

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 18, 2015

This Week's Focus: God sends John the Baptist as a witness to testifying about Jesus.

This Week's Text: John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34

"The natural life in each of us is something self-centered, something that wants to be petted and admired, to take advantage of other lives, to exploit the whole universe. And especially it wants to be left to itself: to keep well away from anything better or stronger or higher than it, anything that might make it feel small." **C. S Lewis**

"All the wealth of the Old Testament symbolism in the sacrifices of the patriarchs and of the Mosaic law throws weight on this title, for it shows Jesus to be the sin-bearer, the Passover, the innocent substitute dying in our place. This great truth of substitution—the bearing of the sinner's guilt and penalty by another—is carried over from the Old Testament to the New Testament by means of this metaphor and made an integral part of the gospel message." **James Montgomery Boice**

Related Texts: Romans 8:32; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Genesis 22; Exodus 12

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions of this week's sermon?
- Read Luke 1:5-17, 67-80. How does this confirm what was said in John 1:6?
- What does John teach us about being a truthful witness concerning his "I am not" statements in verses 19-23?
- Who does John say that Jesus is?
- What historical events do you know about due to an eyewitness testimony? What is the difference between proof and evidence? How does this shape and inform our understanding of the gospel?

- What distinction does the author make about John the Baptist in verse 8? Why is this significant? How are our lives meant to be similar? How are our witness and testimony similar and different to that of John?
- Read John 1:26-27 and Luke 7:28. What do they teach us about glory of Christ? How does this help us to keep our own pride in check?
- Why would the phrase "Lamb of God" be of significance to his Jewish audience?
- What is the significance of calling Jesus "the Lamb" and "the Son of God"? Reference Genesis 22 and Exodus 12.
- How is Jesus the greater and better Passover lamb?
- Read John 1:26-27 and Mark 1:8. Discuss the differences between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why is this distinction important?
- Read Acts 1:8 and discuss the reason given in this passage that the Holy Spirit was given to followers of Christ? Are we doing it? Discuss the practical ways we can be more faithful to this task?

Next week text: John 1:35-51