

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Above All” John 3:31-36 July 27, 2019

Getting Started

The final words of John the Baptist to the masses is one of the most systematic synopses on the life and ministry of Jesus. The pursuit of today’s message is to allow belief to drive our behavior, not our behavior to dictate our beliefs.

Perhaps you’ve uttered those famous words, “It seemed like a good idea at the time...” But now you’re in debt, in a bad relationship, under some bad influences, stuck with a time-share, or worse. When we live from our emotions and choose impulsive behavior as our guide, we often end up with deep regrets. **If you feel comfortable, share with your group about one of your more regrettable life decisions...**

But what if we could get a solid grasp on how God wants us to live? We call this a Christian worldview, where we see the world with the eyes of Jesus. What would He do in this situation? How would He respond? Let’s dive in!

Going Deeper:

Heavenly Origin: He is Sovereign OVER us!

Came from Above: “He who comes from above is **above all**.” (Vs.31)

Came in Authority: “He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is **above all**.” (Vs. 31)

Our world has no lack of ‘experts’ who are more than willing to tell us how to live our lives and why we should listen to them. Yet, they all have one thing in common: they are from earth, belong to earth, and therefore are limited to speaking in an earthly way. They have no divine inspiration, wisdom, or knowledge. That can only come through God and His messenger. **Which earthly voices have you listened to and regretted it?**

Holy Observation: He Speaks INTO us!

Bears Witness: *“He bears witness...”* (Vs. 32)

Bestows Wisdom: *“to what he has **seen and heard**, yet no one receives his **testimony**”* (Vs. 32)

As Jesus ministered on earth, He was focused to do only one thing. **Read John 5:19-20 and John 12:49.** He only did what He saw the Father doing and only said what He heard the Father saying. In other words, Jesus bore witness to the heart of the Father to everyone who would listen. He still does! **What is something Jesus has spoken into your heart recently? What was your response to this?**

Hallowed Oath: He gives the Spirit TO us!

Special Seal: *“Whoever receives his testimony **sets his seal** to this, that God is true.”* (Vs. 33)

Spirit’s Supply: *“For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit **without measure**.* (Vs. 34)

“S”on’s Supremacy: *“The Father loves the “S”on and has given **all things** into his hand”* (Vs.35)

Ephesians 1:13-14 tell us that the moment we believe, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God. **Read John 7:37-39.** The Holy Spirit within us is described as a river of living, splashing, gurgling, overflowing water! The same Holy Spirit that activated Jesus’ ministry can activate your life and ministry. **What are some things you have seen the Holy Spirit do in your life?**

Hallelujah Opportunity: He FOR-ever Secures us!

Salvation is Inclusive: “*Whoever*” (Vs. 36)

Salvation requires you being Conclusive: “*believes in the Son*” (Vs. 36)

Salvation is Exclusive: “*in the Son*” (Vs. 36)

Salvation is not Allusive: “*has eternal life*” (Vs.36)

Salvation is fully Intrusive: “*whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*” (Vs.36)

Wow! John packs a lot into this one verse! Every single person who believes in Jesus as the Son of God who has died for our sins and risen again has eternal life. Notice it says ‘has’ not ‘might have’. Once you make this decision to place your trust, belief, hope, confidence, and faith in Jesus as your Savior, you have salvation forever.

The idea of obeying the Son (Jesus) means that you have to believe what He says about Himself (that He came to save you) and put your trust in Him alone as Savior. **See Ephesians 2:8-9.**

Choosing to reject the offer of salvation from Jesus means ‘the wrath of God remains on you.’ If you don’t pick salvation, by default you are picking damnation, eternal spiritual death, separated from God. It’s a heavy thing to consider, but the invitation is open to you right now to choose eternal life. **If you have never made this decision before, ask your group leader to pray with you. “Jesus, I know I’m not perfect. Save me. Change me. I give you my life.”**

Take Away: Obedience to Jesus does not guarantee Salvation, but it is an indicator of Salvation.