

# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"JOHN THE BAPTIST - PREPARING THE WAY AMIDST DOUBT" DECEMBER 17

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

After Adam and Eve's fall into sin, they received a promise that the Lord would not leave them in their brokenness. He would provide a Savior. He would prepare the way. Yet how God chooses to work is often surprising. God used people like Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, and the disciples - who struggled with fear, doubt, anxiety, and depression - to prepare the way for the one who would ultimately come and save his people. In the birth of Jesus, we see God once again bringing about his plan in the most unlikely of ways. As followers of Jesus our broken lives have also been swept up in God's plan of redemption. He has placed us in this specific place and time to prepare the way for Him into the hearts of those around us. Not only will He do this in spite of our brokenness, but perhaps our brokenness is the very thing He will use to shine the power of His glory through us.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.*

*Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

### PRAY

*About 1 minute*

Open in prayer.

2

### BIG IDEA

*A minute to read*


In Malachi we hear John's purpose foretold as a messenger who will prepare the way for the Lord. John was faithful in this, calling people to repentance, baptizing them, and pointed to Christ. He even baptized the Son of God, himself! Yet John still wrestled with doubt asking Jesus from prison, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" Welcoming John's doubt, Jesus points to how He is the fulfillment of all God's promises. Jesus also challenges John (and us) to continue to trust Him amidst doubt and the worldly circumstances afflicting him.

3

### CONNECT

*About 10 minutes*

Share a story of how you have seen God's mighty hand at work in your life. Why is it important to remind ourselves of what God has done?



**December 17, 2023**

And [John the Baptist] sent them to the Lord to ask him, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" - Luke 7:19

**Reflect**  
Read the full passage in your Bible - Luke 7:18-28.

What is something that is grabbing your attention from the passage and why?

Notice that Jesus did not condemn John for his doubts. Neither does he condemn you. Ponder that for a moment

Jesus' response is to go back and tell John what they have seen and heard...the works of God they have witnessed. How have you witnessed God working in your life and in the lives of others?

4

### DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

*About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.*

Jesus' reply reminds John of the Scriptures pointing to the Messiah. Read Isaiah 29:18, Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1. Why is knowing Scripture important when doubts arise? Who has encouraged and pointed you to Jesus during a difficult time in your life? Who do you know going through a difficult time who you might you need to encourage?

John was struggling with doubts in prison. What questions do you think were perhaps going through John's mind?

Our lives are filled with doubts that flow out of our lack of understanding of what God is doing in our lives. What are some big questions or doubts that people have presented to you?

Read Mark 9:14-24. How does the boy's father address his doubts? How do you seek to address or handle doubts when you have them?



### DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

**Can you say more about that?**

**How have you seen that play out in your life?**

**What does that stir up in you?**

**Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?**

**What might God be inviting you to do?**

**5 PRAY:**

*About 15 minutes*

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection.

Pair up. Share prayer requests with your partner based on the prayer prompts below. Pray now for your partner and the prayer requests shared. Close with Psalm 73:25-26.

# THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

## Pray

Talk to God about the last bullet under *Reflect*. Listen for his response.

What doubts are you currently struggling with? Give those to God today.

Thank God for sending Jesus to meet us and walk with us in the midst of our ups and downs...our faith and doubts.

## Live It Out

*Who is someone you know who is struggling with doubts? Someone who needs to hear that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus? Pray for them and reach out to them this week, sharing this good news with them.*

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me  
into this LIFE of following you today!**

**6****LIVE IT OUT:**

*About 2 minutes*

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.