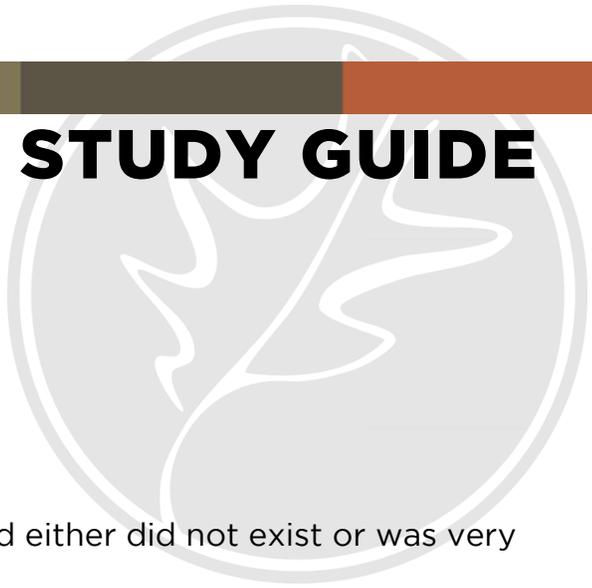


STUDY GUIDE



SEARCH & RESCUE 01.19.2020

[setting it up]

Can you relate to John the Baptist?

Explain a time when you looked around and felt God either did not exist or was very distant.

[digging deeper]

Read a few of these texts:

Isaiah 61

Isaiah 42:1-10

Isaiah 35

There are many, many more, but for this exercise, consider those texts.

What aspects of the Messiah were John and the rest of Israel looking forward to?

Have one person read Luke 7:18-23.

John questioned "Is Jesus who He says He is."

Explain how John's doubt issued from surrounding circumstances.

What was John putting his hope in?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

- What in this world is **perishable**, **defiled**, and **fading**?
- Could these be good or bad things?
- Are you hoping in any of these?

What does it mean to put our hope fully in Jesus? (See 1 Peter 1:13)

What aspects of the Messiah are we still waiting for?

Finish by explaining that God's presence and power is not determined by our life circumstances in what we see or feel, but rather by the reality that God is Faithful to be who He says He is.

Spend some time meditating on God's faithfulness answering this question:
I know God is who He says He is because _____.

(over)

What part of God's Character do you need to be reminded of?

What part of God's plan do you need to be reminded of?

[living it out]

What areas are you putting your hope in that are perishable, defiled, or fading?

Spend time in personal or group prayer confessing and repenting of deferred hope and ask Jesus to again be your only hope.

Example prayer:

"Jesus I've been putting my hope in _____, you be my only hope."

"Jesus, it is hard for me to bear _____ right now, yet I trust you are here with me."

This is a great time to be the body and bear burdens. Spend time praying for one another. Pray for healing and strength for those who are hurting. Pray for surrender and faith for those who are doubting.

Lastly, turn your eyes outward. Jesus' plan was not to usher in His kingdom during His earthly ministry. Jesus is currently preparing a house in heaven and has not returned because there are sheep yet to be added to His flock. From our families, neighbors, and those on the other side of the world, spend time pleading with God to draw them to His fold and see Jesus as their ultimate hope in this life and the life to come.