



## Trial & Error

Invite 1-2 individuals to share their testimony (what life looked like before Jesus, encountering Jesus, and life since). Or, spend some time sharing evidences of God's grace that you have seen this past week.

*Our next Baptisms and Ministry Partnerships will be taking place on Easter Sunday (March 27<sup>th</sup>). Encourage those considering these steps to fill out the form available online and at our Welcome Centres.*

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### OPENING COMMENT

The Bible is one big story where everything points to Jesus. It's primary purpose is to point people to Jesus. All of Scripture bears witness about Jesus. And the way that the Bible leads to eternal life is by leading people to encounter Jesus in it.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 5:31-47

<sup>31</sup>If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. <sup>33</sup>You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. <sup>39</sup>You search the



Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. <sup>41</sup>I do not receive glory from people. <sup>42</sup>But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. <sup>43</sup>I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. <sup>44</sup>How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? <sup>45</sup>Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup>For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

## I: INDICTMENTS (in black)

*You don't have God's Word in you (38). You don't have God's Word in you (38). You don't believe Me (38; 46). You refuse to come to Me (40). You don't have the love of God in you (42). You don't receive Me (43). You can't believe Me (44)*

1. The indictments that Jesus presents paint a vivid picture of unbelief.
2. Reread verse 44. Why do we struggle so much with living for the glory of others rather than living for the glory of God?

## II: WITNESSES (in gray)

*John the Baptist (33-35). The Works of Jesus (36). God the Father (37-38). The Scriptures (39; 46-47)*

1. Look closely at each of the witnesses that Jesus identifies. What do they bear witness to? How does each witness do so uniquely?
2. The mistaken belief that we as Christians *worship the same God* as Jews and Muslims has made headlines lately. With this passage as your guide, how would you winsomely and kindly share with someone how that is not the case?
3. Share examples with each other about allusions of Jesus and the gospel in the Old Testament (e.g. passover lamb). Perhaps work your way through the Old Testament section by section.
  - This was the point Jesus was making to His hearers. If they truly knew God and His Word (Old Testament), they would recognize and know Jesus, because it was revealing and pointing to Jesus all along. The redemptive story being formed culminated in Him!



### III: VERDICT

1. Read Luke 24:25-32. Can you relate to the disciples' burning hearts as the Scriptures were opened to them? Share a time that your *heart burned* within you as you encountered Jesus in the Bible.
2. Read John 20:30-31. What is the purpose of the Gospel of John, and ultimately, what is the primary purpose of all of Scripture (same answer)?

### CONCLUSION

Jesus confronts our unbelief, sin, and rebellion, in order that we would come to Him for life. With Jesus as the grand point of Scripture and the grand point of our lives.

### SHARE & PRAY

- Share with each other about the time you're spending in the Word and pray for each other about it. Pray that we would all meet Jesus in the Word. Not as a checklist. But as our life-giving sustenance.
- Pray for courage and compassion as you share the Truth of Jesus with those who don't believe. Lift up specific people in prayer that you are sharing Jesus with.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

