

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 1:19-34 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, John 1:19-34

February 1, 2015

Title: Becoming an Effective Witness

Read to the group: He's God and I'm not. You've probably heard that before. It's not a bad reminder when we're about to go our own way or make promises and plans without acknowledging the One who really is in control. In this lesson we'll be talking about who we're not, who we are and who Jesus is with an eye to doing what John the Baptist did—present the Messiah to each human heart ready to receive Him. John the Baptist, who knew he was not God, knew that his calling from God was his identity, and he knew how to perform that calling with obedience.

Question: Who are you? What is your identity? Or better, how do you identify yourself? **Facilitator:** Take note that some may identify themselves by their job or profession, and others by what family they come from or who they are married to.

Question: The delegation sent out to question John the Baptist wanted to know who he was. There must have been some buzz going around that he might be the Messiah they were expecting, so he put that one to rest: "I am not the Christ." Was he Elijah then, or the Prophet? His answer was none of the above. How did John the Baptist identify himself? How could he have identified himself? **Facilitator:** As they discuss their ideas, suggest that he could have identified himself by his miraculous birth or as the son of the high priest Zachariah (see Luke 1:5-24). Instead he identified himself by his calling from God.

Question: Have any of you ever been identified as a Christian without your first saying so? Share your experiences of perhaps awkward apologies from others for using bad language, or their asking for prayer or advice in a crisis because they sense your calling from God.

Question: Give some thought to this: First, what was John the Baptist's calling? Then, what do you consider your calling? Are there any areas of comparison where your calling and John's calling are the same? **Facilitator:** It may be that some or many have not thought of being called to a task by God unless they are in some sort of Christian ministry. Guide them toward thinking of how they can fulfill their calling by God right where they are, and let them offer their ideas.

Question: How do you, or how would you, if you are not already, be an effective witness for Christ? Is effective witnessing dependent on results, or how faithful you are in presenting your Lord Jesus Christ? What do you think about the idea that fulfilling your calling to represent your Lord Jesus Christ is something you do in every moment of your life? Describe how this would play out in the course of your day? At work? At home? With your children? With neighbors and friends?