

Believe: John’s disciples believed that Jesus is the Messiah; their actions followed belief. Are there situations in your life that prevent you from believing, and/or from acting upon that which you believe?

What evidence is there in your life that you, like these disciples, are following Jesus closely? Are you so convinced that Jesus is who he says he is that you are seeking others to follow him as well?

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Additional questions are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Doris Sear at dsear@sgc.org



Dr. Jerry Nelson

John the Baptist

1. Compare John 1:6-8 with Luke 3:1-20 to get some sense of the kind of questions and even controversy that was stirred up by the ministry of John the Baptist.

2. The Jewish leaders anticipated the Messiah (“the Christ”) and forerunners of the Messiah and so they ask John the Baptist to identify himself. In verses 20-21 who does John the Baptist say he is NOT? Who then, in verse 23, does John the Baptist say he is? (Compare Isaiah 40:3-5 and John 1:14)

3. How does John, in verses 26 and 27, describe and compare himself to one who stands among you?

4. How does John describe the person and work of Jesus? Compare John 1:29 with 1 Peter 1:18-19.

5. Comparing John 1:15 with John 1:30, how could Jesus be both after and before John?

Think about it: He was chosen before the creation of the world.

6. The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist is not here described but is only mentioned. Compare Matthew 3:13-17.
7. Why does John say he came baptizing with water?
8. What evidence does John give for his conviction regarding the identity of Jesus?
9. What is John's conclusion as to Jesus' identity?
10. What evidence do we have in verses 35-37 of the effectiveness of John the Baptist's testimony regarding Jesus?

What conviction did Andrew have regarding the identity of Jesus?

John here introduces Cephas (Peter) to us readers probably because Peter will play a prominent role in the book.

11. In what ways are 1:41 and 1:45 similar in regard to the Old Testament?

What can you conclude about the Old Testament from Philip's testimony in verse 45? Compare Luke 24:27.

What reason(s) would Nathanael have for being skeptical (verses 45-46)?

What convinced Nathanael of the identity of Jesus?

What did Jesus promise Nathanael (and by inference also to the other disciples)? What would that experience(s) further prove?

Personal Reflection

Revelation: God revealed Jesus as his Son.

Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. The revelation is plain. Why was this so troubling to the Jewish leaders who had been waiting all along for a Messiah? Why is it troubling to so many today?

Redemption: Jesus came to take away our sins. No one else can do that for us, and we are incapable of removing the guilt of our sins for ourselves. This is the "good news" of the gospel. Are you prone to accept it and receive it, or are you more prone to "do" something to remove the guilt of your sin?