



# The Forgotten Jesus Podcast Discussion Guide

## Season 4, Episode 12

### Was John An Essene and The Leper Messiah

Today, we finally look at both sides of the argument of whether or not John the Baptist was an Essene.

### **Introduction**

**Recap:** Last week on *The Forgotten Jesus Podcast*, we continued our conversation about the Essenes and discussed how they approached the Passover.

Take a few minutes to discuss this week's episode and what stuck out to everyone.

1. We see the legacy of the Essenes in the Dead Sea Scrolls and other contributions they made. What legacy are you leaving for future generations?

### **Discussion**

Have someone read aloud [Isaiah 53:4-5](#) and [Matthew 8:1-4](#).

1. What is the significance of Jesus's interaction with the leperous man?
2. Why do you think so many people missed or ignored these Messianic miracles?

### Reasons Why John Might Be an Essene

- John adopted water baptism.
- John's ministry was set up near the Dead Sea.
- The Essenes had no problem calling out religious hypocrisy.
- The Essenes believed that the kingdom of God would come from being bold for what they believed.
- John was likely an Orphan.



## Reasons Why John Might Not Be an Essene

- They would never leave the community long-term.
- John's baptism was a different experience than the Essene baptism.
- The Essenes never believed Jesus was the Messiah.

3. Based on these reasons, what do you believe about John the Baptist?

## **Application:**

Take some time to apply what you have discussed.

1. What does it look like to walk intimately with the Lord?
2. What in our daily lives can cause us to miss Jesus that we should guard against?
3. How can we foster times of intimacy with the Lord in our lives while guarding against legalism?

## **Pray**

Share prayer requests and pray as a group at the end of your conversation. Here are some prompts:

1. Pray for greater intimacy with the Lord and for His increase in our knowledge, love, and obedience.
2. Pray that the Lord would protect us against legalism.

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast Resources**

Catch up on Seasons 1 - 3 and find out more about *The Forgotten Jesus Podcast*, including show notes, on *The Forgotten Jesus Podcast* [webpage](#).

## **The Forgotten Jesus Book**

Through the years, our understanding of Jesus has been shaped by different cultural influences, and many Christians have forgotten that Jesus was a Jewish man living in a Jewish land, observing Jewish customs, and investing his life in Jewish men and women. You can buy it [here](#).

