

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Rebel’s Rules to following Jesus (pt. 2)” – 2/2/2014

**Scripture:** John 1:29-34

**Bottom Line:** Jesus is the gift and giver of God’s full forgiveness, presence, and revelation for the whole world.

## INTRODUCTION:

Last week we kicked off a new series by looking at how “Religious Rule-Keeping” and “Irreligious Running” can be rebellion against God. They both push God out of our lives. The first uses his rule to get something. The second rejects his rule altogether. We saw how John the Baptizer was a man who found his identity in Jesus and obeyed God out of that identity. This week, we want to seek to answer the question, “Why should Jesus be the center of our lives?”

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 1:29-30

1. What is the significance of calling Jesus the Lamb of God?

In the Old Testament, sacrifices were given to temporarily forgive sin. More specifically, God commanded a perfect lamb to be sacrificed so the people’s sin could be covered (Exodus 12). They were literally “saved by the blood of the lamb”. The point of this was to teach God’s people the seriousness of sin and to look forward to the day when their sin would be completely forgiven by the sacrifice that God would provide. Jesus is that sacrifice. He is God’s full forgiveness for those who trust in him.

2. What does it mean that Jesus came before John when John, according to Scripture (Luke 1:57), was born before Jesus?

Jesus is God’s full presence with us. He is not just a man, but is also the eternal Son of God. He has always existed. John, however, was just a man.

## Read John 1:31-34

John did not know that Jesus was the Messiah until he saw the Spirit descend and remain on Jesus (Isaiah 11:2). John baptized with water to call people to repentance but his work only foreshadowed the much greater work that Jesus would do through baptizing with the Holy Spirit.

1. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?
  - In the Old Testament, God promised to give his Holy Spirit to his people (Joel 2:28-32). This comes through believing in Jesus. Jesus is God's full revelation because through Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit and know God as Father.

## UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

This passage teaches that Jesus is God's full forgiveness, presence, and revelation for the whole world.

1. What does it mean to be fully forgiven?
  - It means that Jesus has erased all of your sin in the past, present, and future.
2. What does it mean to have God's full presence with you?
  - It means that God is always working on your life so that you will eventually be like Jesus in love, mercy, humility, justice, etc.
3. What does it mean for Jesus to be God's full revelation for you?
  - It means I don't have to worry about there being more to God than what is in the Bible. Jesus reveals what God is like.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How should you respond to God's full forgiveness, presence, and revelation in Jesus?

- Rest in the fact that Jesus has earned your forgiveness so you don't have to earn it. Tell yourself that you are fully forgiven daily.
- God is working to make you like Jesus so begin to practice the virtues of Jesus. Be merciful with yourself though because God is.
- Lastly, go to the Bible to learn about God. Test what you hear or think you know about God against what the Bible says. If Jesus reveals God and our record of Jesus is the Bible, then we should learn the Bible.