

The Word, The Light, My Life

That You May Believe sermon series week one

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Think about a time in your past when you confidently acted like a know-it-all! Share with your group what happened when you discovered you didn't really know-it-all.

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

How often do you spend time in the Bible, God's word to us? Does your time in scripture change your approach to sharing the gospel?

What prayer requests can your brothers and sisters in Christ lift up for you?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

God's provision, praise, and promises are blessings that *naturally* result from practicing obedience toward the Lord's promptings in our lives. He is a loving Father who only wants what is best for his children, and sometimes asks us to sacrifice things that challenge us very deeply, but he wants to be FIRST in our lives. Ask the Lord to shed light on the things or people in your life that you *think* you wouldn't be able to be without. Then, give the Lord praise for his provision, praise, and promises.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Christ is the perfect expression of God in human form.

Read John 1:1-18

Q1. According to verses 1-5, who is Jesus?

Q2. Reread verse 3. How does this reality impact what we think about God and what we think about humanity? How does this verse expand your perspective of Christ, especially in regards to witnessing and worship?

Q3. Due to our limited understanding and faith as humans, it is not uncommon for us to *feel* like our problems are too complex or too big for God. How do verses 3-5 shed light on our understanding of how capable God is to guide our lives?

Q4. How are we to be like John the Baptist? (see verses 7 & 8)

Q5. Reread verses 10-12. Jesus' own people, the Jewish people, rejected him and failed to recognize him as the Messiah. Did Jesus come just to save "his own" people? Who has the right to become a child of God?

Q6. The nature and will of God were revealed in the law by Moses, but now, the nature and will of God are revealed in Jesus and his grace. How do the law and the grace of Jesus Christ compliment each other in regard to knowing God more intimately?

Impact Questions

Q1. In what ways have you allowed the Light of Christ to shine in your life?

Q2. How does a Christian *witness* act like a reflection of God's light? How does this *reflection* apply to your personal life inside and outside of ministry?

Q3. Many unbelievers and *some* believers either minimize Jesus' humanity or his divinity. Do you tend to acknowledge either Christ's humanity or his divinity more? What has God shown you to help you or others you know to acknowledge Christ as both God and man?

Q4. Have you asked Christ to make you a new person? Are you ready and willing to be transformed? What are some of the recent or specific ways God has equipped you to become new in him?

What now? (15 minutes)

Let this sink in: God chose *us* over his own Son.

It is not within human comprehension to *fully* understand who God is, or his limitless knowledge and wisdom — and we should not try to make his ways and plans for us conform to our limited vision. (See Isaiah 55:8-9.) *Yet*, he is the Creator of the world, our loving Father, and completely accessible to us because of his Son, Jesus Christ. He has forgiven us of all of our sins and has allowed us to have a future with him for eternity. We can dedicate our lives as a testimony to the love, grace, and mercy he has shown us, and spend the rest of our lives discovering all the many reasons why our Lord and Savior is so amazing!

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray that the Lord would make all of us more like John the Baptist; we are not the Light, but we can reflect the Light. Pray that we would find the discipline to consistently read and study the Word of God, so that when we witness about Christ to the world, our words, understanding, love, and grace would flow naturally, just like breathing. Please continue to pray about Northwest's Mission and Vision, and how we can be a beacon of hope for the surrounding community. Please continue to pray for those who have experienced tremendous persecution for sharing Christ, and that the Lord would continue to go before their missions. Lastly, praise the Lord for all he is already doing! AMEN!

Sermon Notes: