

Icebreaker:

As you re-engage with your group, what was the best part of the Christmas holiday season? What was the hardest part?

Read this week's scripture and discuss:

1. Who in your group is most like John the Baptist (JTB) and why?
2. JTB says of Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Why does John make the analogy that Jesus is a lamb? We often think of Jesus as God and majestic and holy, what is it like to think of him as a lamb?
3. When JTB points out Jesus to two of his disciples, they merely ask where he is staying. Jesus says "come and see." They spend the day with him. What would it be like to "spend a day" with Jesus and to watch and see how he lives life? How can we "spend a day" with Jesus today and see what he is like?
4. What would it take for you to follow Jesus as quickly as these disciples did here in John? Do you think it is easier or more difficult to follow Jesus now vs. 2000 years ago?
5. In verses 31 and 33, JTB says he didn't know Jesus as Messiah before his baptism. Dale Bruner translates it that JTB didn't recognize Jesus as the messiah. As Jesus' cousin it is interesting to think that the one who probably grew up with Jesus didn't recognize him as Lord. Might there be a connection between that and those of us who "grew up" with Jesus, having attended church as children? If you grew up in the church have there been times when perhaps you found it difficult to recognize God in your midst? If so, what helps you to see God in your midst?
6. JTB and Andrew were clearly witnesses to who Jesus was. Can you recall a time when you were a witness to someone about Jesus? If so, what did that look like?
7. Audrey West says that our answer to the question, "What are you looking for?" will have a great deal to do with what we find. Have you seen that in your life?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Tim King, Joe Mundil, Theresa Beardsley, and Randy Laffoon.
- > We celebrate with the Parton family in the birth of their son.

As we begin a new group session for 2020, we are continuing a deep dive into the Gospel of John, as we have been reading and studying during Advent 2019. We start again in John 1, where Jesus is the Lamb of God. John's gospel is more theological and mysterious in some ways; more than Matthew, Mark and Luke. We can learn much this Home Group season about who Jesus is and how to relate to Jesus from the ways that John tells Jesus' story.

1. John the Baptist is certainly an interesting character! In Mark's gospel, John wore camel hair clothes and ate locust and honey. Does your group have members who are like prophets or who wonder in the wilderness? Have some fun as you and your group ponder who is most like John the Baptist.
2. Every morning and every evening a lamb was sacrificed in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29:38). The Messiah would be led to slaughter like a lamb (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus is the sacrificial lamb, the once and for all time lamb of God, who gave his life for us. It is humbling to think of God as a humble baby (at Christmas) and as a lamb to be sacrificed.
3. "Come and See" is the theme of this sermon series. We must come and see who Jesus is. We can spend the day with him, watching him for what he does. While we can't physically be with Jesus, we can spend time praying and serving with other believers and bless those who are poor, lonely, hungry and oppressed – and by doing so we can see Jesus.
4. It would be difficult for most of us to jump in and follow Jesus so quickly. We don't physically see him in the ways that those disciples did. But we must also be bold in following him. We can "come and see" Jesus, and help point to Jesus as John the Baptist did. May we too be his disciples in 2020.
5. Are there times when we are so close to or so familiar with something or someone that our perception is skewed? Ask group members if this has happened with their view of God, Jesus, the Church, or even the Bible?
6. Have group members share a time when they were able to tell a story about their faith with another person or even when they felt they were able to "be Jesus with skin on" to someone.
7. Often we find what we are looking for so it can be important to ask ourselves the question "what am I looking for?" periodically. Do group members have examples of this from their lives?