



Let's Talk:

What does the word "identity" make you think of?

John understood his identity, but it contradicted the perspectives of the Pharisees. Have you struggled with loved one's not understanding your faith?

Let's Study:

Read Matthew 3:1-6.

John the Baptist's preaching was gaining popularity. In what ways was he different from other preachers in his day?

Read John 1:19-21.

Why did the Jewish leaders question him? What did John say in response?

Pastor Sunder said it this way, knowing who he was not, preceded knowing who he was.

Read John 1:22-23 and Isaiah 40:3.

What does it mean to be a voice in the wilderness? How did John the Baptist fit this description?

John 3:28-30.

How did John the Baptist understand his identity in relation to Jesus?

Let's Apply:

John understood his identity in relation to Jesus. What does that look like for you? What temptations do you face to define yourself in other ways?

What opportunities have you had recently to be a witness, to point to Jesus in the wilderness of people's lives?

To be a voice in the wilderness, we need to listen to God's voice. What are things we can do, to be positioned to hear God's voice?

If recently you have not been positioning yourself to hear God's voice, take a moment to confess to your group and as Pastor Sunder suggested 'recalibrate to correct for drift'.

Additional Question: Many of us associate suffering with the consequences of doing something wrong. John proclaimed Christ and was put to death for it. How does this impact your understanding of suffering?

Let's Pray:

John saw himself as someone whose job it was to proclaim Christ. Pray for a willingness and spiritual empowerment to proclaim Christ wherever you go. Together Pray 'Lord, show me your glory.'