



John 5:30-47 Small Group Questions

- Have someone read John 5:30-47. What are some words that repeat in this passage? What might this tell us about the meaning of the passage?
- Wesley said that this passage, fundamentally, is about witnesses to Jesus, about why we and others should believe that He is Lord. What does it mean to bear witness to someone or something?
- Wesley mentioned a few different witnesses that Jesus calls forward in this passage. Which witnesses does He cite in this passage?
- Why does Jesus cite witnesses or evidence in the first place? Why not simply make a declaration about His identity without pointing to the evidence?
- In verses 33-35 Jesus calls forward His first witness. Who is it?
 - What kinds of things does Jesus say about John the Baptist? What can we learn about His witness to Jesus?
 - In what ways did John the Baptist bear witness to Jesus? According to these verses, what was the initial reaction of the religious leaders to John? Why do you think they liked him at first?
 - Why did they eventually reject John the Baptist?
 - Wesley said that John shows us that human testimony, by the Holy Spirit, can draw people to God. Who are some people that

you know that do a good job bearing witness to Jesus? What does it look like for them to bear witness to Him?

- When have you felt or seen human testimony bringing yourself or others closer to Jesus? What was said that made you/someone else move closer to Him?
- In what ways can testimony about Jesus go beyond words?
- In verse 36, Jesus cites His second witness. What is it?
 - How do the works of Jesus bear witness to Him?
 - What are some examples of the works of Jesus today?
 - When have you seen the works of Jesus bear witness about Him?
- Jesus then cites His next witness. Who is it?
 - How does the Father bear witness to Jesus? Are there passages of Scripture that you can think of where this is the case?
 - Why does it matter that God bears witness to Jesus' identity?
- He then cites his last witness. Who/what is it?
 - Why does Jesus mention Moses in this section?
 - Wesley said that the call back to Moses is a call to all of the Old Testament: Scripture bears witness to Jesus. How does the Old Testament testify about who Jesus is without using His name?
 - What passages in the Old Testament seem to speak about Jesus?
 - Wesley said that this would have been especially hard for the religious leaders to hear because they knew Scripture better than anyone else, but they still missed the point. How might someone read or approach Scripture in such a way that leads them further away from God?
 - How can we ensure that reading Scripture leads us to love God more?

- How has Scripture helped you know and love God more?
- How can Scripture help even unbelievers come to know who Jesus actually is?
- In verses 44-47, Jesus explains why the religious leaders don't believe Him even though they have witnesses. What two reasons does He give to explain this?
 - Wesley said that a sinful desire for glory and misplaced hope explains why these people reject Jesus. What does it look like to desire glory for ourselves? How is this related to ambition? How can we have ambition without self-glorification?
 - How have these religious leaders misplaced their hope? How can misplaced hope lead people to miss who Jesus really is? What does it look like for us to calibrate our hope in the right direction?