

Groups Sermon Based Questions

John: The Book of Signs

January 4/5, 2024



Watch	Introduction
<u>Identity</u> The sermon is up on the spac.ca website Monday of each week.	Through the opening chapter of this Gospel, we are invited to explore the significance of our identity and Jesus' identity, as the foundation for understanding God, ourselves and our purpose.

Engage

Scripture: John 1:18-34; Various Passages

Optional Icebreaker Question

1. Pastor Rita opened up with an illustration from a children's book, "*Are You My Mother?*" Reflecting humanity's search for purpose, identity, and God. Have you experienced a similar journey, searching for God and identity?

Study

Context: In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, the author establishes the identity and Divine nature of who Jesus is. John the Baptist up to this point has called and led many towards repentance and to ready themselves for God's Kingdom. Which culminates to a public, contentious, interaction between he and the Pharisee's. Here, we see the first public proclamation of Jesus as the coming Messiah (Matthew 3; Luke 3), that everyone has long waited for.

Read John 1:19-34

1. What are your initial thoughts, questions, curiosities, doubts, challenges, etc with this Passage? Why?
2. What significance does v.18 have in the life of a believer? Why? How has knowing who Jesus is helped you understand the nature of who God is?
3. Jesus is referred to by many titles/names in the Gospel of John. In this Passage, what descriptions of Jesus resonates with you most and why? Are there any other descriptions of Jesus found in Scripture that has resonated with you?

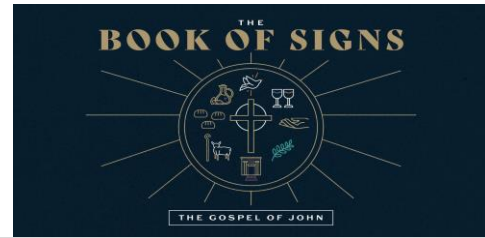
In John the Baptists interaction with the Pharisee's, John understood his identity and role in God's story, and He understood clearly who Jesus was. John was leading (fixing) people toward God, a person considered righteous and none greater (Matthew 11:11). And now One Greater than John has arrived.

4. In what ways can you imagine this interaction between John the Baptist and the Pharisee's being difficult? What difficulties, hurt, or sin can result from a lack of clarity in who you are and who Jesus is? (John 3:24-30; Matthew 11:1-6).
5. Where might you experience having a 'Messiah Complex' (church, family, work)? What lesson(s) can we take from John the Baptist?

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6. **Jesus also knew who He was in God (v.32-34; Matthew 11:16-17). What transformative impact or struggles could someone have with the concept being a loved child of God? How has this identity shaped your life?**
7. **How have you seen your identity in Christ given you renewed purpose in life? In your relationship with Jesus? For His church? For the broken unreached world around you?**

Reflection and Prayer

Pastor Rita invited us to deeply explore Jesus, and to know who we are as children of God and as 'disciples who Jesus loves.'

1. **In what ways is Jesus inviting you to intentionally seek him out this year? May this be a question that you contemplate and pray about this week.**

Prayer and Care

Take note of a prayer request for each member in your group.

You can request prayer any time at spac.ca/prayerrequest

We have a Care Ministry and pastoral team at Sherwood Park Alliance to walk alongside people through life's challenges. Should anyone in your group experience a significant illness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, etc. and they've given you permission to share, please contact the church office 780-467-8404.

Pastor on call (after hours): 780-467-8404 and follow prompts.