

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 5:30-47

DISCUSSION 1: BEARING WITNESS TO JESUS

1. What are ways John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus? How have Jesus' works affirmed his claims to be the Messiah and equal with God (5:36)? How has the Father affirmed this testimony (5:37)? How do the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus (5:39)?
2. When we consider how John the Baptist, Christ's works, eyewitnesses in John, the Old Testament, and even God the Father bear witness to the person and works of Jesus, what kind of response does that call for from us? How might these things encourage our faith, and stir up more faith to obey Jesus?
3. How does your view of Jesus affect how you live in all areas of life, including work, relationships, the home, temptations, finances, etc.?
4. How might seeing the way all these characters in John "bear witness" to Jesus encourage us to do so as witnesses in our own life and relationships?

DISCUSSION 2: HUMAN APPROVAL

1. In John 5:44, Jesus tells the people they don't believe because they're more concerned with receiving glory or honor from one another than God. What are symptoms, indications, or ways you can tell when you're too concerned about living for others or getting human approval?
2. What are dangers of living for the praise of man, or living out of fear of man?
3. How do you combat fear of man so you follow God, believe in Him, and seek honor from Him above everything else?

DISCUSSION 3: MOSES

1. Jesus says the people were looking to the Law as their hope when it really accuses and condemns them. Read Rom. 3:19-20; 4:15; 5:20-21; 7:7; 8:3; 2 Cor. 3:6. How does the Law accuse people? How should that point us to Jesus and make us all the more thankful for the forgiveness and life in him?
2. Read John 5:45-57; 1:45; 3:13-15; 7:37; Luke 24:25-27; Deut. 18:15. What are ways Moses wrote about and pointed to Christ?
3. How does seeing Moses—and the Old Testament as a whole—point to Jesus strengthen our faith in him? Why should this cause us to hear and obey the words of Jesus?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Sometimes we will be tempted to be more concerned about what others think of us than doing what pleases God. Why is God's opinion of us more important than the opinion of others?
2. If John the Baptist, the Bible, the works of Jesus, and God the Father all point to Jesus being God and Savior, why should that encourage us to trust in and obey him?
3. What did you learn today in Children's Ministries, and how did that point to Jesus?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Take time as a group to talk through all the things you're thankful you have in and because of Jesus. Use this time to encourage one another, to give thanks, and to pray these things back to God in gratitude. Consider compiling a list, writing things on post-it notes, or finding some other way to visualize and record all we have in Christ.
- **Individual:** Spend some time reflecting on how the fear of man or seeking the approval of others shows up in your life. Confess areas of sin where you've been more concerned about man's approval than God's approval. Read about God's promises, rehearse the gospel and how God now relates to you, and rest in your identity in Christ as means to combat fear of man. Consider reading one of the articles in the "For Further Study" below, or asking a friend to pray with you about this issue.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Read [this article](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lay-aside-the-fear-of-man) on Fighting Fear of Man. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lay-aside-the-fear-of-man>
- Read [this article](https://www.ccef.org/resources/blog/keeping-up-appearances) on Body Image and Keeping Up Appearances: <https://www.ccef.org/resources/blog/keeping-up-appearances>
- Watch [this video](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-the-fear-of-man-and-why-is-it-so-dangerous/) on the fear of man by Ed Welch: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-the-fear-of-man-and-why-is-it-so-dangerous/>
- Read *When People Are Big and God is Small* by Ed Welch