



SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Identity: Who Are You? | Part 1

John 1:19-28 | Jan 11, 2026



OBSERVATION

What Does the Passage Say?
Focus on facts, words, and details.

1. Who sent the priests and Levites to question John the Baptist (v19)? What does that tell us about the seriousness of the investigation?

2. What specific question is John asked more than once in this passage?

3. List the identities John clearly denies (v20–21). Why do you think John is so explicit?

4. What title does John use to describe himself (v23)?

5. What do you observe about John's tone and posture when responding to the religious leaders?

6. What role does baptism play in raising questions about John's authority (v24–25)?

7. How does John redirect attention away from himself (v26–27)?

8. What do you learn about Jesus from John's description of Him, even before Jesus is named directly?

INTERPRETATION

What Does The Passage Mean?
Explore meaning, theology, and intent.

1. Why do you think John's confession of who he is not so central to his identity?

2. What does John's refusal to accept titles reveal about gospel identity versus cultural identity?

3. Why is it significant that John identifies himself as a "voice" rather than a person with status or authority?

4. How does knowing his calling give John courage in the face of religious pressure?

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5.

What does this passage teach us about the relationship between identity and humility?
6.

Why do the religious leaders struggle to accept John’s ministry, even though it aligns with Scripture?
7.

How does John’s clarity about Jesus shape his understanding of himself?
8.

In what ways does this passage challenge modern idea that identity is self-created or self-defined?

APPLICATION

How Should The Passage Change the Way We Live?
Focus on personal and practical responses.

1.

What titles, roles, or labels do you most often rely on to define yourself?
2.

How would your life change if those titles were taken away? What would remain?

3.

Are there areas where you struggle to admit who you are not—like trying to be the “Messiah” in situations God never intended for you?
4.

What has God clearly called you to do in this season of your life? How does that calling shape your identity?
5.

Where do you feel pressure to seek approval, validation, or acceptance from others?
6.

How can anchoring your identity in Christ bring freedom from comparison and performance?
7.

What practical step can you take this week to live more fully out of your identity in Christ?
8.

How can this group help one another remain grounded in gospel identity rather than cultural labels?