Gospel of John series #3
John the Baptist
John 1:19-34

1. The sermon walked through the long silence between Malachi and John (roughly 450 years). How do you think the people of Israel felt during that period of prophetic silence? Have you ever experienced a season that felt like God was silent?
2. John said he was not even worthy to untie the strap of Jesus' sandal. In that culture this was the lowest possible servant task. What does this level of humility look like for us today?
3. Why do you think crowds flocked to John even though his location, appearance, and message were the opposite of "seeker-sensitive"? What does that say about people's hunger for authentic truth?
4. John spoke truth to power (calling out Herod Antipas's unlawful marriage) and paid for it with his life. Where do you feel the tension between speaking truth and the possible cost of doing so in your own life, work, family, or friendships?
5. The sermon noted that our cultural moment is not so different from John's (corrupt leadership, moral confusion, religious compromise). In what specific ways do you sense people around you are longing for a clear "voice"?
6. Even after seeing the Spirit descend and hearing the Father's voice, John later sent disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one… or should we look for another?" What does this tell us about the reality of doubt even in the strongest believers?
7. How did Jesus respond to John's doubt? What does that response teach us about how God meets us when our faith feels shaky?
8. Jesus said the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. What does that statement mean, and how should it affect the way we view the privileges we have as New Testament believers?
9. In light of all we have been given (the completed story of Christ, the full Scriptures, the Spirit), how can we fight against spiritual complacency or self-focus?
10. Where is God calling you to be "a voice" this week—at work, in your family, among friends, or in some other sphere?