

John 1:6-13
Becoming Family

“Atticus says, ‘You can choose your friends but you sho’ can’t choose your family, an’ they’re still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge ’em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don’t.’” Harper Lee *To Kill a Mockingbird*

1. **John 6-8**

- A. Sent from God
- B. Witness

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” -John 1:29-34 ESV

“Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**” -John 3:25-30 ESV

- C. Don’t Confuse John with Jesus

“And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.”” -Acts 19:2-3 ESV

“John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”” -John 1:26-27 ESV

D. The Necessity of Witness

“But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.” -John 19:34-35 ESV

“This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.”
John 21:24 ESV

2. **The True Light 9-11**

- A. True

“Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.” -John 6:32 ESV

“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.” -John 7:18 ESV

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.”
John 8:12-15 ESV

““I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.” -John 15:1 ESV

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” -John 17:3 ESV

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”
1 John 5:20 ESV

““And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’ -Revelation 3:7 ESV

B. Light to Everyone

“As centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life every lived on this planet.” - Kenneth Scott Latourette- *Church Historian*

C. Coming into the World

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” -John 3:17 ESV

D. Rejected by the World

E. Rejected by His Own People

3. Becoming Family 12-13

A. Receiving and Believing

“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” -John 3:18 ESV

B. The Right to Become Children of God

“I believe that in all men’s lives at certain periods, and in many men’s lives at all periods between infancy and extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and the terror of being left outside.” CS Lewis, *The Inner Ring*

C. You Can Fully Belong in this Family

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” -Galatians 4:4-7 ESV

”Therefore, our redemption through the suffering of Christ is that deeper love within us which not only frees us from slavery to sin, but also secures for us the true liberty of the children of God, in order that we might do all things out of love rather than out of fear-love for him who has shown us such grace that no greater can be found.” -Peter Abelard

Reflection: Are you a part of God’s family through believing in Jesus? If you are, how has that helped you to experience true freedom?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: John 1:29-34. In this passage what is happening? What does John the Baptist claim about Jesus?

Tuesday: John 3:25-30. What does John the Baptist mean about having to “decrease”? Who increases as a result and what does that mean?

Wednesday: John 21:24. Here the apostle John claims a second time that he is a “witness”. John chapter 1 describes John the Baptist as a “witness”. Who are they a witness of and why is that important? Can we use that word today in a similar manner?

Thursday: John 7:18. Jesus speaks this reality about Himself. Why is it necessary to believe that Jesus is “true”? How would you explain “true” to someone else?

Friday: John 3:17. How does Jesus describe His mission in the world? How has that impacted your life?

Saturday: Galatians 4:4-7. What is described in these verses? Why is it important that we believe that Jesus came at a real moment in history? What is the impact of His coming according to these verses and how has that influenced your life?