



DISCIPLESHIP

Winter 2018 Sermon Series

01.07.18

Mark 1:4-11 & Isaiah 43:1-5

1.) Did you ever have a “nickname”? Did you like it? Why are names important?

2.) If you have been baptized, share a little about it. When were you baptized? What stands out to you about your baptism? What does it mean to you now?

3.) In Isaiah 43:1-5, God makes an amazing claim: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” What does it mean to be “redeemed”? Does God still “summon” people today?

4.) In Mark 1:4-11 we are told of Jesus’ baptism. According to Mark, what is the difference between John’s baptism and Jesus’ baptism?

5.) When Jesus was baptized, Mark says the “heavens were torn apart and the Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove on him. A voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” Which of those three phrases speaks to you? Son/daughter, beloved, well pleased? Why?

6.) Throughout his life and teachings, Jesus invited his disciples to understand their identity not only as autonomous individuals, but as part of the community of faith. This is part of the reason why we make baptismal vows to God and to one another. How has the church helped or hindered your sense of identity as a beloved child of God?

7.) Do you struggle in thinking that God is well-pleased with you? How might your life look differently if you remembered this each day?

8.) Christians believe that baptism informs and shapes our identity; that our doing flows out of being. What shapes your identity? When you describe who you are, what do you say? How has following Christ shaped your identity?