

# 2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

## Life Group Study Guide

Christ Is Our Prophet

John 1:18

### Introduction

Did you know that when you use the word “Christmas,” you’re talking about pouring oil on someone? Let me explain.

*Christian. Christianity. Christendom. Christmas.* All these words have “Christ” in them. But few people realize that the word “Christ” actually is the English form of a Greek word, meaning to anoint, or pour oil on, someone.

Sound strange? Not if you lived in the ancient days. When a person was commissioned for a special role, someone would take a jar or horn of oil and pour it over his head. Why oil? Oil was a symbol of God’s Spirit, so this oil-pouring ceremony was a way of saying, *God’s Spirit is on this person in a special way so he can fulfill his life’s task.* In the Old Testament, there were three roles special enough to require the special power of God’s Spirit: prophets, priests, and kings. That’s why prophets, priests, and kings, were sometimes called, “anointed ones.” The Hebrew word for “anointed one” comes into English as “Messiah,” and the Greek word for “anointed one” comes into English as “Christ.”

So, when the writers of Scripture say that Jesus is the *Christ*, they are claiming that he is the ultimate “anointed one,”—the long-anticipated, Spirit-filled Prophet, Priest, and King. Prophets had the (often unpopular) job of telling people like it is: how righteous God is, and how sinful they are, and what they needed to do. Priests had the task of offering sacrifices for people’s sin. And kings, of course, were supposed to bring peace and prosperity to an otherwise troubled and trodden-down nation. *The Christ—the Anointed One—*came to occupy all three roles.

So why is this important for us? Why do we need someone who is a prophet, priest, and king? Here's the answer:

- My view of God is *distorted*, so I need a PROPHET.
- My relationship with God is *disrupted*, so I need a PRIEST.
- Our world is *disordered*, so we need a KING.

This first message focuses on Jesus as Prophet. The theme verse is John 1:18, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

### **My View of God Tends to Be Distorted**

As our Prophet, Jesus tells us like it is. That is, he perfectly reveals the truth about God and ourselves. We need a prophet because we do not naturally believe the truth about God.

- What kind of lies do we tend to believe about God, and why do we like to believe these lies? See Romans 1:21-25.
- What kind of lies do we tend to believe about ourselves?

### **Jesus Perfectly Reveals God**

- John 1:18 says, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." In order to perfectly reveal God, a prophet must know God perfectly. Why was this impossible for any prophet before Christ?
- What is true about Christ's relationship with God that makes him the perfect Prophet? See John 1:1 and Hebrews 1:3.
- How did Christ reveal both "grace" and "truth"? See John 1:14, 17.
- Because Christ reveals God, how does this shape my view of . . .
  - Myself?
  - Hardships in my life?
  - Sin in my life?
  - Others?