

# UNCOVER

SEE FOR YOURSELF

## Uncover John Seeker Bible Studies (CU Edition) Chinese / English Translation Notes

The Chinese Uncover John studies are almost exactly the same as the English Uncover John studies – however we have worked with COCM (Chinese Overseas Christian Mission) to ensure that the context and meaning of words would make the most sense for a Chinese speaker, therefore there are some changes shown below. For more help using Uncover John studies in Chinese, download the Top Tips document available from [www.uccf.org.uk/uncover](http://www.uccf.org.uk/uncover).

This document list changes compared with the English CU edition. You can download a document showing changes from the Church edition from [www.uccf.org.uk/uncover](http://www.uccf.org.uk/uncover). If you're not sure which English edition you have, check the back cover: the CU edition is © 2014 and the Church edition is © 2015.



### Page 5: Introductory text

Fang Zhouzi is a Chinese popular scientific writer who is well known for his campaign against pseudoscience and fraud in China. He once wrote in his publication, 'I am a hard-core atheist. I am confident to declare this after a long time... I don't have any evidence to prove that God does not exist, but I strongly speculate that he does not exist so that I don't want to waste my time.'

### Page 7: Question 5, 6

The information in the italics of Question 5 has become part of the question 6. Question 6 therefore now reads: Each of the six stone water jars would contain 80-120 litres, the equivalent of 700-1,000 bottles of wine. Describe the master of the banquet's impression of the wine. How will this wine change the party?

### Page 7: Question 7, 8 and 9

Question 7 remains the same but without the information in italics now coming below question 8. Which now reads: The water jars contained water for ceremonial washing. Before each meal Jews would wash, as a symbol of washing away their sins before receiving what God had given them. Thus the water in the jars was a continual reminder of their guilt and need for cleansing. Given this background, what might be the significance of Jesus turning this water into the most beautiful wine?

Question 9 is the same as the English edition question 8

## Page 7: What does this mean for us?

Some people hope there is no God. The atheist Fang Zhouzi also said, 'The existence of human being is merely a coincidence and such an existence does not have any particular meaning. We can't gain comfort by simply believing God. Is it because we want to have such comfort that we must believe in this false existence?' Fang perceived religion to be life-diminishing.....(the rest is the same as the English).

## Page 9: Introductory text

There was a scene in the film *Chariots of Fire* – when someone asked an Olympic athlete (Harold Abrahams) why he wanted to run, he answered, 'I'm 24 and I've never known contentment. I'm forever in pursuit and I don't even know what I am chasing ... I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor; 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my whole existence. But will I?'

## Page 10: Question 5, 6 and 7

Question 5 only goes up to the first question -'Why do you think she responds with less than the truth in verse 17?'

Question 6 is: Why did this woman go to the well alone at noon? How do her past relationships explain this? (This is because Chinese usually uses separate sentences to explain complicated meanings.)

Question 7 is: Why do you think Jesus exposes the reality of her past relationships? Will this help her to find living water and satisfaction for her thirst? Why?

Italics under Question 7, are the same as those under question 6 in the English edition with the additional paragraph:

*Jesus responds in verses 21-24 by saying that his coming in to the world changes everything. People will no longer need to go somewhere to find forgiveness and worship God because his coming means people can know God personally and intimately, as 'Father' ('worship in the Spirit'). Nor will there be any confusion about where the truth lies because in his coming Jesus reveals the truth about God. Later in the Gospel Jesus describes himself as 'the truth'.*

## Page 11: Questions 8, 9, 10 and 11

Questions 8, 9 and 10 are the same as English questions 9, 10 and 11.

Question 11 reads:

Reflecting on the whole encounter, what is the living water that Jesus claims to bring? If he is the 'Saviour of the world' what has he come to save people from?

## **Page 11: What does this mean for us?**

Bob Geldof's example is changed to Sammi Cheng, a Hong Kong pop star.

Jesus locates our emptiness or 'thirst' in our alienation from God. He promises to bring us into an intimate relationship with God as Father, which will completely satisfy our thirst.

Everyone had experienced the emptiness. Sammi Cheng, one of the most prominent female singers in Hong Kong, once said, 'I worked hard to achieve something but I was never myself. I was used to live according to a set of values which told me that the more accomplishment I achieve, the more value I have. When I eventually had everything that others are longing for, I suddenly found out that my heart is empty. I tried to fill it up with more accomplishment but it made me feel even more depressed.'

How do you respond to what Sammi Cheng says? Where do we tend to look to find satisfaction? Are you optimistic or cynical about the possibility of finding lasting fulfilment?

## **Page 14: Italics under Question 3**

Throughout his writing, John uses light primarily as a symbol of life, while darkness is symbolic of sin and death. This miracle depicts in actions what Jesus has come to do for the world. As the light of the world, Jesus claims to have come to rescue people from the darkness of sin and death and to give them eternal life.

## **Page 15: What does this mean for us? Last paragraph**

People think that all religions aim to persuade us to perform good deeds, therefore they are more comfortable thinking about Jesus as a great teacher. But how would you respond to Jesus' claim here?

## **Page 17: Introductory text**

Topic of death is always a taboo, especially in the East. In recent years, some universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong started to run courses on "Death". But Professor Wang Yifang from Peking University commented, 'Death course is like a bitter chocolate bean. If you ask people to simply taste the bitterness, they won't do it. Therefore, we have to mix it up with sugar and milk to make it taste like chocolate. As long as people take this chocolate bean, they will start to taste the bitterness inside it.'

## **Page 19: Italics under Question 8**

The Hebrew Scriptures teach that death was not part of the original human experience. As people turned away from God, the giver of life, their inevitable punishment was to experience death. Jesus is not only grieved by the death of a friend, he is also angry at the way in which death has caused so much pain in the world.

## **Page 21: Introductory text**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's quote is still kept but a Chinese philosopher's quote is added on top of it.

Human nature came into existence as a mixture of both good and evil. When one does good, he is a good person; When one does evil, he is an evil person.

- Yang Xiong Fa Yan Xiu Sheng (Literal meaning: Exemplary Sayings), Philosopher and writer, Western Han Dynasty (202 BC – 8 AD)

The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer and Nobel laureates in Literature

Do you agree with this description of humanity? Why?

### **Page 22: Question 6 and Italics**

Jesus has been interrogated, mocked and badly beaten. He is now forced to carry his cross through the crowded streets of Jerusalem. What do you imagine his physical condition to be?

Italics are the same as the italics before Question 6 in the English.

### **Page 22: Question 7 – question added**

Standing near to the cross are Jesus' mother and a handful of followers (verses 25-27). What do you think they are feeling? What are they thinking about Jesus' claim to be the divine saviour and his offer of life?

### **Page 23: Question 8, 9, 10 and 11**

Question 8 reads as English student version Question 7.

Question 9 reads as English student version Question 8. With these italics below:

Before he dies, Jesus says 'I am thirsty'. In John's Gospel, thirst is a metaphor for our alienation from God because of our sin. At this point Jesus is experiencing God's judgement, but not for his own sins- he is innocent, as Pilate has said repeatedly. The punishment of alienation and death that we deserve is being laid on him so that we can enjoy peace with God.

Question 10 reads as English version Question 9.

Question 11 reads as English version Question 10.