

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

Care Group Study Questions

John 1:19–51 (ESV)

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to 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.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,

³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

What do we know about John the Baptist? (use parallel texts)

John was very different/weird. Everyone who wanted to hear him had to come to the wilderness. But John was exceedingly popular and drew large crowds. Why do you think he was so successful?

Verses 20-21 Who did John say he wasn't?

Verse 23 How did John describe himself?

What was John's purpose/assignment/mission?

Note: John the Baptist never performed a miracle or a sign; he only preached and baptized. He called people to repentance and told them about Jesus. He had a singular focus.

Application: Do you ever think about what your purpose might be and how can you pursue it on a daily, practical basis? How does your purpose compare to John's? In a general sense, every Christian's purpose is the same as John's. Be a witness for Jesus. Draw attention to Jesus. Proclaim Him as Savior.

Verses 24-28 Why were the Jews so concerned about John?

Note: Baptism was not a new or novel ritual to the Israelites. Baptism was one of the rituals by which Gentiles were brought into Judaism as proselytes. John's baptism was an outward sign of cleansing reflecting an inward repentance from sins. This was distressing in the light of the meaning and use of baptism in Judaism. These were not Gentiles who were being baptized, but Jews. These were not Gentiles who were being indicted for their sin and warned of God's coming wrath, but Jews. John was treating Jews as though they were lost sinners, in need of salvation. Most distressing of all, many Jews were believing John and coming to him for baptism. Jewish religious leaders had convinced their Jewish followers that simply being Jewish and keeping the law (as they interpreted it) was sufficient to save them. John's ministry and message said otherwise. The Jewish religious system was under siege, and it looked at the moment as though John was prevailing.

What did John testify about Jesus in verses 29-34?

Verse 29 Why did John use the term Lamb of God?

God requires the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). Why is that?

How is the sacrifice of Jesus superior to that of an animal?

Verse 30 How was Jesus both before and after John

Verses 32-34 How did John know who Jesus was?

Verses 35-42 Perhaps the greatest reflection on John's character is the way in which he encouraged his disciples to cease following him and begin following Jesus as the Messiah. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he identified Him to his disciples as the "Lamb of God." The two disciples with John at that time left him and set out after Jesus. This is precisely what John had been called to do—prepare men to follow the Messiah.

How did each of these men come to Jesus?

Andrew –

Simon –

Philip –

Nathanael –

Application: There is no singular way that people are called to Jesus. Every Christian is to introduce others to the Savior.

Nathanael was prejudiced against Nazareth. How did Jesus deal with this?

On what basis did Jesus select the twelve Apostles?

Verse 43 What did Jesus require of these men?

Application: How is our purpose/mission like the disciples? What does Jesus want us to do? Jesus calls us to believe in Him as the Son of God, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. But He also calls us to follow Him, to be with Him, to have fellowship and communion with Him, and to be available so He can work through us.

Verse 51 What does Jesus mean by "the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man?"