LIFE Groups - Lent / Easter 2025

Week 2 - John the Forerunner

"Behold, the Lamb of God!"

John's Gospel introduces us to an important forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptizer. As a prophetic voice calling Israel back to faith in God, he prepares the way for Jesus' public ministry and first miracle.

*Reminder: Ash Wednesday Service, March 5, 6:45-7:15 in Sanctuary!

1 - The Disciple's Prayer

On Sunday Pastor Tim began teaching on prayer with the way Jesus taught His disciples. Have someone in the group read aloud **Matthew 6:9-15** as an opening prayer, and ask the group to share how these words speak to you.

- 2 Watch Pastor Scott's Video for Journey to The Cross Week 2
- **3 Scripture reading -** We meet John the Baptizer and encounter Jesus' first miracle...

Read John 1:6-8, 14-15, and 19-20 - John's introduction

• According to the video clip, why was it so important to John the author to make it clear the John the Baptizer was not the Messiah?

Read John 1:21-23, 29-34 - John's purpose for baptism

- In these passages, what does John state is the purpose God has sent him for? What statements does he say about Jesus?
- John states that Jesus is the one who will "baptize with the Holy Spirit", which foreshadows later chapters in this Gospel!

Read John 1:35-37, 43-51 - The first disciples are called

• John the Baptizer tells his disciples Andrew and John to follow Jesus. Andrew tells his brother Simon. Jesus calls Philip, who tells his friend Nathanael. Many of the disciples first heard about Jesus from a friend or family member! How does this challenge us to share about Jesus?

Read John 2:1-11 - Jesus' First Miracle

• Jesus (with encouragement from His mother) begins His public ministry at a friend's wedding with the disciples in attendance. John's readers would know of Dionysius as the Greek god of wine and revelry, but Jesus uses ritually pure water to honor a bride and groom in a unique way. How do you think this couple would have felt about this miracle?

Pray together!

• Pray for God to speak in new and powerful ways in the Lenten season!

Share your requests and pray for each other!

Journey to The Cross 2025



A DISCIPLE'S WALK THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



The image above depicts
Dionysius with his
human mother
Persephone

The interaction between Jesus and His mother in the Cana story is interesting - the legend of the god Dionysius tells that he was the son of Zeus and a human mother. He becomes the god of wine, but most rituals (calls Bacchanals) involved getting drunk and losing inhibitions. Contrast this to the story of Jesus turning the water to wine at the wedding in Cana, which honors a Godly and Biblical view of marriage!

