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**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe**  
“Blasphemer or Beloved?”  
John 10:30-42

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**Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:**

“What do you do with a man who is supposed to be the holiest man who has ever lived and yet goes around talking with prostitutes and hugging lepers? What do you do with a man who not only mingles with the most unsavory people but actually seems to enjoy them? ... It is a profound irony that the Son of God visited this planet and one of the chief complaints against him was that he was not religious enough.”

— Rebecca Pippert

“Something perfectly new in the history of the universe had happened. Christ had defeated death. The door which had always been locked had for the very first time been forced open. ... A new mode of being has arisen. That is the story. What are we going to make of it?”

— C.S. Lewis

“A true saint is not someone who has become good through strenuous disciplines, but someone who has experienced the free goodness of God.”

— Thomas Merton

**Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:**

Icebreaker: What’s a song, movie, or story that has ever made you feel deeply seen or known by God?

In John 10:30, Jesus says, “I and the Father are one.” Why do you think that statement provoked such a strong reaction from the religious leaders?

Jesus points to his “good works” as evidence of who he is. What do you think those works reveal about the heart of the Father? Why did they not convince the religious leaders of his identity and mission?

C.S. Lewis asked, “What are we to make of it?” (referring to the story of God and the world being changed by the cross and resurrection, the good work of God *par excellence*). What do *you* make of it? Where do you struggle to believe its truth or power in your own life?

The religious leaders wanted a Messiah who would bring national restoration and political power. How can we fall into a similar trap when it comes to our expectations of Jesus today?

Read Ephesians 2:19-22 together. Since through Christ we are no longer strangers, wanderers, and orphans, but, rather, citizens, sons, and the spiritual dwelling place of God, how should that change the way we think about God, the world, and our lives?

Jesus says he was *consecrated*—set apart—for God’s mission. How might being an agent of God’s mission in this world give you confidence, courage, and purpose? What might it practically look like for you to live a consecrated life in your home, workplace, or friendships?

*Take some time to pray together as a group. Maybe one question to ask is: What’s most important to you right now? Pray about those things and ask for God’s help and wisdom.*