

Week 2 Discussion Questions

Text: John 1:19-51

Icebreaker: Do you know the origin's or meaning of your name? Does knowing the origin or meaning of your name impact your identity? Why or why not?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. John 1:19 calls John the Baptist a "witness." Discuss the purpose and role of a witness and in what ways we see John acting as a witness in our text.

The first thing that often comes to mind when we think of a witness is a witness to a crime who is called on to testify in a court of law. They were present for an event and have first-hand information that is trustworthy and pertinent to a broader context. In a court of law, a witness is meant to recount what they saw or experienced so that the jury, who was not present for the crime, would know what happened as well and be able to make an informed decision about the case. In another context, like a wedding, a witness is required to be present in order to verify as a third party, that the wedding took place and both parties said their vows. John the Baptist, is acting as a witness in that he is present with Jesus and is proclaiming to those who have not been there who Jesus is and what he has done.

3. According to Acts 1:8, all of Jesus' followers are called to be His witnesses. What does it look like for you to be a witness of Jesus today?

Two things are required for us to be witnesses of Jesus today. First, we must experience him, be present with him, and know him personally ourselves. First-hand experience with Jesus is required. Second, we must be willing to share with others who Jesus is and what we have seen him do in the world and in our lives.

4. Jesus is given at least six titles/names in these verses. Identify each one and discuss together what that title tells us about Jesus' identity.

Lamb of God—Lamb imagery points back to the Passover lamb in the story of Exodus (Exodus 12) and forward to Revelation with Jesus as the Lamb (Revelation 5:6-10).

Son of God—Indicates he is born of God, not of human descent

Rabbi/Teacher—For a disciple to follow a Rabbi was to shape their entire life around the Rabbi's teachings and to be as much like the Rabbi as they could.

Messiah/Christ—Messiah is the anointed one, the one who has been promised throughout the Old Testament, linked to the "offspring" in Genesis 3 who would come to crush the head of the serpent.

He who the prophets spoke of—They are identifying Jesus with the God of the Old Testament, calling Him the very same God of Moses and the Prophets.

Son of Man—language is linked to the story of Jacob and his ladder: Jesus being the link between Heaven and Earth.

5. Jesus asks John's disciples, "What are you seeking." This question is for us too. Everyone is seeking after something. What is it you're seeking and are you finding what you what you need?

Encourage honest reflection on life right now. What are you investing your time, talents, and treasures into?

6. Upon meeting Jesus, Andrew is immediately compelled to tell his brother and bring him to follow Jesus as well. Does your faith in Jesus compel you to tell others about Him? Why or why not?

This will be a topic we continue to touch on throughout this series, so maybe use this as a space to begin to gauge your groups experience with sharing their faith. What's hard about it and what's easy. Are we doing it at all?