

CONNECTION

- Is there someone (athlete, business, ministry, social activist, entertainer) that you admire because their capacities do not seem to be stronger than the strength of their character?

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

- John 3:22 - 36

CONVERSATIONS

- Read John 3:22 - 26
 - Have you ever been involved in a theological discussion or dispute? How did it go? What was done well? What could have been done better? Did it end well? Why or why not?
 - In what contexts can comparison and competition be helpful? Where can comparison and competition be destructive?
- Read John 3:27 - 30
 - The Apostle John acknowledges that he can only do whatever God has gifted him for.
 - How might the limitations that God has given you be a gift from God?
- Consider how the following areas might be the source of God-given limitations:
 - Your personality (i.e. extrovert, introvert, etc.)
 - Your stage of life (i.e. single, married, young person, parent, senior, etc.)
 - Your emotional, physical and intellectual abilities (i.e. your ability to work long hours, your thoughtfulness, etc.)
- How does it mean that your greatest gift is also your greatest weakness?
 - John the Baptist never forgot who he was and what his role was (i.e. he was the best man, not the groom).
 - What are the dangers of a church forgetting what its mission is?

- Read John 3:31 - 36
 - In verse 31 John makes a very bold statement about Jesus – that Jesus is above everyone and everything else. Many people find this kind of statement offensive because it speaks to the exclusive claims of Christ. How would you respond to someone who says that all religions lead to God?
 - List the reasons that John gives for why Jesus is above all others.
 - What are some of the obstacles that churches or individual Christians inadvertently put in the way of someone seeing the greatness and the goodness of Jesus?
- What can we do about that?

SERVE YOUR CITY OPPORTUNITIES:

We have 5 great ways that your COMMUNITY can celebrate the love of Jesus this **Christmas** by serving our CITY! Please share them within your group and let me know how I can help connect you to the folks you will bless!

- 1) We have an opportunity to **cook breakfast** for the staff at **Thomas High School**. You and your group could come in and cook here at the church and then bring it over to the school.
- 2) We have an opportunity for **pack OCC shoeboxes** on Nov 15 and Nov 16th. Come in and pack boxes as a team that will go to children around the globe.
- 3) We have an opportunity to **collect diapers and baby items** for Woman Care, a ministry that serves women in our CITY facing unplanned pregnancies.
- 4) We have an opportunity to make a **late night snack** for those folks who work the overnight shift at **Maple Ridge Hospital**.
- 5) We still have lots of spaces available to **serve dinner** to our **Ridge Youth Leadership Crew** by signing up for the meal train.



PRAYER:

- PRAY for our children's ministry as it continues to grow. Pray that the children would learn how deeply God loves them. Pray also for more volunteers to participate in Ridge Kids on Sunday mornings.
- PRAY many who are exploring faith in Jesus.
- PRAY for the final travel arrangements for a number of refugees that we have sponsored that will soon be arriving in Canada.