

Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 1:19-28

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 1:19-28

¹⁹ This was John's testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He didn't deny it but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ "What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. ²² "Who are you, then?" they asked. "We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am a **voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord**—just as Isaiah the prophet said." ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you aren't the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John answered them. "Someone stands among you, but you don't know him. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie." ²⁸ All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Sermon Summary:

John the Baptist, who has been sent by God to prepare the way of the Lord is questioned by the religious Jewish leaders because he is baptizing people. These religious leaders considered his actions to indicate that he was some kind of prophet or messiah. However, John denies being Elijah returned, or a prophet or the messiah. He quotes Isaiah 40:3 saying he is a voice. His calling is to prepare the way of the Lord, or we could say he is pointing people to the coming Christ. His ministry is to call people into a right relationship with God so they can receive Christ.

We may find ourselves in a similar situation that the people of Israel found themselves in at that time. We may think we are okay but actually our relationship with God may not be what it should be. God is calling us to respond and renew and restore a right relationship with Him.

Discussion:

1. What might be some of the reasons for John being interrogated by the Jewish leaders?
2. What does John's response to the Jewish leaders say about him?
3. John's baptism is not the same as believers' baptism. What is the significance of John's baptism? What is the significance of believers' baptism?
4. What are the indicators that Israel was not in a right relationship with God?
5. What are some indicators that we might not be in the best relationship with God?
6. How can we "get right with God?"

End with Prayer:

- Pray that our relationship with God would be strengthened.