



SHADOW MOUNTAIN LEADER

Packet

We do not have an outline this week.

The feedback we are getting is that this stand-alone series is working well. And that is because you are **leading well**. Way to go!

Getting Started

1. “Who are you?” Take a few minutes to work around the group and give your best answer to this question *about you*. The question is simple, but the answers might be tough. Do your best to keep it light! Set the example by going first. This could look like, “I’m a father/mother, a Christian, and a teacher (or other occupation).” Feel free to add significant attributes about yourself - maybe you think of yourself as creative, funny, friendly, or studious. Be as detailed or general as you want!

Going Deeper

1. John the Baptist was a man who *knew* his identity. Read through the following verses and make a list of all the ways the Bible describes this man of God.

Matthew 11:11 – Jesus said that of all the men who have been born, of all of those who have been “born of women,” there has not arisen a person greater than John the Baptist. That’s what *Jesus* said.

Luke 3:1-2 – John the Baptist was born at a very specific time in history because he was born to *do* something very specific.

Luke 7:24-28 – John the Baptist is the greatest *prophet* who has ever been born. Now, that takes in a mighty great category of people. Go back to the Old Testament and think of the prophets of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and all the minor prophets, and Jesus said that there was *none* greater than John the Baptist.

John 5:35 – Jesus calls him a burning and a shining light. And the word “light” in the text is most instructive. It’s the word that means “wick” in our language (i.e., a candle wick). And Jesus said of John the Baptist he was a burning and a shining wick. John was *not* the light. He was just the wick. Jesus was the Light, but John the Baptist allowed himself to be consumed as the messenger of that Light so that Jesus Christ could be seen and heard among His contemporaries.

2. Discussions surrounding identity, purpose, and our place in the world and the Kingdom bring spiritual gifts to mind. Below is a list of the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. Which of these gifts describe you most? In what ways? **You can also look at 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-16, which speak of these gifts.**

- Administration
- Discernment
- Evangelism
- Exhortation/Encouragement
- Faith
- Giving
- Helps
- Hospitality
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Mercy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Shepherding
- Wisdom

3. Read John 1:22-23 and Isaiah 40:3. What did John tell those questioning him? What did he say about his purpose, identity, and role? **John answers in a way they could never have guessed. "Well, I'll tell you who I am." Are you ready for this? "I'm a voice."** In that place and time in history, when a king went forward into another domain, or when a conqueror was marching through the domain of the peoples that he had conquered, he would always send before him a herald. This was usually someone with a trumpet who would announce, "The king is coming." That herald was the forerunner of the king, the one who went in front of the king to prepare the people ahead of time. *John was a herald of Jesus Christ. He knew his role was to prepare the way for the Lord and Savior of the world to arrive on the scene.*

4. How is John a picture of what our purpose and identity are *supposed* to be? In what way are all Christians to be a voice (or herald) of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? **Think about how God is heard in our world today. He's heard as you and I model and speak the truth about Jesus Christ, just as John the Baptist did. In our day and culture, we are called to be His voice for this generation. We are to be His witnesses. We are to walk about the world in which we live pointing to Jesus and saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."** How will the world hear if we don't become His voices?

Applying the Message

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1=low: 10=high), rate yourself on the clarity you currently have regarding your purpose, gifts, or identity. **This and the next question are open-ended, and there are no “right” or “wrong” answers. Both are designed in such a way that each person can reflect on their lives and where the Holy Spirit is nudging them to move forward or change direction.**

2. What next step of faith do you need to take in order to more fully surrender your life to God and move the above rating up? What will be required of you to become more of a voice for Jesus in this world? **Typically, God doesn't call us to go beyond the scope of our current, everyday lives. Many of us will never be called to go across the ocean. Maybe He just wants us to go next door, across the street, the grocery store, the homeless shelter... we are simply called to be a voice for God wherever we are. Nothing more and nothing less.**