## John – Receiving Him as Lord 8/3/25 – Pastor Zach John 16, 14- 24, 31-33, Psalm 42:5- 11, Philippians 2:10 Isaiah 43:1- 5, Romans 8:18-19

**Connect:** Have you had a pet that was unpredictable or knew of someone who had an experience with unpredictable animal? What was the situation like?

**Engage:** Reread the chapter of John.

Before you read invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate anything in that chapter, He wants you to notice.

What stands out to you as you read that?

amid of your darkness can you truly believe that God is the throne and trust in His sovereignty. Where have you typically gone for comfort when things have not made sense? Zach talked about the pain of childbirth. What experience have you had around childbirth – maybe personally or with your family?

Do you have a hard time in the dark choosing joy? What does that look like for you. Do you truly believe that nothing can take away your joy?

Where are you in the J curve of the Christian life? Which one of these resonates right now with you?

Sight, decent, darkness, resurrection, greater union with Christ.

Zach talked about 3 points that we need to remember.

- 1. Hope is to be found in God alone.
  - a. Where have you experienced that?
  - b. Where do you need to grow in that belief?
  - c. Reread Isaiah 43: 1-5 Reading those verses, do you believe them? Where do you need to grow in applying those words to your life?
- 2. God is with you in the darkness.
  - a. Do you truly believe that in your heart and soul?
  - b. Where do you need to grow in that belief?
- 3. God will triumph over Darkness
  - a. Where have you seen that in your life?
  - b. Reread Romans 8:18-19 Where is your heart with those verses?

As we mature in Christ we should see our growth in the j curve. resurrection and greater trust in Christ.

The 2 rhythms that help with growth are repentance and mediation.

Do you meditate on the Word allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and does it lead you to repentance?

**Apply:** What is the invitation for you this week considering this message? Where do you need to grow in these areas?