



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title:** Facts for the Faithful Witness

**Date:** February 2, 2025

**Scripture Text:** John 1:6-18

**Series:** Believe - The Study of the Book of John

### **Notes:**

We pick our study of the Apostle John's gospel account with a look at John the Baptist. John was six months older than Jesus and was sent to "make the way straight" for the Messiah. He was getting the hearts and minds of the people ready to receive Jesus. Not everyone responded, but many did. In today's passage, we'll look at John the Baptist and what he had to say about Jesus. The elements John shared are just as relevant for his contemporaries as they are today. Today we look at important *facts of the faithful witness*.

#### **I. Jesus Sends His Messenger (John 1:6-8)**

In these verses, John's role is described: *He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through Him all men might believe (vs. 7)*. John's role was to bear witness of the light that came into the world through the Word. The purpose of John's witness was 'so that through him all men might believe [in Christ]'. John was sent by God (vs. 6), which means he was commissioned by God for a specific purpose, letting people know about Jesus. He lived life on mission. God also has a commission for His people:

- General Commission ([Matt. 28:18-20](#), [Acts 1:8](#))
  - What is our commission based on these verses?
  - This is a general commission, which applies to all Christians. How would you define the term 'witness'?
  - How do you witness for Christ?
- Specific Commission ([Acts 8:25-39](#))
  - In [Acts 8](#) the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch is told.
  - How was this a specific commissioning for Philip?
  - How do people receive specific commissioning from God today?
  - What are examples of your specific commission God has called you to?
- To be a witness for Jesus is to give testimony of who He is, your experience with Him, and to be a reflection of Him
  - John was not the light, but he gave testimony of the Light
  - Just like the moon is not the sun, but reflects the sun
  - Our job as Christians is to bear witness (be a reflection of Him)
  - As a Christian we are witnesses regardless. Will you be a good witness or a bad witness?
    - How would you describe your witness?



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### **II. Jesus Saves Sinners (John 1:9-13)**

This passage describes three elements of Christ and how He was received. First, [John 1:9](#) describes the *revelation* of the Savior. Jesus is described as ‘the true Light’ which enlightens everyone. Second, the *rejection* of the Savior ([vss. 10-11](#)) describes how there were those who rejected Jesus as the Messiah, either because they loved the world more than Him, or Jesus didn’t fit their expectations of who the Messiah would be. Third, the *reception* of the Savior ([vss. 12-13](#)) where as many as receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God.

- John was used by God to *reveal* Jesus. How has God used you to *reveal* Jesus to others?
- Describe someone you know who has *rejected* Jesus because they were more interested in keeping their old worldly habits.
- Describe someone who would *reject* Jesus because He doesn’t meet their expectations.
- How can our expectations get in the way of our relationship with God?
- Describe how you *received* Jesus. What is your salvation story?

### **III. Jesus is the Savior (John 1:14-18)**

Jesus (the Word) became flesh to dwell among the people. For it is by His redemptive work in the flesh that we are saved. And it is by Christ that we are able to know God.

- Grace and truth are mentioned multiple times in these verses.
  - How would you define ‘grace’?
  - How would you define ‘truth’?
  - What happens when you have grace without truth? Truth without grace?
  - Why are both important when it comes to witnessing for Christ?
- What are ways you can improve your witness for Christ?

Pray for God to open opportunities for you to be His witness to others, and the boldness to speak grace and truth for His glory.