

January 26th, 2025Discovering the Messiah
John 1:19-51

The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29 (NIV)

Foreign domination of the people of Israel spanned approximately _____.

By the time of Jesus, divergent groups had developed wide-ranging _____.

- **Zealots:** Expected a military leader to overthrow Rome and establish Israel's political independence.
- **Pharisees:** Hoped for a purifier who would teach obedience to the Law and restore covenant faithfulness.
- **Essenes:** Lived in isolation, anticipating dual Messiahs—one priestly and one kingly—to lead a purified remnant.
- **Sadducees:** Rejected the need for a Messiah, focusing instead on preserving their power and the temple system under Roman rule.

They all had a _____ in a _____.
2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 9:6-7

These early scenes in John's Gospel invite readers and listeners to discover not just _____ - but _____ - Jesus is the Messiah. John 20:31

The discovery is filled with _____.
John 1:19-27; 35-37

The discovery is fueled _____.
John 1:32-34; 50-51

The discovery unfolds _____.
John 1:35-48 (cf. John 3:1-21; 4:1-42; 15:1-17)

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Read John 3:22-25. How does this expand your appreciation for John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus?

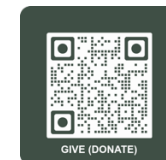
What surprised you about the contrasting expectations of the Zealots, Pharisees, Essenes, and Sadducees? Which group's expectations or tendencies do you relate to most, and why?

Reflecting on the different messianic hopes, what expectations do we have of Jesus today? How might these expectations need to be reexamined or transformed in light of his kingdom?

John's Gospel highlights the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think this can be a challenging topic for believers? How does this invite humility?

Wherever you are in your journey with Jesus, how does the idea of lifelong discovery and learning impact you? Why is it important to view discipleship as an ongoing invitation to find and follow him?

Reflect on the stories of Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael in John 1. How do these interactions encourage or challenge you? How do they inspire you to invite others into a journey with Jesus?



January 26th, 2025Discovering the Messiah
John 1:19-53

The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29 (NIV)

Foreign domination of the people of Israel spanned approximately 700 YEARS.

By the time of Jesus, divergent groups had developed wide-ranging MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS.

- **Zealots:** Expected a military leader to overthrow Rome and establish Israel's political independence.
- **Pharisees:** Hoped for a purifier who would teach obedience to the Law and restore covenant faithfulness.
- **Essenes:** Lived in isolation, anticipating dual Messiahs—one priestly and one kingly—to lead a purified remnant.
- **Sadducees:** Rejected the need for a Messiah, focusing instead on preserving their power and the temple system under Roman rule.

They all had a PREFERRED FUTURE in a PROMISED KINGDOM. 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 9:6-7

These early scenes in John's Gospel invite readers and listeners to discover not just IF - but HOW - Jesus is the Messiah. John 20:31

The discovery is filled with EXPECTANCY.

John 1:19-27; 35-37

The discovery is fueled SUPERNATURALLY.

John 1:32-34; 50-51

The discovery unfolds RELATIONALLY.

John 1:35-48 (cf. John 3:1-21; 4:1-42; 15:1-17)

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Read John 3:22-25. How does this expand your appreciation for John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus?

What surprised you about the contrasting expectations of the Zealots, Pharisees, Essenes, and Sadducees? Which group's expectations or tendencies do you relate to most, and why?

Reflecting on the different messianic hopes, what expectations do we have of Jesus today? How might these expectations need to be reexamined or transformed in light of his kingdom?

John's Gospel highlights the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think this can be a challenging topic for believers? How does this invite humility?

Wherever you are in your journey with Jesus, how does the idea of lifelong discovery and learning impact you? Why is it important to view discipleship as an ongoing invitation to find and follow him?

Reflect on the stories of Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael in John 1. How do these interactions encourage or challenge you? How do they inspire you to invite others into a journey with Jesus?

