

Security Threat

“ How to Keep the Gospel Protected ”

- 1.** Watch Out for the Relevancy Trap vv. 19-23

- 2.** Always Stay Focused on Jesus vv. 24-28



Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/ or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1

- Read John 1:19-23. Compare this passage to Matthew 3:1-6. How does it help with context? (i.e., mood, purpose)
- In what way did the Levites and Priests try to fit John the Baptist into their own mold? Be specific.
- How does this relate to Point #1 and protecting the Gospel? How do you see this happening today?

Point #2

- Read John 1:24-28. In what way were the Levites and Priests trying to disqualify John the Baptist? Why?
- How did John's response actually avoid the question and redirect? How does this relate to Point #2?
- Give an example of how this can happen today when talking to non-Christians. How does Point #2 help you?

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read John 1:19, Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:2-6, Luke 1:1-24, 57-80, 3:1-9

- How does the Gospel of John introduce us to John the Baptist? How do the other Gospels introduce him?
- Why is there such a difference between them? How does it help with context and reveal motives? Be specific.
- How does this encounter help you better understand the dynamics surrounding the Gospel today?

TUESDAY // Read John 1:19-21, Malachi 4:5, 2 Kings 5:1-8, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Matthew 17:1-13

- Explain why the Levites and Priests quizzed John the Baptist on "who" he was. (e.g., Elijah, The Prophet)
- How was this related to and not related to the Old Testament? (i.e., wrong identification)
- How did the leaders have a closed mind? How does this help to better understand a closed mind and the Gospel?

WEDNESDAY // Read John 1:19-23, Isaiah 40:1-3, Matthew 10:16-25

- In what way did the Priests and Levites miss the entire message of John the Baptist? Why?
- How did they try to fit him into their mold? How did Jesus prepare his disciples regarding this challenge?
- How can this same thing happen with Jesus and the Gospel today? How does this help prepare you?

THURSDAY // Read John 1:24-25, Matthew 21:23-27

- Why did the Levites and Priests ask John the Baptist about his "authority"? (Hint: who baptized at the time?)
- What were they ultimately trying to do? Why? How did they try to do the same thing to Jesus in the temple?
- Given John and Jesus' encounters, how do you think this relates to today? How does this help you?

FRIDAY // Read John 1:24-27, Matthew 12:1-8

- What do you see about how the religious leaders approached John and how it continued with Jesus? (i.e., grain)
- What does this highlight about the dangers of bunny trails and the risk to the Gospel? Be specific.
- Give an example of how this can happen today when talking to non-Christians. How can this be protected?

SATURDAY // Read John 1:26-28, Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:15-16

- Culturally, what did "not worthy to untie" mean? How was John avoiding the leaders question? Why?
- Why did John quickly divert to the authority of Jesus? In what way did he protect his message? (The Gospel)
- How does this help you when talking about Jesus and the Gospel to others? Be specific.

MEDITATION VERSE: ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."