

J O H N

I N T H E B E G I N N I N G !

SESSIONS 4-6



JOHN

IN THE BEGINNING!

SESSION 4

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

J O H N

IN THE BEGINNING!

SESSION 4

THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SESSION 1

John is proclaiming that God the King is coming and everyone must get their hearts ready for his arrival. Remove the spiritual hindrances! God is coming. Repent! Bear fruit in keeping with repentance! This is what the Gospel of John affirms in John 1 when he said, "We have seen his glory!" Get ready for God is coming and his glory will be seen!

OPENING

This Sunday we continued in our series on the gospel of John looking at chapter 1 verses 19-28. As we looked at the testimony of John the Baptizer, John makes a peculiar reference to Isaiah chapter 40 that i would like to take a closer look at because i think it will really help us understand who john the baptizer was and in-kind, understand better who Christ was.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read Isaiah 40:1-5. What is the broader context of this passage?

To understand the broader context here, We have to understand that Isaiah is speaking comfort to the Jewish people who have experienced exile and slavery for many years.

Why were the people of God in exile and slavery?

During the fall of Jerusalem, The prophet Jeremiah lamented that there was no comfort for God's people. What he meant was that God's people had a desire to be like the world, and so the Lord gave them over to the world!

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How does this passage begin after all these years of exile and slavery?

In the first few verses, he speaks tenderly to them, and lets them know that their sins have been forgiven and blessing will soon be bestowed upon them.

How does God tell His people that their suffering is over?

In the midst of his blessing, the people hear a voice that is crying in the wilderness.

What does the voice of one crying in the wilderness mean?

This cry is an amazing thing, because it means that God is coming!

What is the cry from the wilderness saying?

Isaiah, the prophet is saying that the people should prepare the way for the coming of the Lord to remove any and all obstructions. Get ready! God is coming!

What is the historical origin of this cry from the wilderness?

When a king was set to come to a certain city, it was customary to send a herald in advance to prepare the royal route.

It's also worth noting that Isaiah says that this voice is crying from the wilderness. Why might the cry be coming from the wilderness?

The reason is because the people of Israel have a storied Connection to the wilderness. For the people of God the wilderness represented Israel, becoming a nation. The wilderness was the precursor to the promised land, and even the current exile that they were experiencing was

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considered a wilderness experience for the people of God.

Why was the wilderness so important for the people of God?

Israel became a nation in the wilderness, redemption began in the wilderness, so, when a voice begins to cry out from the wilderness, it is a symbol of a new era of salvation and restoration for God's people.

What should this cry in the wilderness represent to us as believers in Christ?

WE understand this new era As a time to become a new people whose identity will be centered on Jesus

What does it mean when John the baptizer makes this declaration so many years later to make their paths straight?

saying that the Lord is coming and the roads need to be prepared for his coming not in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense, namely, repentance. This voice is saying that every spiritual obstacle and obstruction must be removed from the hearts of the people.

What is the the EFFECT of the message of this cry from the wilderness?

The effect is complete transformation. "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Have you heard the voice of the one crying in the wilderness?
- Have you responded to his coming and his enthronement?
- And if Jesus is already in your heart are you preparing the way of the Lord for others?
- What steps do we need to take in our lives to remove spiritual hindrances and humble ourselves before God the father?



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SESSION 5

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SESSION 5

THE LAMB OF GOD!

SESSION 5

In revelation, chapter 12, John describes for us, an ancient and spiritual battle that rages in the world around us, and yet we cannot see it, or hear it. This ancient battle stretches all the way back to the fall of Adam and it is very real. Even though we don't see it Or hear it, we can feel the effects of it: the evil, that we see in the world today, the trials and tribulations, that we face.

OPENING

This Sunday we continued in our series focused on the gospel of John starting in chapter 1 verses 29-34. As we See the amazing testimony of John revealed to us the lamb of god, I am reminded of John's revelation of Jesus Christ in chapter 12, where he revealed the lamb of god who was slain, and the victory that came from that.

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READ

As a group, read Revelation 12:10-12. What is the main point of this passage?

This passage speaks about the victory, that Jesus has secured over life and death through his resurrection and his ascension to heaven. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection produced an amazing victory in heaven!

Often we are prone to thinking that all that Christ accomplished for us through his death burial and resurrection is intensely personal but what else does Jesus' victory represent?

We must also realize that Jesus' victory Accomplished more than this his victory on earth, it also had heavenly consequences; Jesus' victory cast Satan out of heaven!

