## Deeply Rooted Bible Study (Bi-weekly)

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Attachments ☐ Deeply Rooted Bible Study (Bi-weekly)
☐ Notes - Deeply Rooted Bible Study (Bi-weekly)

Meeting records ☐ Transcript ☐ Recording
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## **Summary**

The meeting, attended by Rooted in Christ Deeply, DCM Meseley, Nicole Parker, Gianni, Ingrid B., Elisa Williamson, Simone Tunstall, Courtney Munnerlyn, and Steph, focused on John 1:19-52, exploring John the Baptist's role, Jesus' identity as the Lamb of God, the nature of faith and salvation, and intentional discipleship. Technical difficulties were experienced, several participants were absent due to illness, and the group decided to change its name to "Deeply Rooted in Christ," launch a new app with meeting notes, and hold a smaller fellowship gathering on June 7th, postponing a larger event.

## **Details**

Meeting Logistics and Technical Difficulties: The meeting began with introductions and a discussion about participant visibility (00:00:00). Rooted in Christ Deeply noted they could see the number of participants, but others could not (00:01:16). Later, technical issues arose with a participant's inability to join via phone, which Rooted in Christ Deeply and others attempted to troubleshoot (00:02:02) (00:05:13). A participant, Gianni, also experienced audio issues (00:14:19). Nicole Parker acknowledged the technical challenges as the group's first time using the new online platform (00:15:18).

- Participant Absences and Illnesses: Several participants were absent due to illness. Ingrid B. explained their illness prevented them from fully preparing for an upcoming trip (00:03:21), and others mentioned feeling unwell (00:06:07).
- Bible Study Preparation: Rooted in Christ Deeply initially reported not completing their homework but later clarified a discrepancy in Bible versions (00:04:35). DCM Meseley shared a summary and notes (00:05:13).
- John the Baptist's Testimony (John 1:19-28): The group discussed John 1:19-28, focusing on John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for Christ and the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (00:18:20). They highlighted the Pharisees' questioning of John's authority to baptize and the connection to Old Testament prophecies (00:21:09).
- Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:29-42): The discussion moved to John 1:29-42, emphasizing Jesus' identity as the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for humanity's sins. Participants connected this to Old Testament practices of sacrificial lambs and the tearing of the temple veil, symbolizing direct access to God (00:24:00) (00:28:45). The role of the Holy Spirit in convicting the world of sin and God's righteousness was also discussed (00:31:47).
- The Nature of Faith and Salvation: Participants discussed the significance of faith in Jesus Christ as the sole requirement for salvation, contrasting it with the idea of earning salvation through good works (00:33:48). DCM Meseley emphasized Jesus' final words, "It is done," highlighting the completed work of salvation (00:34:41).
- John's Disciples Follow Jesus (John 1:35-52): The group analyzed John 1:35-52, focusing on the disciples' initial responses to Jesus and the significance of their following him (00:36:21). They discussed Nathaniel's skepticism and Jesus' supernatural knowledge of him (00:38:52), and the implications of Jesus' question, "What do you want?" (00:49:48). The symbolic connection between Jesus and Jacob's ladder was also noted (00:38:52).
- Intentionality in Following Jesus: The meaning behind Jesus' question, "What do you want?" was explored, emphasizing the importance of intentional and purposeful faith (00:49:48). Participants related this to self-reflection and understanding one's motivations for following Christ (00:50:33) (00:55:36).
- God's Foreknowledge and the Significance of Names: The group discussed God's foreknowledge of individuals' lives and futures, illustrated by Jesus'

changing of Simon's name to Cephas/Peter. They analyzed the meaning of the name change and its implications for Simon's identity and role as a disciple  $(\underline{00:44:51})$   $(\underline{00:53:58})$ . The immediacy of the name change was highlighted as signifying a transformative moment in Simon's life  $(\underline{00:54:44})$ .

- God's Use of the Unlikely and Unassuming: The choice of Nazareth as Jesus' hometown was discussed as a testament to God's ability to use anyone, regardless of background or perceived limitations (00:47:46).
- Personal Reflections and Application: Elisa Williamson suggested a moment of reflection on personal motivations for following Christ (00:55:36), prompting participants to consider their "why" in their relationship with God.
- Reasons for Following Christ: Participants shared their personal reasons for following Christ. Rooted in Christ Deeply mentioned God's unconditional love and the peace it offers (00:59:24). Nicole Parker emphasized God's persistent pursuit and the transformative power of a personal experience with God's love and character (01:00:44). Simone Tunstall highlighted the contrast between life with and without Christ, emphasizing their personal experience of knowing what life is like without God (01:02:27). Elisa Williamson added that they had tried many things for comfort before finding solace in God's presence (01:03:18).
- The Importance of Surrender and Hearing God's Voice: Nicole Parker stressed
  the importance of surrendering to God and giving up what they idolize to hear
  God's voice. They explained that being entangled in sin can hinder one's ability to
  hear God (01:08:01). DCM Meseley added that God has already revealed
  everything needed in the Bible, suggesting seeking His word as a way to hear His
  voice (01:09:00).
- God's Unwavering Love and Persistence: Participants discussed God's
  unwavering love and persistent pursuit of humanity. Nicole Parker highlighted
  God's willingness to offer chances and forgiveness, emphasizing that this act of
  love surpasses any other entity (01:07:08). They also noted that God's love is
  personal and understanding, as He sent an extension of Himself to truly
  understand humanity (01:05:36).
- Overcoming Overthinking and Complication: Courtney Munnerlyn shared their
  experience of overthinking and needing God's guidance, acknowledging that their
  own way often fails (01:11:56). DCM Meseley emphasized the tendency to
  overcomplicate things and the need to avoid distractions. They connected this to
  pride, suggesting that overcomplicating things implies a belief that God is not

- enough (01:12:59). Steph mentioned the scripture about not leaning on their own understanding, highlighting the need to trust in God's guidance (01:13:50).
- The Nature of Revival: Elisa Williamson discussed revival, suggesting it begins with the knowledge of who Jesus is penetrating the heart (01:04:23). They posed the question of whether their lives reflect a true fellowship with Jesus, emphasizing the importance of beholding Him to become like Him (01:05:36).
- Group Name Change and Upcoming App: The group decided to change its name
  to "Deeply Rooted in Christ". Nicole Parker explained the rationale behind the
  name change and the group's desire for deep commitment to Christ (01:19:20).
  Rooted in Christ Deeply presented a preview of a new mobile app designed to
  improve organization and communication within the group, featuring features like
  a prayer request board, event calendar, and storage for meeting notes and videos
- June Fellowship and Future Plans: The group planned a smaller casual gathering on June 7th, postponing a larger brunch event until later (01:22:47). They cited the need for more organization and the ongoing development of the new app as reasons for this decision (01:23:43). The smaller gathering will be a time of fellowship, with future plans for larger events to be decided later (01:22:47).
- Meeting Notes and Recording: Rooted in Christ Deeply mentioned that the
  meeting is being recorded and that notes will be taken and stored in the
  upcoming app (01:24:52) (01:27:47). They emphasized the benefit of having
  recorded meetings and notes available for those who missed the sessions or
  wanted to review past topics (01:22:01) (01:27:47).

## Suggested next steps

Rooted in Christ Deeply will investigate why the Google Meet dial-in feature is not
working and determine a solution.
The group will meet at a restaurant or cafe on June 7th for a casual fellowship.
Rooted in Christ Deeply will create a mobile app for the group by the end of
March (targeting April) and will incorporate feedback from the group.
Nicole Parker will send information for the next Bible study (John chapter 2) on
the following morning.

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