

## **John 1:6-8, 19-34**

1. On what do you base your identity? What do you look to to answer the question – Who are you?
2. What is the impact on you and on others when you base your identity on those things?

### **Read John 1:6-8, 19-34**

3. What are the identities the religious leaders seek to assign to him? (see Malachi 4:1-6; Deuteronomy 18:15-18) What do we learn about John and his public perception from these possible identities?
4. What do we learn about John in his denial of these identities?

### **Read Isaiah 40:1-5, 42:1-4a, 53:4-7; Genesis 1:1-3**

5. John looks to another to root his identity. What do we learn about this other from not only the words of John but also the words of Isaiah to which John is referring?
6. What impact does it have on John's character and work to have rooted his identity in this coming, recreating, suffering King?

### **Read Matthew 11:7-11**

7. John was wrong about himself. He was the promised forerunner Elijah. But Jesus adds that the least in his kingdom will be greater than John. Part of what he might mean in that is that the change wrought in John through rooting his identity in Jesus is nothing compared to the change wrought in us when we root our identity in him for we can behold Jesus in ways that John never could.

What are the ways we can behold Jesus and how can rooting our identity in the recreating, suffering, and now returning King change us and our interactions with those around us?