

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Love God. Love People.



Will You Go to Homecoming with Me? | The Voice August 10 & 11, 2024

John the Baptist is questioned, and he becomes the voice that points to Jesus. Each of us has the opportunity to be the voice as well. We are the voice telling others about Jesus through our invitation and our welcome. Our voice calls to others to come and live.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 1:19-34

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

John was considered by many to be a prophet: someone who was calling the people to repentance, to a cleansing baptism. And nothing was more powerful than the voice of a prophet. The voice of a prophet spoke truth about current reality, spoke truth to power, and spoke into a future promise of hope. In pointing out Jesus as the chosen one of God, John's voice makes the biggest of all proposals and changes the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a story about a time you proposed something to someone: an idea, an invitation to a dance, etc. How was your proposal received? Share about a time that you used your voice in a powerful way. What changed as a result? Have you ever experienced a situation when somebody tried to silence your voice? Share about that.
- John the Baptist was a powerful voice. Who are some powerful voices in our time? What are they proposing? How do you discern what voices to listen to and follow?
- ***You encounter lots of people every week who are desperate to hear your voice. To hear your voice that points to love and hope; to hear your voice that acknowledges their current reality; a voice that stands with them in their pain, in their suffering. A voice that will even help them reflect; a voice that will point to a new future; a voice that will connect them to community; and a voice that will help them find their own voice.*** Share about a time you encountered somebody who was desperate to hear your voice in one of the ways mentioned above. Share about a time you were the one desperate to hear a voice of love and hope.
- ***The Holy Spirit does the work of opening the possibility; we need to be ready to use our voice and simply point to Jesus – to love, to hope, to community.*** Do you feel ready to use your voice to point to Jesus? If so, how did you get ready? If not, what do you need to feel ready? (Remember, you don't need to have all the answers!) How can this small group or Prince of Peace help you feel ready?

CHALLENGE: Pray about using your voice to invite someone to come with you to worship the weekend of September 7/8. Simply extend the invitation found throughout the gospel of John: Come with me – and then you'll find life. May you recognize the power of the Holy Spirit creating possibilities for your voice to point others to the love, hope and community of Jesus.