



May 3, 2020 | Pointing to Jesus | Ron Lewis

WARM-UP QUESTION: What is your purpose in life and is it fulfilling?

READ: John 1:19-36

FOCUS: By looking at the ministry of John the Baptist, we can learn how to better believe in Jesus and live out our purpose.

OBSERVE:

John pointed away from himself.

- When people came to him, they wondered if he was the Messiah. John immediately pointed away from himself by saying he was not the Christ. (John 1:18-19)
- John's calling was to decrease himself by being willing and comfortable to be a voice for the Lord. His ministry was not for his own gain but rather to point others to the one who was coming after him. (John 1:23,27)

John pointed others to Jesus.

- John is pointing others to Jesus, who is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)
- Jesus is the Lamb who was slain and went to the cross on our behalf so that we can be saved. Jesus is God and the Lord of all.

How do we point others to Jesus without being a preacher like John was?

- Be an example! Jesus said that you are the light of the world, so let your light shine. (Matthew 5:14)
- Add value to others.
 - Seeing the needs around you in your community, and meeting those needs.
- Be comfortable using words and speaking.
 - Eventually, our light shining will open doors for the gospel.
 - Share the story of how God found you.

REFLECT:

- John the Baptist was a strange character, flawed and imperfect. Yet he knew his calling and was confident in both who he was and who he was not. We are all broken and flawed, and yet deemed by God as precious and loved enough for Him to die for us. How should these facts influence our own self-awareness and confidence in God's calling? Can we seek the Lord for our own *VOICE*?
- What are the practical things that you can do to meet the needs of the people around you now (while being safe and physically distancing)?

TAKE ACTION:

- Please join us in reading the book of John during this series. This week's passage is John 1:35-51.
- Share the story of how God found you with the people in your life group or someone else.

PRAY:

Jesus, we thank You for dying on the cross so that we can receive the free gift of salvation. We ask that You help us to point others away from ourselves and to You. Help us to let our lights shine and meet the needs of those who are hurting around us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

