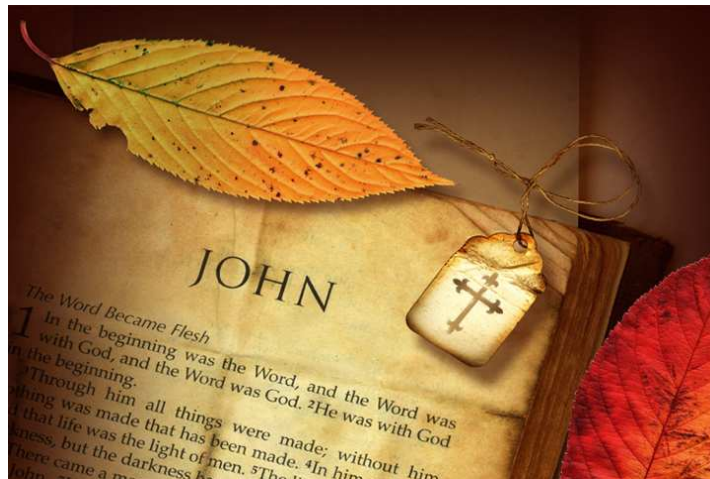


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

The Gospel of John

Week #1

Discussion Guide



September 11/12, 2010

“Must We Wait for Feelings?”

Pastor Bruce Humphrey
Hosea 10:11-12, John 1:19-23

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Next week: September 18/19
“Holy Spirit Like Alcohol” Pastor Bruce Humphrey
John 2:13-16

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Scripture References

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

Hosea 10:11-12

Ephraim was a trained heifer that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will make Ephraim break the ground; Judah must plow; Jacob must harrow for himself. ¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

Notes:

John 1:19-23

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Notes:

Isaiah 40:3-5

³ A voice of one calling:

"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Notes:

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Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. Read the Hosea 10:11-12 scripture. Discuss the preparation steps in the text. What are they preparing for?
2. What are the “farmers” instructed to seek? Why is it worth working for?
3. Read the John 1:19-23 scripture. Who is John? Who does John say that he is?
4. What is John’s purpose in life?
5. Read the Isaiah 40:3-5 scripture. Why does John answer the messengers from Jerusalem with scripture?
6. How is the “*glory of the Lord*” revealed?

Sermon

Key Words: ***Preparation – Feelings – Discipleship – Faithfulness***

“In the ordinary parts of our lives we appreciate that many tasks are accomplished without waiting for warm fuzzy emotions. So why do we expect it to be different when it comes to faith?” **Bruce Humphrey**

7. Why do we want our faith to be *warm and fuzzy*? How do we feel when faith is not *warm and fuzzy*?
8. What might happen to our faith if it were regularly subject to feeling good?
9. If something doesn’t feel good, does that mean God’s presence is missing? Explain.
10. What does this tell you about the faithfulness of God?
11. When we only do things that feel good to us, what happens to others? What happens to our relationship(s)?

**The Gospel of John
Week #1**

Life Applications

Personal:

How might our emotions affect the process of preparation?

Think of a time you were preparing for something important to you:

1. Do you recall your *feelings* when you were preparing?
2. What did you *feel* when you accomplished the task?
3. Were others blessed during your process of preparation?
4. Were others blessed with the end result?
5. How does thinking of others as you prepare for something, affect, or not affect, your *feelings*?

Small Group:

“When John the Baptist began his ministry, he was Israel’s first prophet in four hundred years. He was known throughout Palestine, adored by the crowds, grudgingly respected by the religious leaders, and feared by the secular authorities. Even decades after his death, disciples of his could be found in cities as far away as Ephesus (Acts 18:24-25, 19:1-7). He was much more unanimously acclaimed and long remembered by the Jews than Jesus was. Probably for this reason, John the Apostle begins his book of evidence about Jesus with the Baptist’s testimony.” From Life Change Series: John, NAVPRESS, pg. 31

1. In light of this observation, why was it so important that John the Baptist clarify who he was?
2. How are you called to prepare for the Lord’s coming?
3. Share one thing you could be doing to improve in this area.

Prayer:

Read John 1:1-13. Contemplate what it means to you to be a child of God. Thank Jesus for becoming human, living among us, and demonstrating the love and faithfulness of God.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:

John – Life Change Series, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.

Book of John, Life Lessons with Max Lucado

Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!

