

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**Nothin' But Net – Week 1****March 2nd and 3rd, 2024****Speaker: Pastor CJ Johnson****Opening Question**

- Welcome! In this message, CJ opens up our series Nothin' But Net, discussing who he feels are the all-time greatest five basketball players (Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Michael Jordan). Do you agree with his list? Any suggested changes? Are you excited for March Madness or not interested?

Open Your Group with Prayer

- Ask someone to open in prayer and bless your discussion together.

Scripture Passages

- Groups will begin the discussion by reading some of the message's key scriptures aloud. Please assign the following to read: Luke 1:36-37; Matthew 3:1-17; Matthew 11:11

Questions from the Message

- Mary must have received encouragement and hope from the story of her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy. God often uses testimonies to provide just that, which is why they are meant to be shared. How could what you are going through or have been through provide hope and encouragement to others? Have you ever had an opportunity to share your testimony? If so, what was that experience like? Have you shared it with this group?
- John's message was to call people to repent and believe. How would you define repentance? What has your experience been with repentance? Do you usually view it as positive? Why or why not?
- One definition of repentance is when you encounter the truth of God that causes you to change your mind and actions in such a way as to move away from what was false and towards that truth. A move from your ways and towards God's ways. Why is repentance not just about being sorry for breaking the rules? How can we ensure we have the appropriate posture towards repentance? What does repentance have to do with revival?
- John was baptizing people to signify the repentance of their sins. Jesus had no sin; he wouldn't have needed to be baptized. Why do you think that Jesus was baptized? What did his baptism represent? What would that moment have been like from John's perspective?
- Father wounds occur when our earthly father doesn't provide us with protection, provision, presence, or praise. Jesus lived every day without these wounds we often face. These wounds can come between us and our relationship with our heavenly Father. God is for you and wants you to call Him Father. Have you bought into the lie that God doesn't delight in you? Have you ever had father wounds that have gotten in the way of recognizing the delight that God has for you? You are His son or daughter with whom he is well pleased.

Challenge and Application

- What is God challenging you to do in response to this discussion? Get practical. What will you do this week?

Close Your Group with Prayer

- Pray together for your application and response points from your discussion as a group. Share any praises, joys, or areas of concern. How can this group be praying for you and your family this week? *(Please ask someone to distribute these via GroupMe, text, or email so you can pray for one another throughout the week.)*