

This is MY Testimony!

2024-07-15 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 1:19-34

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

When the leaders asked John the Baptist who he was, he started with who he was not. Not the Messiah. Not Elijah. Not the prophet. Just a voice. Pastor Matt called that the most freeing job description in the Bible. Living like you are God's gift to the world is exhausting. It is not your job to save anyone, fix anyone, or carry the world. That is Jesus' job. Yours is to be a voice, and the peace people chase shows up when Christ takes the center instead of you.

To get started

- What are you carrying right now that was never actually yours to carry?

Looking back at the message

This was preached the day after national news broke. The urge to fix things from a phone is the live example.

- 1 Pastor Matt described grabbing his phone to try to fix news he could not affect at all. When do you do that?
- 2 Pastor Matt listed what is not your job: saving people, changing hearts, convicting of sin, fixing the world. Those are God's jobs. Which one have you been trying to do?
- 3 John the Baptist said I am not the Messiah before he said anything else. Pastor Matt said knowing you are not the one should relax you. How does it actually land on you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 1:19-34. He answers three questions with denials before saying anything positive.

- 4 Read John 1:19-23. What three things does John say he is not, and what does he finally claim to be?
- 5 John had a miracle birth story and every reason to claim more. Why do you think he did not?
- 6 Read verses 29-34. What does John actually say about Jesus?
- 7 Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the assignment, and whose authority backs it? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The point is a smaller job description, not a smaller life.

- 8 How much of your anxiety comes from carrying responsibility that belongs to God?
- 9 If your only job is to be a voice, what would that look like in your normal week?
- 10 Pastor Matt said some people hold their calling so high and so far away that they never live it. How have you done that?
- 11 What could you honestly tell someone God has done in you? OPTIONAL

The group together

Testimony is the whole point of the passage. Give room for one.

- 12 Whose testimony has mattered most to you, and why?
- 13 Why do people feel unqualified to tell their own story?
- 14 Who could hear your story this month?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What will you put down this week because it was never yours to carry?

You might pray about

- For relief from responsibility that belongs to God
- For the courage to be a voice
- For anyone in the group who feels like they have to hold everything together