

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
From John (I Must Decrease) to Jesus (Who Must Increase)
John 3:22-36 (page 741)

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All of us serve at the sovereign pleasure of God
(John 3:22-27; 1 Cor 4:7; 15:10)

Joy comes from pointing others to Jesus Christ
(John 3:28-29; Hos 2:16-20; Eph 5:2-27; Rev 21:2, 9; 22:17;
Mk 2:18-20)

Humility calls attention to Jesus Christ, not to myself
(John 3:30; 2 Cor 4:5-7)

The supremacy of Jesus removes any thought of
competition (John 3:31-34; Heb 1:1-3)

Jesus is the supreme ruler over all, to oppose Him is to
choose God's judgment
(John 3:35-36; Heb 10:31; Ps 2:12; Gal 6:7-8)

Going Deeper....

What is John's (the Baptist) response to his disciples' jealousy and complaint in 3:25-29? How do his responses in vs 27, 28 and 29 provide an answer to their concerns? How should you view your service and/or the service of others, to Jesus according to these verses? _____

Read v 30...Write out what this means in your own words. Why was that attitude necessary for John? Why is it necessary for you and I? _____

Read vs 31-36 and write out what you learn about Jesus' identity from these verses? How should we respond to these truths about Jesus? _____

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 3:22-36 (Week Eight)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

This section of scripture is the last message that is given by John the Baptist before his arrest and death by the hand of Herod. It provides us another TRANSITION between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant as we see John again declaring that he is NOT the Christ and the time has now come for him to *decrease* and for Jesus to take the *preeminence* in God's program. His ministry has been fulfilled and it is now Jesus' time to take the center stage and complete the redemptive work that His Father has prepared for Him. We can learn a number of useful lessons from John and his humble attitude if we will take them to heart...we can really see his greatness in this section of Scripture!

Discussion Questions

What had John the Baptist previously taught about himself? (3:28; 1:20-23). What had he taught about Jesus? Were these loyal disciples good disciples of John? Why or why not?

Read vs 27-29...What did John mean when he said "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven"? How does this help him have a right view of Jesus' ministry as well as his own? How does it help us view our service to Jesus?

Who is the *bride*? Who is the *bridegroom*? Who is the "friend of the bridegroom"? What special joy does each one have? What was the reason for John's great personal joy? What does this parable teach us about the believer's relationship to Jesus?

What does "He must increase but I must decrease" mean? What does that look like in our walk with Christ?

Read John 3:31-36. Identify the areas of Jesus' superiority that are listed. What do these verses identify about Jesus? What does this tell you about Jesus and how we should respond to Him?

How does reflecting on the superiority of Christ help us to surrender and allow Him to have rule over the areas of our lives we are reluctant to let go of? How is Jesus the best "expert" on God and life?

Taking it to the streets....

Why do we as followers of Jesus struggle to give Him control over certain areas of our lives?

What role does the Bible play in the life of someone who seeks to give Jesus control over their life?

What is the role of the Growth Group to help encourage each other to surrender to Jesus and pursue steady, spiritual growth?