

Small Group Discussion Guide

We have more in common than you might think! January 19, 2025

John 1:19–34

Objective:

To inspire and challenge the audience to embrace a life of faith, obedience, and active discipleship, modeled after the example of John the Baptist.

Opening Question

- What comes to mind when you think of John the Baptist? How would you describe his role in God's story?
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Section 1: John the Baptist's Identity and Role (John 1:19–28)

Read: John 1:19–28

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the religious leaders so concerned about who John the Baptist was?
 2. John refers to himself as "the voice" (v. 23), quoting Isaiah 40:3. What does this reveal about his mission?
 3. In your life, what might it look like to be a "voice" for God, preparing the way for others to encounter Jesus?
 4. John displayed humility in pointing others to Christ. What can we learn from his example of deflecting attention from himself?
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Section 2: John's Declaration of Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:29–34)

Read: John 1:29–34

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"? How is this different from the baptism John offered?

2. John had faith in God's promise before knowing who the Messiah was (v. 31). Have you ever had to step out in faith before fully understanding what God was doing?
 3. How can faith be "doing before knowing"? Share examples from your life or someone else's experience.
 4. Why is it significant that John recognizes Jesus as the Messiah after seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Him? How does this moment affirm God's promises?
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Reflection: Our Call to Be a Voice

Key Idea: Like John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way for others to meet Jesus and to point them to Him through our words and actions.

Discussion Prompts:

1. John's ministry was marked by calling people to repentance and pointing them to Jesus. How can you create "paths" for people in your life to encounter Jesus?
 2. What are some ways you might unintentionally create roadblocks to someone's journey toward Christ?
 3. Consider the statistic shared about how many "touch points" it now takes for someone to come to church. What can we do, individually and as a community, to increase these touch points?
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Closing Application

- Reflect on this question as a group:
What is God calling you to do this year that might require stepping out in faith before knowing the outcome?
 - Encourage each group member to share one practical step they can take this week to be a voice for Christ in their home, workplace, or community.
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Prayer Time

- Pray for boldness to step out in faith like John the Baptist.
- Ask God to help each group member be a voice that points others to Jesus.
- Lift up specific individuals in your life who need to encounter Christ.

