

Media



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Intro

Start your session by having a volunteer read the Luke 3:7-18 out loud and then immediately show the *Bible Background Video*. Make sure that your group clearly identifies the three parts of today's passage that are outlined by Nikki: Warning, Instructions, and Messianic Expectation. We will be preparing our own way to the Christmas miracle by looking closely at these three parts of John's message.

✔ Warning

Open this section by showing "The Wire" from The Great Escape and then open your time up for discussion with a few questions like the ones below.

- How many people got onto Steve McQueen's case about crossing the infamous wire?
- Did you find his character a bit too cocky or brazen?
- Reread verse 8 from today's Scripture. What is John warning the people about?
- How might this warning apply to us today?
- What do we find ourselves resting on as a source of security?
- How might that be harmful to us spiritually?

✔ Instructions

Watch the "How to High-5" clip and ask people to tell (or better yet demonstrate) their favorite high-fivesque greeting.

- What are some other social situations that you would love others to follow a rule about? (*hand-shakes, talking proximity, movie quoting*)
- How do John's instructions in verses 10-14 seem to you? Practical, a little hippie, idealistic, necessary?
- We don't really have the same society that John was addressing; instead of tax-collectors and soldiers,

whom might John address today and what might he say to them?

- What do you think John the Baptist would say to you personally?

✔ Messianic Expectation

Finally, show the "One-Upmanship" clip.

- How could you say that we live in a sort of "bigger & better" society?
- Is the iPhone 5 better than the 4? Why or why not?
- Since we really don't see Jesus literally dunking people in a lake of fire or bundling grains of any sort, what is John saying?
- Does it seem to you like John is trying to promote Jesus or warn people about Jesus?
- If you didn't have the rest of the Gospel story, would John's warnings make you WANT the Messiah to come or be fearful of it?
- How does Jesus take John's message further in his ministry?

✔ Outro

End your session by praying that your group would be preparing for the coming of the Messiah into each of our lives, not just in this season but in all seasons.

By Rory Naeve

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