



Zoom Community Group Lesson – August 28, 2022

I am Called and Set Apart - Main Point

God has a plan and purpose for our lives.

Scripture

- Matthew 3:3
 - “This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in praise and prayer to God.

Praise and Worship

- Crowder – Come As You Are
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HELQyZNnR-g>
- Sidewalk Prophets – Chosen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1ymenyfDjs>

Memory Verse

- Psalm 139:14
 - *“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*

Review of Last Week

- We are Christ’s and we are not alone. He is always with us, even if we don’t feel Him around. Remember how God made sure that Naomi and Ruth had family to help look after them? They were part of a big family who loved them very much. Boaz was their redeemer who gave them this new life. Doesn’t that sound familiar? Jesus is our Saviour, our Redeemer, who has invited us to be a part of the family of God. Isn’t that amazing?
- Always remember, when you feel alone, remember to call out, “I am Christ’s! I am a child of God! I am part of His family!”

Lesson

- Today’s Bible story is taken from Matthew 3:1-6.
- It began like this. Hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus was ever born, a man named Isaiah wrote that somebody would come and prepare for Jesus’ arrival. He was talking about a guy called John the Baptist. Well, actually, his name was John. We call him John the Baptist because he

baptized a lot of people. Anyway, before John was even born, an angel appeared to his dad and said, "Do not be afraid, Zachariah. Your wife, Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy and you must name him John. He will be important in the Lord's eyes." John was important because he would get people ready for Jesus, our Savior, who was coming to rescue us.

- Well, right from the beginning, John was a bit unusual. The Bible tells us that he stayed in the desert until he started telling people about Jesus in the desert regions around the Jordan River. He wore clothes made out of camel's hair and a leather belt. Imagine how itchy hairy clothes must have been. And for food, he ate locust and honey. Do you know what locust is? It's a grasshopper. But don't worry, you don't have to eat bugs to follow Jesus.
- John was telling people to repent of their sins and be baptized as a sign of that repentance, to get ready for the new king of the Jews – the Messiah or Savior. John was the voice crying in the wilderness as he prepared the way of the Lord, and in doing this, he fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah contained in Isaiah 40:3-5.
- John said that repentance involved changing one's actions. Just saying you are sorry is not repentance. One's actions show what is in the heart. This is the kind of heart that we should all strive to have. John taught the Jewish people then not to take their salvation for granted just because their parents were Jews. They had to obey God from the heart. We too, must not think we can be saved because our parents are followers of Christ, we have to believe in Jesus to be saved too.
- Some people thought John was the Messiah, or Savior, that had been promised long ago (Isaiah 9:6-7). John made it very clear that he was not the Messiah. He was only an announcer to tell the people that the Savior was coming.
- John told the people that he baptized with water but the Messiah (Savior) would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's listeners did not understand all of this. Years later, when Jesus was about to ascend to heaven, he told his apostles that they would soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). In Acts 2, we read that Jesus did pour out the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who were baptized in His name.
- But back to our story, a lot of people wanted to repent and follow God. So John began baptizing them. That's how he got his name, John the Baptist.
- Baptism is what we do when we want to tell everybody that we repent from our old ways and we are following God.
- Then one day, when John was baptizing people in the Jordan river, Jesus came to the shore and ask John to baptize him. John didn't think he was good enough to baptize Jesus, but Jesus told John to do it. And when John baptized Jesus, something really special happened. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and alighted on Jesus, and God actually said out loud, "This is my son, whom I love. With him, I am well pleased."

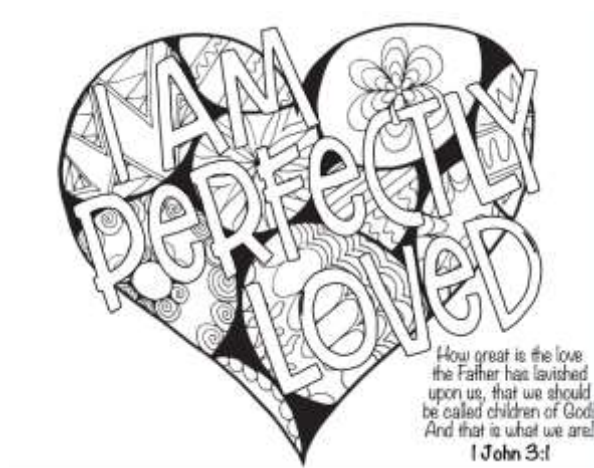
- John the Baptist was set apart. He was Called. Even before he was born, God had a special plan for his life. We all need to realize that God has a special plan for our lives too. He has a plan and purpose for our life with the main purpose being that we come to know Jesus as our Savior, but we are then set apart to share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

Application and Group Discussion

- What does it mean to prepare for something? *(It means to get ready)*
- Have you ever thought about how we need to prepare for Jesus? *(We don't need to clean our houses for Him, or even take a bath, but there is an important way that we can get ready for Jesus. We must prepare our hearts for Jesus)*
- What do we need to do to prepare our hearts for Jesus? *(We do not need to be perfect, nobody is. We can spend time talking to God and admitting to Him that our hearts are sinful and we need a Savior. We need to read the Bible and do what it says. if we know we are sinning, we need to ask for forgiveness and start living the way God wants us to)*
- Do you believe that you are called by God? *(Yes, because each of us have been made in the image of God, have been chosen by God, and are part of God's family. We have been called to use our gifts and abilities to tell others about Jesus and how important it is to have Him as our forever friend and Saviour)*

Live it Out Challenge

- **This week:** Today, we learn that God has a special plan for each one of us. We are set apart for Him to share the Good News of the Gospel, God's saving grace, with other people.
- Are you going to answer God's call in your life? It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done. God can still use you. Do you know He wants us to point others to Jesus so they will have hope, purpose and eternal life too?



Additional Learning

- This is the time where people can work on the crossword puzzle or color the picture.

I am Called Word Puzzle

"I _____ you because I am _____ and
_____ made; your _____ are wonderful, I
know that full _____."

Puzzle words for Puzzle above

Fearfully, Praise, Well, Wonderfully, Works

Puzzle words for Puzzle below

Called, Christ's, Chosen, Unique

Unscramble Word Puzzles

I am _____ (uienqu)

I am _____ (noesch)

I am _____ (tsricsh)

I am _____ (edlcal)



