

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week Pastor Don starts our new series called “The Unexpected Messiah” to walk us through the Gospel of John. The author John was one of Jesus’ disciples, and his gospel account is an eyewitness testimony of his experiences as he followed Jesus for over three years. The point of the book is made clear in John 20:31: “[T]hese [things] are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name.” In other words, John’s hope is that we’ll follow Jesus as the One who makes us right with God and fully alive to all that God has for us. So to get your group started, let everyone share - what experiences have you had or activities have you done that made you feel the most alive?

BIG THOUGHT

In the first chapter of his gospel, John lets us know that Jesus is more than just a man - He is God in the flesh who came to put an end to the control of sin.

1. Read John 1:1-3. What is the Word? What is the relationship between the Word and God? What role did the Word play in the creation of the universe? (v. 3) Why do you think John started his gospel with this cosmic description of Jesus rather than telling the historical details of His birth?
2. Now read v. 4-5. What does Jesus contain within Himself? What examples can you think of in Jesus’ life and ministry when darkness tried to overcome His life and light? (v. 5) What do you think could be considered darkness in our culture today that fights against Jesus?

3. Read v. 6-9. Who was responsible for sending John the Baptizer (and remember - John the Baptizer is not the same as John the author of the Gospel)? What was his role? (v. 7) Later on in 1:23, John the Baptizer refers to himself as the one mentioned in the Old Testament passage of Isaiah 40:3. Read the Isaiah verse, and explain what you would have felt if you had heard John claim this prophecy for himself - nervous? Disbelief? Hope? And what does this teach us about God’s activity even when we don’t see any evidence of it?
4. Now read v. 10-13. Why do you think the world didn’t recognize Jesus for Who He is? What does He give to those who *do* receive Him and put their trust in Him? (v. 12) And what kind of a process is it? (v. 13)
5. To finish, read v. 29. What did John mean by calling Jesus the Lamb of God (see Exodus 12:1-13, Isaiah 53:7)? And what does Jesus ultimately do with all sin?

Take it Further

Take time to talk with God, and thank Him for sending Jesus to take away our sins so that we can experience true life through Him!

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: John 3:16

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Day 3: Acts 16:31

Day 4: 1 John 2:2

Day 5: Acts 4:12

Day 6: Romans 5:8

Memory Verse: John 1:12



GATEWAY
BAPTIST CHURCH

1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC
www.gatewaybc.com