

## THE VISITATION: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN REFLECT THE LIGHT

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. John 1:6-8 ESV*

- John was the first prophet to walk the earth in 400 years.
- He was incredibly famous and had followers for over 200 years.
- Jesus said that John was the greatest human being to ever live. Matthew 11:11

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." "Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John." Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus." As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:1-5 NLT*

### JESUS

VS.

### JOHN

Was

Came

Is the Logos

Is a mere man

Is himself God

Is sent by God

Is the light

Is a witness of the light

Is the object of trust

**DISCUSSION:** What is the unique way in which you are supposed to reflect Jesus to the people around you?

### JOHN'S OWN TESTIMONY

## John 1:19-27 NLT

*This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."*

*"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No," he replied. "Are you the Prophet we are expecting?" "No."*

*"Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?" John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the LORD's coming!'"*

### **John is the sound, but not the substance.**

**DISCUSSION:** In what way are you acting as the sound; announcing the Messiah to those around you? In what way are you allowing your life to be kept silent?

*Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?" John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal." This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.*

### **We are only humans, called to be humble reflections of the light.**

**DISCUSSION:** What's keeping you from more completely fulfilling your role as a messenger of Jesus Christ?

**PRAYER PROJECT:** Take some time to meditate on Matt 5:16. What feelings did that bring up in you? What thoughts came to mind during your meditation time?

Take some time to break into groups of 3-4 and share with one another your experience with meditating on Matt 5:16.