

Can I Get a Witness?

That You May Believe sermon series week two

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Quickly introduce yourself to the group as if they had never met you.

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Have you encountered anyone this week that may not know Christ yet? Commit this week to praying for that person and sharing Christ with them as his spirit leads you. As a group pray for those that you encounter through the upcoming week. Pray that the Lord would give you a humble spirit as you introduce Jesus to them.

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Let this sink in: Since time began, the entire Godhead — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — have been working for your joy and blessing because they love you that much.

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!

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

John the Baptist clearly understood who God called him to be, which allowed John to do with boldness what God called him to do.

Read John 1:19-34

- Q1. In verse 1, John is questioned by the priests and Levites. How is their question, "Who are you?" a clear challenge to him?
- Q2. Who does John assert that he is *not*? What does this reveal about his understanding of his own identity and authority?
- Q3. Who does John confess or declare that he is? What do you think John's intention was in responding this way? How do you think it was received by the priests and Levites?
- Q4. Reread verses 26-34. John the Baptist's words are not what we would expect of one justifying or defending his authority. How does his humble response acknowledge what he thinks about *who* he is and *whose* he is?
- Q5. John the Baptist's sense of identity preceded his sense of purpose and calling. *Who* he considered himself to be impacted *what* he did. How would his ministry along the Jordan have been impacted if he had given witness to himself?

Impact Questions

Q1. Throughout scripture, God repeatedly refers to himself as “I am.” In today’s reading, John the Baptist asserts, “I am not.” Discuss the significance of these clear statements and the impact that communicating them had/has on others.

Q2. Every Christian is called to lead, whether that is within an organization or in a life-role. Why do those who you lead need to know where you find your identity?

Q3. Have you ever felt challenged to justify your worthiness to others? How could understanding *who* you are and *whose* you are help you boldly lead in whatever capacity you’ve been placed? In what ways could that impact your ability to give witness to Jesus Christ?

Q4. Now, re-introduce yourself to your group, this time responding to the questions, “Who are you?” and “Whose are you?”

What now? (15 minutes)

All of who we are, what we do, and our entire being and identity are found in Jesus Christ. Just as John the Baptist testified that Jesus is the long expected Messiah, we too have opportunities to declare and show that he is our savior. Jesus Christ is our personal savior, redeeming our souls for eternity, but also equipping us to live boldly for him, *here* and *now*.

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Pray for the mission fields the Lord is preparing for us. We are a living testimony for Christ, something we can not do effectively in our own strength but as Christ’s Spirit equips us. Pray that above all, Christ would be glorified in all that we do and that others would be drawn to him. Pray that, as we seek to carry out our church’s Mission and Vision*, the Lord would not only equip us to reach out to our community, but that he would help us see people as he sees them, created in his magnificent image, so that we rightly address their spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical needs in Christ’s name and with his love.

Sermon Notes:

** Mission Statement: To help more and more people become passionate worshippers and gifted servants of Jesus Christ.*

Vision Statement: Northwest will strive to develop leaders, equip families, and foster relationships to thrive in Jesus Christ.