

It's Not Me. It's Him

Pastors Jeff Bucknam and Christian Constante | John 1:19–34

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

Ice Breaker

When have you seen someone pridefully shine the spotlight on him- or herself? Maybe an athlete or actor or someone not even famous — having “main character” energy as the expression goes. What does that communicate to others?

Understanding The Text In Context

John the Baptist was famous. He began with more public notoriety than Jesus. For additional background, read another Gospel account: Matthew 3:1-12. From John and Matthew, what do we learn about John the Baptist?

With John referencing Isaiah 40:3 combined with his ministry emphasis, John has been called a bridge between the Old and New Testaments. What function did that bridge serve? Why was John so adamant when asked by the priests and Levites about his identity?

Connecting To Jesus And His Gospel

The lamb was an important sacrificial animal. Lamb's blood was needed to deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-13). How does the phrase, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” when applied to a person, potentially seem odd to John's listeners? How does that build tension about Jesus' identity?

Like John the Baptist, the Apostle Paul had a focus on pointing others to Jesus. Read Philippians 1:12-18. Paul, writing from prison, still rejoices, especially that the gospel is spreading: more and more people see Jesus, despite some surprising circumstances. Describe those surprising circumstances. How does the greater good of the gospel overshadow those circumstances?

Living Out The Truth

During the past week, have there been times when your actions or attitudes acted like a magnet to yourself — instead of a bridge, a pointer to Jesus? What was the motivation?

How can you, in your context, be like John in demonstrating: “It’s not me; it’s Him.”

As you look at the week ahead, how can your actions and attitudes shine the spotlight on Jesus? Pray for one another, for a heart like John the Baptist, for the people who may be in those situations, and for Jesus to be better known and more loved and followed.

Parenting Moment And Family Focus

Building from the text and insights from the previous sections, discuss as a family how you can live an “It’s not me” life. Why is it so tempting to keep the focus on us, making it an “it’s about me” life?

Encourage one another and pray about how to be a witness as a family — how each one’s actions and attitudes can be “It’s Him!”

Further Study

John points to Jesus as one who “baptizes with the Holy Spirit” (v. 34). Read about [7 Things the Holy Spirit does in and for our Salvation](#) and [10 Key Bible Verses on the Holy Spirit](#).

For more on the implications for Jesus being the “Son of God,” read [8 Witnesses to Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah](#) and [Son of David, Son of God](#)

Looking ahead to next week’s Sermon and Text:

- Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 1:35-51: “Come and See,” and “Come and See — It’s not just for You,” and “Come and See — From Doubt to Belief.”