

# *Mens and Womens Bible Study*

*As our kids get settled back in school, let's get ourselves plugged into Bible Study. Women will be studying the book of Romans and can choose from morning or evening on Tuesdays. Men you will be studying another in the series 33 called "A Man and His Traps" Visit our sign up page to register!*



# ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 3 | Can I Get A Witness | John 1:19-34

## THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPHET IS NOT TO DECLARE GOD'S WORD IT IS TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE.

Sometimes you will hear a pastor when he is preaching, say to the congregation, "Can I get a witness?" He is expecting to hear a chorus of amens! This isn't to make him feel good or to stir the people up into an emotional frenzy. It is to guide the people into an affirmation that what the preacher just declared is true and that they are acknowledging the truth and bearing witness to it personally. That's what it means to bear witness. It is to stake your name, reputation, and even your life on the truth. In a court of law, when a witness approaches the stand, before they give their testimony they bear witness by placing their hand on the Bible and take an oath. They confirm that what they are going to say is the whole truth and only the truth, so help them God. And that was the ministry and calling of John the Baptist. He was appointed by God not to be a witness but to be *the witness* that Jesus was the Messiah. He was the one declared in the Scriptures as the forerunner; the messenger who would prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of their Savior. John the baptizer's life had huge prophetic significance, massive Messianic importance and is a powerful prototype for the Christian witness.

**Leaders:** Take your group through each section: **Pray, Reflect, and Reach.** Keep in mind the time allowances. In the **Reflect** section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



### **PRAY** (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. In prayer, ask God to help you become a more effective witness for Jesus.



### **REFLECT** (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. What was the Biblical significance of John the Baptizer's ministry? Why was it important for him to give witness to Jesus as the Messiah and God's Son?**

**A VOICE CRIES: "IN THE WILDERNESS PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD. EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE LIFTED UP, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE MADE LOW; THE UNEVEN GROUND SHALL BECOME LEVEL, AND THE ROUGH PLACES A PLAIN. AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER, FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN."**

**ISAIAH 40:3-5**

- 2. As a group, spend time discussing what it means to have a calling from God. Describe how you see each other fulfilling God's calling. Then, think of ways that you can encourage one another to be a more effective witnesses for Jesus.**

**GOD MAKES THREE CALLS ON OUR LIFE. FIRST, HE CALLS US TO THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. SECOND, HE CALLS US TO CONSECRATION. AND THIRD, HE CALLS US TO SERVE HIM.**  
- BILLY GRAHAM

3. One way we become effective in our calling is by listening to God's voice. Of course, this means to be seeking Him in the Scriptures, but it also means being sensitive to His leading throughout the day. As we live with an awareness of God's presence, He guides us with promptings and spiritual nudges. It may be to pray for someone, to share God's love, to speak a Scripture, or to be generous.

**Do you live with an awareness of God's presence? Are you looking for His spiritual promptings? Are you walking in obedient faith when He does prompt you? Discuss as a group.**

4. Faithfulness to God's call doesn't come without a struggle.

**Read and discuss Matthew 11:3. Encourage the ones in the group who may be struggling.**



## **WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

**1 Thessalonians 5:24**

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.



## **REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be intentional about your witness for Jesus in the sphere of influence that God has appointed you to. Be sensitive to His promptings and faithfully obedient when they come.

**We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how God touched the lives of people around you as you followed His promptings.**