

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 24, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the life-giving Son of God as testified by John the Baptist, but more importantly, by God Himself evidenced in His works and words, and in the the Scriptures that reveal his glory.

This Week's Text: John 5:30-47

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- What narrative and discussion precedes this week's passage? How does it help give context to Jesus' words in verses 30-47? What does Jesus mean when he refers to himself as the "Son of God?"
- John uses the term "testimony" many times throughout his Gospel and epistles. What is a testimony (think courtroom) and why is it an important concept? Reference Deuteronomy 19:15, 2 Corinthians 13:1.
- Jesus is the Son of God, and doesn't need witness or testimony concerning his identity and authority. So why did Jesus take the time to make his case to the religious leaders? Discuss the marvelous truth that Jesus loves both the rebellious and the religious.
- Who is the "forerunner" that Jesus mentioned was a trustworthy witness? Reference John 1:19-34. What imagery does Jesus use in verse 35 to describe John's ministry? Why is John's testimony about Jesus' identity as the Son of God true and trustworthy?

- Who is Jesus' main Witness to his authority and Sonship? How do Jesus' works (miraculous signs) attest to his oneness with God the Father? Reference verses 19-20, 36. What words of God the Father testify to Jesus' authority? Reference John 1:33, Mark 1:11, 1 John 5:9-11.
- How do the Scriptures testify about Jesus? If the religious leaders were experts in the Scriptures, how did they miss the testimony about Jesus? In what way are the Scriptures insufficient for attaining eternal life? Why were the religious leaders quick to accept the self-testimony of false Christs and deny the multiple testimonies and self-revelation of Jesus Christ, the true Son of God?
- How does this passage reveal and display the glory of Christ for you to see and treasure? How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?