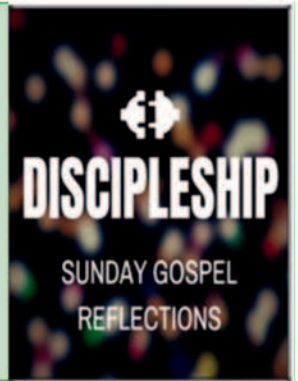


Theme - Pointing others to Jesus

**"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, he will prepare
your way before you."**

Matthew 3:1-11



Adults

1. In today's Gospel passage, John the Baptist, knowing his days were numbered, sent his disciples to ask Jesus a very direct question. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Has there been a time in your life when you have grown impatient with God and felt like you needed an answer right away? Share with someone.
2. Jesus' response to John is sharing the news of his good works he has done in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Share a time when you have seen Jesus' action working in your life.
3. God is coming, but not quite yet. As we enter into the last two weeks of Advent, stop and take a minute to reflect. Where has your energy been directed? Has it been directed towards what society deems as important right now or at the coming of the birth of Our Lord and Savior?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Forgetting what the reason for the season is!

Teens

1. Have you ever had doubts about God or your faith, like John did from prison? How did you deal with them? How can you be like John
2. Jesus' works showed mercy, healing, and hope. How can you "show Jesus" in your words and actions to others?
3. How does this passage encourage you to recognize God's work even when it's quiet, hidden, or unexpected? What things can make it hard for people to see God's work in the world today?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: God can sometimes act quietly, through small acts of kindness or unnoticed blessings, which can be easy to overlook when we don't take the time to reflect.

Children

1. Who were the people who were waiting for a Messiah over two thousand years ago? Are you also waiting for Jesus? Explain.
2. How can you seek Jesus today? How can you help others find Jesus?
3. How do we sometimes limit God by our narrow expectations? Do you sometimes put a limit on how God loves you? How he loves people you may not like? How can you show people who you struggle with the love of Jesus?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Thinking the Gospel message was for the people two thousand years ago who are waiting for a Messiah and not for ourselves. Putting God's love in a box.

