



## Read the Gospel

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: John 1:19-34

Of all the religions, the one belief that sets Christianity apart is this: *Jesus in my place*. As believers in Jesus Christ, we aren't given a *remedy* for sin; we are given a *Redeemer* for our sins. The Lamb of God in my place expresses the biblical truth that, "I can't do this for myself; Jesus and only Jesus can." John the Baptist understood this when he publically introduced the Messiah to the crowd, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) His mission was not to point others to himself; it was to point others to Jesus and encourage them to follow Him.

At Warren we have one mission as well – to follow Christ. We do this in multiple venues and in multiple ways, but the essence of our mission is this: *We are a community of believers surrendered to the authority of Jesus Christ and dedicated to advancing the Gospel together in our neighborhoods and around the world, as we make disciples and multiply disciple-makers*. Our desire is to follow Christ, live for Christ, and point others to Christ so they can experience the blessed redemption found only in believing in Him.

## Pray for the Work of the Gospel

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** God for sending His Son, Jesus, to the cross in our place.
- **Repent** from not giving your all to Christ.
- **Ask** God to give the members of your group an appetite for the things of God.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit's work as He leads you to tell others about Jesus, the Lamb of God.

## Engage in the Gospel

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.**

**Read John 1:19-34**

- Discuss the historical background of John the Baptist. Who were his parents? Who was his mother related to? What were the circumstances surrounding his mother's pregnancy and his birth? (See Luke 1.)
- Describe John the Baptist as an adult. What did he look like? What was his occupation? Describe his personality and character traits. (See Matthew 3.)
- Read John 1:6. For what purpose was John the Baptist born? (See Luke 1:76-77.)
- As believers what is our purpose? Do you think we are fulfilling our purpose in the world today? Why or why not? What hinders us from pointing others to Jesus for salvation? What could we do differently?



@theword2015



Warren The Word 2015



warrentheword2015

- Discuss this simple plan to help us engage more effectively in sharing the Gospel. Is this a doable plan of action for spreading the Gospel of Jesus?
  - Identify someone who needs to know Jesus.
  - Invest in that person.
  - Invite the person to your church or to your Life Group.
  - Initiate a conversation with the person about Jesus and tell them your story of redemption.
- When John the Baptist makes his declaration about the Messiah in John 1:23, what prophecy is he fulfilling? (See Isaiah 40:3-11.)
- The message John proclaimed was “repent and be baptized.” (Matthew 3 & John 1) Why did John teach repentance? What did Jesus teach? (Matthew 4:17, Luke 5:32, 13:3, 5) What was taught in Acts 2:38, 3:19, & 17:30? Discuss the meaning of *repent*. Contrast it with *tolerance*. Also discuss the difference between *remorse* and *repentance*.
- After repentance one must receive Jesus, the Lamb of God. Why did John the Baptist refer to Jesus as “the Lamb of God” in John 1:29? (See Isaiah 53:4-7, 10-11.) How does this imagery of the lamb symbolize “Jesus in my place” as a substitution for my sins and yours? (Leviticus 16, Romans 8:3 & Hebrews 10:1-18, 1 Peter 1:18-21)
- Pastor McKinley said, “Jesus did not come to enable our personal recovery from sin but to deliver us from every part of brokenness that we may come to know His great power and love.” Are you trying to make Jesus’ work on the cross a mere tool to aid you in self-recovery, or do you look to Jesus as your gracious redeemer? Why do you think the simplicity of the Gospel often hinders people from belief?
- Why was John baptizing? What does baptism symbolize? What is its purpose? Have you followed Jesus’ example and been baptized?
- Read John 1:34-37. What does the title “Son of God” denote? Near the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He spoke of His authority. What does He tell His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20? How did John the Baptist fulfill the Great Commission before Jesus ever spoke it? (See John 1:35-37.) Are you fulfilling the Great Commission and preparing the way of the Lord as John the Baptist did? Why or why not?

## Live the Gospel

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.**

- Who has God placed on your heart to share your story of redemption with this week?
- Will you do it? When? Make a plan and take the first action step today. (Remember: Identify, Invest, Invite, Initiate)

### **Joshua Code memory verse:**

*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.* – Matthew 5:41