

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What was the view out your kitchen window when you were ten?*
2. *What view, if any, that you held in your twenties has changed now that you're older?*

Digging In

Mennonite World Conference's second shared conviction is this: ***Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world and offers eternal life.***

Questions:

1. *What about this second shared conviction do you find meaningful?*
2. *What questions do you have about this second conviction?*
3. *Why do you think this conviction is seen as so important to the global Mennonite church?*

Read **Mark 1:1-11**.

This language of Jesus as "Son of God" permeates Mark's Gospel. Mark opens with it and records the Father affirming it at Jesus' baptism.

Questions:

1. *What do you think it means to call Jesus "the Son of God"?*
2. *What about John's baptism do you think he saw as inferior to Jesus' baptism?*

"Son of God" in the Hebrew Scriptures—or Old Testament—was the title of Israel's king. The title spoke of who was in charge, who the people answered to, who set the vision and agenda for everyone else, how power was used. Another name for "Son of God" in Jesus' day was "Messiah", which also meant "king."

Notice how Jesus responds to Peter's pronouncement of Jesus as Messiah, or King: Read **Mark 8:27-31**.

Question: *What do you think is significant about Jesus affirming Peter's declaration of his kingship by then saying he is going to die?*

Read **Revelation 5:6-13**.

The earliest Christians saw Jesus enthroned as the Son of God in a very particular way: as the Lamb of God. In other words, Jesus' sacrificial life wasn't just *how* he became king, but also *how he will always rule* as king.

Questions:

1. *What does Jesus being enthroned as the Lamb of God, and not the lion of God, tell us about how Jesus is king?*
2. *How should seeing our faith centered on the Lamb of God impact our decisions, relationships, politics, etc.?*

Sending Out

Historically, Christians have been tempted to drift from a faith that sees Jesus as the Lamb of God at the center of all things. Sometimes Christians have put *their* faithfulness or conduct at the center. Sometimes they have put their allegiance to their country at the center. Sometimes they have put long confessions of faith at the center. It has shaped how Christians relate to God and seek to be church with others.

Paul warned Christians of this temptation to drift from the very beginning: Read **Galatians 2:20-3:3**.

Questions:

1. *In what ways do you see Christians tempted to place something other than Jesus and his sacrifice at the center of their faith?*
2. *In your mind, what is it that is essential for us to agree upon in order to be church together?*
3. *How might we live or give or serve or discern differently if we trusted Jesus' death and resurrection was all we actually needed?*
4. *How might we relate to others differently if we trusted Jesus' death and resurrection was all **they** actually needed?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.