



THE MANGER PROJECT

Bottom Line

Jesus refuses to affirm you into the gates of hell when he needs to offend you into the arms of the King.

Scripture

Luke 1:76; 3:3,7-8,15-18; Matthew 3:2,7; Mark 1:4; John 3:30

Conversation Questions

1. What motivates you more effectively: criticism or affirmation? Explain your answer.
2. “Affirmation” and “flattery” are often confused. How would you describe the difference?
3. The message talked about how the story of John the Baptist is a necessary PRE-story (or even backstory!) to the story of Jesus. Can you think of other grand stories in the human race that require such a backstory or such preparatory steps?
4. Based on the message and the various Scriptures, what about John’s message does in fact “prepare the way” for Jesus?
5. In the space below or in conversation with your group, identify some ways Jesus offends?
6. How is his offense good for you? How does he love you too much to affirm you without reservation or change?
7. Who will you invite to join you for Week 3 of The Manger Project?

Talk About It

Icebreaker

When did someone offend you with the truth, but later you realized you needed to hear it?

Activity

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer with your family? Friends? Neighbors? Check out these fun and safe serving opportunities at the [Salvation Army Christmas Shop](https://www.salvationarmy.org/usa/ChristmasShop/). For more information and other ways to serve the community, visit <https://gsumc.org/howtohelp/>