

Sermon Discussion Guide

Signs: The Witness

John 1:6-8, 19-34


Ray Cortese, February 3 & 4, 2018



February is
befriend
month! Who
are you
befriending?

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scriptures listed above. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever witnessed something so wonderful, so bizarre, or so unique that you had to share it?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

WITNESS: THE MISSION

- 3 What is the connection between a witness and a sign? How, like John the Baptist, have you been born for, and sent on, a mission? What is the mission?
- 4 John the Baptist said, "He must increase, and I must decrease." What would it mean for your life if you said the same?
- 5 Why is the church the only organization that primarily exists not for its members?

WITNESS: THE METHOD

- 6 How did John the Baptist demonstrate both humility and courage?
- 7 *Be unconventional.* Which of the following is the most unconventional to you?
 - A republican who cares about justice issues.
 - A democratic who unapologetically stands for life.
 - A Bible believer who has lots of gay friends.
- 8 *Be gracious.* Have you ever received unexpected grace? What effect did it have on you?

WITNESS: THE MESSAGE

- 9 Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the lamb of God? In your own words, how does Jesus take away the guilt, shame, power, and enmity of sin?
- 10 What was the point of the jewelry commercial Ray showed at the end of the sermon?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?