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Leader Guide

The Lamb of God

January 16, 2022

Main Passage: John 1:5-13

Theological Theme

John the Baptist was commissioned to prepare the way of the Lord by preaching a message of repentance and expectation. His ministry pointed to One who was coming. The message John preached is the key to unlocking the joys of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever tried to tell time using a sundial?
- ❓ Can you explain how a sundial works?

John the Baptist was like a sundial. He was mightily used of God to point people to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But John the Baptist's usefulness and effectiveness were wholly dependent upon the fact that he was pointing toward something greater than himself. His calling was to point people to the Messiah. His purpose was to glorify someone other than himself. He did not fulfill his purpose on his own.

The Witness (John 1:5-8)

John the Baptist was unique. He was different than the religious authorities of the day and people flocked to see him. He spoke with authority and didn't bend to curry favor with the religious upper echelon. John unflinchingly preached the truth, and it seemed to the people that he feared God alone. Despite his strange manner of living and his bold message, he gained a large following. Through John, God was preparing to unveil His plan for the redemption of His people. John's work was to point people to Christ, and those who responded with faith and repentance to John's message would look to Christ for the salvation of their souls.

2. The Light (John 1:9-10)

John was not the light, but “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (v. 9). Jesus was the awaited Redeemer who had been promised from Genesis 3. The prophets spoke of Him, and the people of Israel anticipated His arrival. Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate. He is the uncreated One who took on flesh to accomplish the redemption of God’s people. Jesus was in the beginning with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Without Him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Jesus came to His own, taking on flesh to complete His mission of living a perfectly holy and righteous life in the place of sinners and dying a sinner’s death so they might be rescued.

3. The Hope (John 1:11-13)

The hope sinners have in Christ is not just momentary forgiveness of sins without bearing on eternity—Christians look to Christ for forgiveness for sin and union with God through Christ starting now and forevermore. The Christian hope includes an eternity in the presence of God, worshiping Him and being loved by Him.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC