

Ask that God would illuminate the Scriptures & speak truth to your hearts. Pray that your discussion would lead you to see God's purpose in a way that changes the way you live.

### **Read Mark 1:1-8 & John 3:22-30**

#### **John had a right view of himself**

Re-read just John's words. What was John's attitude toward Jesus?

What was John sent to do? (What was his purpose?)

Read Mark 6:18-20. What do these verses tell us about John?

Read Luke 6:41-42. How does Jesus instruct us to address repentance?

Compare setting the tone in a conversation to setting the tone at a meal. What kinds of things might you do differently to set the tone for a fancy dinner vs. a picnic? How does the tone you set affect your guests' experience? Is there one tone that's right all the time for all occasions? What are some different tones we could set when talking to someone about Jesus? What might you do differently to set those different tones? How might that affect the conversation?

Under what circumstances might people need a different tone set in order to best hear the Gospel? (Think about how JJ explained that there are different ways to water different soils.)

Who is God putting on your heart that needs to hear the Gospel? What tone do you think would be most helpful to take with them?

#### **John had seasons of drought and doubt**

Read Matthew 11:1-6. What do these verses tell us about John? Where was John & what were his circumstances when he asked this?

How did Jesus encourage and reassure John? (Read Isaiah 61:1-3 for a prophecy that John would have recognized.)

Have you had seasons of doubt or of drought (feeling far from God)? What brought comfort or reassurance in that time? If you're still in a season of doubt or drought, what would you like to ask God or ask Him for?

Whether we're in a season of drought or plenty, why is it important to stay connected to our water source?

Define our terms – what is our water source? (Read John 7:37-39)

How do we stay connected to our water source?

**John held 2 things at the same time:** The heavenly perspective that God has a great purpose and the earthly perspective that he had a unique part to play.

Review the heavenly perspective (that we held in our left hands):

The Gospel; Jesus paid the price for our sins; we did nothing to earn our salvation; it is a gift.

Review the earthly perspective (that we held in our right hands):

I have been placed here by God for such a time as this. I am on mission and have been given unique gifts to fulfill my mission.

Who is your mission field? What are your unique gifts God has given you to reach those people? How have you been and are you being changed by God?

#### **At the end of your time, give everyone a chance to share their answers to these questions:**

What does this Scripture tell us about God?

What does it tell us about people and what our response to God should be?

Is there anything I misunderstood before or believed that was wrong and needs correcting? (Is there a point I'm missing?)

Does this Scripture reveal any disobedience in me that I need to repent of? (What correction is God bringing?)

How is He changing my mind?)