

Dig Deeper @Home – “For King and Kingdom”

Complement to lesson on 1/26/25 – “A Kingdom Call”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Who “made straight the way of the Lord” in your life? What did that person do to influence you to think about following Jesus?
2. Have you ever been embarrassed by mistaking a stranger for someone you thought you knew? What happened?

MEMORIZE – John 20:21-22

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (ESV)

READ – John 1:19-34

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. What was the purpose John the Baptist was called by God for? (vv. 22-23, 26-27 & Isaiah 40:3-5)
 - a. What do you think John is saying when he repeats the words of Isaiah, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, Make straight the way of the Lord”?
3. How does John finally answer their question about his calling to baptize? (vv. 30-31) How does John’s baptism of people stand in contrast to the baptism Jesus will bring? (vs. 32) What does baptism mean to you? What about baptism with the Holy Spirit?
4. What does he mean by calling Jesus the “Lamb of God”? (vs. 29; see Exodus 12:1-13; Isaiah 53:7). How does this inform John’s calling from God?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – “Who Am I?”

The rules of the game "Who Am I?" are fairly simple. Each player writes down a name of a person on a post it note, based on an agreed-upon category, such as celebrities, Bible characters or historical figures. Once they have written a name, they hand it face down to the player next to them. Next, all players place the post it note with a famous person on their forehead without looking at the answer. Players then take turns asking the group questions about their assigned figure on their forehead in hopes of figuring out who it might be. Each person gets to ask one “yes or no” question each round with a chance to guess before it passes to the next person. The player who guesses his answer correctly first wins the game.

The Priests and Levites were playing a “Who Am I” game with John the Baptist as they were trying to figure out who he was. What were the questions they asked him to try to figure it out? Talk together about who John the Baptist was and think about John’s calling to be the one who announced the coming Messiah.

SING (or listen to)

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God – Maranatha - <https://youtu.be/EsBpM9IcBts>

King of Kings – Hillsong - <https://youtu.be/McO-ELaBjfw>

God of all My Days – Casting Crowns - <https://youtu.be/ZYkZE8AogDE>

Build Your Kingdom Here – Rend Collective - https://youtu.be/r-4bEbk1m_c

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us, for this week.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Jesus, you are sending us just as the Father has sent you. Thank you for the Holy Spirit that you given each of us, so that you are with us wherever you are sending us. May we be a source of life and light to others this week where we live, works, study, worship and play.