

Don't forget to take attendance -Thank you!

– What is something you are exceptionally good at?

Leaders, this is meant to be a fun/silly question where people can share what they're good at. This can be a cool opportunity to learn more about the people in your group and it will come back later in the discussion.

John the Baptist had become known in his area for many things. When people began to wonder about his purpose and speculate about who he really was, he responded clearly about what he was there to do.

Have someone volunteer to read John 1:19-23

– What does John the Baptist describe as his purpose? How did he accomplish it?

The language John used may be hard to understand, but he essentially describes that he is there to prepare people for Jesus' arrival. For them to think about their sins, repent, and be ready to receive the Messiah when he arrives.

– When do you most feel you are working in your God given purpose? (in your gifting, feeling fulfilled, etc.)

Your group's answers do not necessarily have to be something that is tied to pointing people to Jesus. It might be something broad like helping people feel welcomed, listening to others, meeting people's needs, or more specific. The hope is they start to think about/identify what they're passionate about/good at. As the discussion continues you can start to help them think about what it looks like to leverage those things for God's Kingdom and pointing others to Jesus.

During his life John had grown in stature and notoriety. He was eccentric, had respect and had accumulated followers. Many felt John was the one they had been waiting for; yet, as great as he was, he described that the one who was coming after him was very different than he.

Have someone volunteer to read John 1:25-27; 30

– How did John, who was considered great, describe himself compared to Jesus?

His statement is incredibly powerful. Many people looked to John as a great man, so for him to describe that Jesus was going to be someone he was not worthy of untying their sandals was crazy!

– What does it mean to be humble? What does humility look like played out in our lives today?

In our leader podcast we talked about the description that humility is not thinking less of yourself, but really is thinking of yourself less. Many times, we associate humility with having less, or about someone who doesn't need a lot. The reality is, humility is a posture of our hearts. There are plenty of humble people who have plenty and vice versa.

– **What did John mean when he said “because He was before me?”**

This is John acknowledging that Jesus has always been. Even John and Jesus’ birth story in the Gospel of Luke tells us that John is older and was born before Jesus. Yet, his statement here acknowledges that John understands that Jesus has always been.

John the Baptist’s life was about pointing people to Jesus and to the good news He brought. First, by preparing the way before His arrival and later by directly pointing Jesus out to those who were searching.

Have someone volunteer to read John 1:29-30

– **What did John mean when he describes Jesus as “the Lamb of God?”**

This is a clear reference to what Jesus has ultimately come to do. He has arrived to have the sins of the world placed upon Him in the same way the people would put their sins upon a lamb which would be sacrificially slaughtered. There is no doubt or confusion by John about who Jesus is, and His purpose.

– **Who are people who pointed you to Jesus in your journey?**

This can be a powerful exercise. Help your group think through the fact that there are probably multiple people along the way helped, and each one may have looked different. Not every person who pointed them to Jesus was a pastor or small group leader. This can bring back the conversation about giftings. Many of the people listed may have leveraged their giftings/purposes to help.

– **What special/unique means has God given you to share His word?**

This is an opportunity for the previous questions about passions/giftings/etc. to come full circle. Help your group think through ways they can use their passions/giftings to point others to Jesus. How has God uniquely given them an opportunity or way to help point others to Jesus.

New Idea

We would love for you to help your group to develop some personal bible study habits during our study of the Gospel of John. One idea is to send your group a text/email/message every week with the verses for the upcoming small group discussion. Ask them to read it on their own and personally think through the following three questions.

This week

John 1:19-34

- What does this tell me about God?
- What does this tell me about people?
- Is there a next step for me to take because of this?

You can refer to these questions in group, but do not have to. The main purpose is to build the routine of reading and applying the Bible on their own.