



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6

November 19th & 20th, 2011

Ice Breaker:

Thanksgiving is just a few days away. What do you like best or what do you dread most about this holiday?

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we are so thankful that you are able to turn all of our dead-ends into deliverance!

For Discussion:

This weekend Pastor Mike taught that God is present and active, even when we are facing “dead-ends.” He talked about John the Baptist, who preached repentance and introduced Jesus as the Messiah.

Read Matthew 3:1-10

- Based on this passage, what words would you choose to describe John the Baptist?

As Mike mentioned, John’s faith was severely tested when he was thrown in prison for confronting Herod about his immoral relationship with Herodias. Read about his life and death in the following passages:

Read Matthew 11:3-6 and Matthew 14:1-14

Although John died a martyr’s death, his legacy of faith lives on. Jesus said, “...among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...” (Matthew 11:11a)

- Can you think of someone who has inspired you to live more courageously for Christ? If so, tell us about that person and one thing you changed in your life through their inspiration.

We also looked at the life of Abraham, whom the Bible calls the Father of Faith.

Read Romans 4:18-21

- What specific “dead-end” was Abraham facing?
- Are you currently facing a challenge that looks like a “dead-end?” If so, how can we pray for you today?

God turned Abraham’s “dead-end” into deliverance by giving him a son, Isaac, and creating the nation of Israel through him. Our Savior, Jesus Christ was born through the direct lineage of Abraham (see Luke 3:23-37).

Take a look at this expanded passage of what John the Baptist had to say about Jesus:

Read John 1:14-18

Jesus came to show us the heart of the Father, a heart that is full of grace and truth. God’s grace is a free gift, not something we have to earn. Maybe the best thing you can do right now is to stop struggling and choose to trust God to give you the daily grace to get past the challenge you are currently facing.

Whatever circumstances you find yourself in today, we can all find encouragement in the promise found in 2 Corinthians 1:9-10, “...but this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He **has delivered us...He will deliver us...we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us...**”

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for coming to show us the love the Father has for us. We know that you lived, died, and are alive today through God’s power. Help us to have faith in your delivering power and to praise you by faith, while we await your deliverance.

Christmas Conspiracy 2012: Our goals for the coming year are to continue dispensing the hope of Christ around the world through church planting and partnering with organizations that feed the hungry, rescue people from human trafficking, provide homes for the homeless, and care for orphans. If you did not yet bring your contribution, ask the Lord how you are to invest in these worthy initiatives.

