

SO WHAT? now WHAT?

“Who is this guy?”

MAIN POINT

Who am I? Where am I going? How will I get there? Great questions to ask!
But don't forget the first one: Who is this Guy?

READ MATTHEW 3:16 - 4:11,17

KEY POINTS:

- Who am I? Where am I going? How will I get there? Great questions to ask! But don't forget the first one: Who is this Guy?
- Jesus' baptism is a seminal moment where the Christ identifies with us so we can identify with him.
- Scriptures suggest with conviction that the Devil is this force, often conceived personally, that exists and works in history, especially against the purposes and the people of God, with the special aim of splitting people off from God and one another.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin your time together with a prayer asking God to make you attentive to God's presence and to guide your conversation.

CONNECT:

Did you make a New Year Resolution? If so, why did you make it? How's it going?

For each person in the group that feels comfortable so doing: Answer the question, "Who am I?" in less than 15 seconds. What did you learn about someone? Did all of the answers follow a pattern?

ENGAGE:

Read the passage once for everyone to get acquainted with it.

What stands out to you / disrupts you / grabs your attention in these scriptures? It might be a word, phrase, or image that comes to mind.

Read the Scripture passage again. Take a moment to ponder the passage. What else are you seeing or hearing? Take a moment for each person to share.

"Jesus' baptism is a seminal moment where the Christ identifies with us so we can identify with him." How does Jesus identify with us? How do we identify with him?

How do you view Evil, Satan, Demons, etc.? Are these leftover superstitions that scientifically minded people should dismiss? Why or why not?

Pastor Bart said: "Scriptures suggest with conviction that the Devil is this force, often conceived personally, that exists and works in history, especially against the purposes and the people of God, with the special aim of splitting people off from God and one another." Discuss.

APPLY:

Temptations derail us from our core identity, that of being the sons and daughters of a loving Heavenly Father.

How might we experience this derailing in the first temptation, the appetites and addictions that urge us to find comfort, control, escape, and pleasure through substances, experiences, and possessions rather than from God?

How might we experience this derailing in the second temptation, the approval, affirmation, and appreciation we seek from others that urge us to look to them for rescue or acceptance rather than to find it from God?

How might we experience this derailing in the third temptation, the ambition that urges us toward achievement, accomplishment, and accolade apart from God and only in our own strength?

Jesus died for you. And Jesus defeated all of the forces of Evil and will one day fully eradicate them. Close in prayer, clinging to those promises! And don't forget, if you need to, seek help from a trusted friend!