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What have been some of the personal benefits of Christ's victory on the Cross?

Answers will vary.

Jesus' victory was not immediately felt by us so how do we take confidence in His success?

It is similar to when a newly elected president during his acceptance speech declares all of the things that he will assure even though there are still several months before the new president is seated.

What is the result of Jesus' victory over sin and death?

Jesus' victory over death and sin has assured freedom from death and sin for his people because Satan, our common enemy, has been cast out of heaven. He has no ability to accomplish anything within the heavenly realm anymore.

Why are Satan's accusations powerless against us?

Because, as the word declares, they are Gods people. God's victory cannot be thwarted and the redemption that was won by Jesus's victory cannot be denied.

How does it make you feel knowing Satan's accusations are powerless against you?

Answers will vary

Even though Christ's victory Impacted all of heaven, it did produce trouble for those living on earth; what kind of trouble?

The great dragon, the devil was thrown down to earth and now he is particularly furious because he knows that his time is short. He has been mortally wounded, but he is not dead. Just like a beast that has been mortally wounded he

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thrashes about causing as much damage as he can before his demise.

What should be our response knowing that the Devil's time is short?

Answers will vary.

1 Peter chapter 5 tells us "The devil prowls around the earth, like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." How does he devour?

He devours through the threat of persecution, false teaching, and the seduction of this world.

So, what is the final takeaway from this lesson?

The devil is still active and will be for sometime, but his future has been written, and the writings are sealed. His time is limited all because of the blood of the lamb!

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Do you recognize the ancient and spiritual battle that rages around you?
- Can you recognize this battle through our persecution, trials, and tribulations?
- Do you take solace in the fact that the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world has already fought and won the battle for you?
- If not, what steps do you need to take to have confidence in the victory that Christ has secured for you?





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SESSION 6

THE EXTRAORDINARY CALLING!

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Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, so that they and we, could know our true identity and calling in Christ. God wants you to know who you are. God wants you to know you have an identity, and that identity was given to you by God. God wants you to know that you have a great calling, that you have been called to something more than just living on this earth.

OPENING

This Sunday we continued in our series as we finished up chapter one of the gospel of John. As we looked at the extraordinary calling of Jesus' disciples i would like to look at the calling that God lays out for all believers in Ephesians 4 to help us better understand all of our calling as believers.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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READ

As a group, read Ephesians 4:1-6. What is the main point of this passage?

Make no mistake about it, unity is not accidental, it requires merging our lives together with the right attitude AND the right beliefs.

What is the Westminster Catechism's first question?

What is the chief end of man?

What is the answer to this question?

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The answer to this question concerns every believer's calling; simply to glorify God and enjoy him forever!

Why is this question so important?

It clarifies that our purpose is that God will be glorified for all time.

How does Paul begin this passage?

Paul begins by urging us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

So if our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever, then what is the particular way that he has called us to do that?

Our Calling after Christ is to respond to all that God has done for us. We have been called to something great and glorious so we should walk worthy of that!

What does it mean to be a new believer in Jesus?

Answers will vary. One possible answer: As a believer in Christ, we do not have the luxury of continuing to live the sinful lifestyle that we live before Christ.

What does Paul point out about his own personal predicament as he writes this passage?

Paul lets us know that he is a prisoner of the Lord, even as he writes these words.

Why would he tell us this?

He wants us to know that living a life that is worthy of the gospel is going to be costly. Paul wants us to walk this way understanding that it will cost us something in this world.

How do you make your walk worthy of the gospel?

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Answers will Vary. A few possible answers:

1. you will not, and should not fit in this world
2. That your walk Has to be countercultural if it is going to be worthy.

So, as Paul talks about walking worthy of the gospel, what do you think his first command would be?

The first point that Paul makes is for Christian unity.

So, as Paul talks about walking worthy of the gospel, what do you think his first command would be?

The first point that Paul makes is for Christian unity.

Unity is important, not just in how but WHAT. What should we be unified around?

Answers will vary but here are some answers from this passage: Paul lays out seven “ones” That are absolute truths to be believed in: one God gave one faith, one Spirit revealed one, hope, one Lord created one body and gave one baptism. These “ones” are the grounds for unity.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Have you excepted the calling of Christ?
- Are you unified with other believers under His banner of truth?
- Do you have an attitude of humility, gentleness, and patience with other believers?
- What steps do you need to take to bear with one another because of the love that we have through Christ?
- In what ways can you eagerly maintain the unity that is found in the spirit?

