



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Series: The Light (Advent Series), Part 2

Sermon Title: Primary Purpose

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer/ December 9, 2018

John 1:1-18

Why did John write this gospel? **John 20:31**. A full life. **John 10:10**

“Life... to the full” refers to overflow, surplus, more than you think you need. Don’t settle for less than an extraordinary life. The way to have this life from Jesus is to believe in him. **John 5:24**. That’s available to you right now by trusting in Him you pass from death to life. The life that he gives imparts powerful purpose to those who believe. To have clear purpose imparts great power. (**John 1:6–8**)

John the gospel writer refers here, not to himself, but to the cousin of Jesus; a man who many commonly called John the Baptist. John’s primary purpose was to bear witness to the Light (Jesus).

Big Idea: Your Primary Purpose is to Reflect His Light

That assertion is true in light of 3 realities.

Reality #1: John Was Sent. So Are You.

John 1:6

From the get-go God’s way has always utilized human witnesses. God accomplishes relatively little through miracles in comparison to the simple testimony of human beings who boldly share the truth. John’s role was to prepare the way for Messiah’s entry. (**Mark 1:2–3**)

In both Mark’s gospel and John’s gospel the word for sent is the word from which we derive the term “apostle” (apostolos). It describes someone who is instilled with authority to carry a message that is both self-authenticating and mighty.

But God has decided that humans would serve as his heralds, his proclaimers. Everyday people, just like John. Our temptation is to think that God prefers “special” people. But he more often chooses the common over the spectacular.

God calls every believer to be a witness for him. (1 Peter 2:9) Be open and attentive to that call.

Reality #2: John was a Witness. So Are you.
John 1:7a

This is the first occurrence of the word “witness” (*martyr*) in the Gospel. It communicates what happens when the Word enters the world. Like in a courtroom, evidence and witnesses will come forward to verify the truth of Jesus’ case.

John was a witness, a person with some experience and knowledge that can help establish the truth of some fact that is in dispute. (John 1:33–34)

John’s testimony about Jesus was marked with biblical simplicity, humility, and courage. He dressed, ate, and lived simply.

The humility of John also supported his witness. (John 3:29–30)

When we bear witness to Christ, let it not be with brash arrogance, but with humble straightforwardness; always with the aim of exalting Christ and diminishing self.

Courage also marked John’s witness. Wouldn’t it have been safer not to cry out against the immorality of powerful people like Herod? (Mark 6:18) He ultimately lost his head for such a stand. But when God’s people stand for truth- they stand tall.

Reality #3: John was a reflector. So are you.
John 1:7b

It is expressly clear in the text that John is not the light, but his function as a reflector is re-emphasized here. That was his primary purpose. As it is ours.

When we consistently point people to the Light of the world we essentially become bearers of the Light. (John 8:12, Matthew 5:14)

When we allow the Light of Christ to reflect unhindered off our lives, we appear like little lights that draw people out darkness.

John recorded this gospel so that we would believe on Jesus. His primary purpose was to reflect the Light. Likewise, believer, your primary purpose is to reflect Light. We are not the source of Light. But we certainly can reflect that Light in our lives, our speech, our service.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- John 10:10 says: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*. Explain what life to the full looks like. As a follower of Christ would you say that you have life to the full? Explain.
- What types of things would make a believer ineffective at reflecting God's Light? Do you think its easier or more difficult to reflect the light in todays culture than in generations past? Explain
- From the beginning, God's way has always utilized human witnesses. God accomplishes relatively little through miracles in comparison to the simple testimony of human beings who boldly share the truth. Why did God choose flawed humans rather than angels or miracles to share His truth?
- Explain a time when someone saw Jesus reflected in you.
- Explain a time when you saw Jesus reflected in another believer.
- How does knowing you are sent, a witness, and a reflector of the light affect your daily life and interactions with non-christians?