

Believe and Have Life*The Gospel of John***John 3:22–36****Read John 3:22–30.**

1. This passage is about a unique time in history when the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus overlapped.
 - a. What marked their ministries during this time? (vv. 22–23)

 - b. What further clarification does 4:2 give about Jesus' ministry?

 - c. After this period of simultaneous ministry, what happened to John? (v. 24; Mark 6:17–29)
2. What incident sparks the conversation between John the Baptist and his disciples? (v. 25)
3. What is their tone with John?

Why do you think they are feeling this way? (v. 26)

How does their attitude toward Jesus compare with John's attitude in 1:26–36?

4. Look again at verse 27. John responds first with an aphorism (a concise statement of a principle) about God and the gifts he gives. Why is there no place for envy and discontent when we consider the gifts we have and the gifts others have received?
5. John reminds his disciples that he has already made it clear to them that he is not the Christ (v. 28). Find these verses from earlier in the book.

6. What metaphor does John the Baptist use to illustrate his ministry and how it relates to Jesus'? (v. 29)

Who is John in this metaphor?

Who is Jesus?

Think about this imagery and discuss why it is so effective.

7. Why are John the Baptist's words in verse 30 a perfect way to end his testimony about Jesus?

Read John 3:31–36 Epilogue (Many commentators believe that these verses are the reflections of John the gospel writer.)

8. How is Jesus described in verse 31?

What is his position?

9. Where is John from, and why is his word limited in comparison? (v. 31)

10. How do people generally respond to the testimony of Jesus? (v. 32; 1:10; 3:11)

11. When people do accept his testimony, what do they certify? (v. 33)

12. What gives Jesus' words authority? (vv. 34–35; 5:19–20)

13. What are the only two responses to Jesus, and what are their consequences? (v. 36)

14. What do you need to do so that Christ, his will, and his work become greater in you than your will and work? What do you need to surrender so that you, too, can proclaim, "He must become greater; I must become less."