to even begin...

Pat: I always find that starting at the beginning is best.

John: Is that meant to be sarcastic?

Pat: No! Well, yes. Sorry, sir.

John: Nope. You said it. The beginning, it is. In the very beginning, before the world even started, there was Jesus. Jesus was with God and Jesus was God. There was not a single thing created that didn't come through Jesus. What came into being through Jesus was life. And light for the life. And the light shone in the darkness and was not extinguished. *(Pause)* Did you get all that?

Pat: I did. Touche, sir. Maybe we don't start at the BEGINNING beginning. *(John chuckles to himself)* His birth?

John: Nah.

Pat: His childhood?

John: Nah. How about we start here: There once was a man named John.

Pat: You're starting with you?

John: What? No! Not me. This is another John.

Pat: John the Baptizer, sir?

John: Yes, him

Pat: There are a lot of Johns in this story, aren't there? How will be distinguish them all?

John: Hmm.... John the Baptizer can have "John". I'll go by.... The Disciple that Jesus Loved.

Pat: Wow. Bold move. You sure about that?

John (*smiling*): I'm sure. Now. John came as a witness to testify to the light. To Jesus. (*John TP enters and stands stage downstage left, John The Baptizer aka JTB will begin to speak the same line and John will fade out*) John came to point out that Jesus was the light.

John and JTB: He was the word; the word of God became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood- (*Lights dim on John and Pat*)

JTB: We live off of His generous abundance, gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses and (*The Message Bible*) now we have Jesus showing us the actual heart of God. (a Pharisee enters)

Pharisee: You've been out here preaching day after day after day. Who are you?

JTB: I'm not the Messiah, if that's what you asking.

Pharisee: Ok, but who ARE you? Are you Elijah?

JTB: Nope

Pharisee: Are you THE Prophet?"

JTB: Not him either.

Pharisee (*exasperated*): Who, then? I need to give my boss an answer. Tell me something—anything!—about yourself.

JTB: I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached.

Pharisee: Riiight. Let me ask you this, though: If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?

JTB: I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to hold his coat for him. (*JTB and others freeze and the lights go full on John and Pat*)

John: And now we meet the star of the show.

Pat: Jesus.

John: Jesus. (Jesus enters)

Jesus: That's my name, don't wear it out. (*Pat and John look surprised*)

Pat: Jesus?!

Jesus: I think we've established that I am Jesus.

John: But how are you....

Jesus: Here? I am outside of space and time now, remember? I can talk to you, I can talk to the people in the stories, I can talk to them (*He points to the audience and waves*)

John: Who?

Jesus: Don't worry about it.