

**Pastor Jason Huffman**

**1/25/2026**

**John 1:19-51**

**Message Title: Need to Know Basis**

**Big Idea: It is up to you to help people know what they need to know to know Jesus.**

John 1:19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” **20** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

If we want to point people to Jesus, we can’t point them to ourselves.

People need to know...

**1. We are not the Messiah.**

**21** And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Malachi 4:5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

Deuteronomy 18:15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ 17 And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

**22** Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” **23** He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.”

**2. We all have a need.**

We should not rescue people from their guilt w/o repentance.

**24** Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. **25** And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

**26** John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. **27** It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” **28** These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

### **3. We are clear about Jesus.**

Lambs were for sacrifice.

**30** This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ **31** I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

**32** And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. **33** I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ **34** And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

There is complete clarity that Jesus is the Son of God.

**35** Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. **36** And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

**38** Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”

### **4. We answer ultimate questions.**

**39** He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

His answer draws them into an experience of relationship not just an answer to a question.

### **5. We care personally.**

**40** One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. **41** He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). **42** And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).

### **6. We have a future in Christ.**

**43** The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

**44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” **46** And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

### **7. We invite them personally.**

**47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit **48** Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” **49** Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

**50** Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” **51** And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Jesus is combining 2 important OT references: Jacob’s ladder & Daniel’s Son of Man.

Daniel 7:13 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. 16 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

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#### **LIFE Group Discussion:**

General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group’s needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

#### **Discussion Questions**

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. The religious leaders missed the Messiah when He stood among them. Why or when do you think people miss God’s work or message today?
3. Rather than telling them what they should want, Jesus asked “what do you seek?” How can His question challenge us to examine our motivations for following Jesus?
4. Nathanael was skeptical that anything good could come from Nazareth, yet Philip simply said, ‘Come and see.’ When could a personal invitation be more powerful than an intellectual argument in sharing our faith? What barriers or hesitations might prevent us from sharing our faith?

5. Jesus combined the imagery of Jacob's ladder and Daniel's Son of Man, showing He is both the way to heaven and the coming King. How do these two roles work together?