

Small Group Discussion Guide: Jesus must become greater

Jesus > Me

John 3:22-36

Opening Prayer

Start with a brief prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to the Word, and to help the group apply the truths of this passage in their lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Context and Key Idea

- What is the significance of John the Baptist's statement, "Jesus must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30)?
 - Why do you think this was important for John to say at that moment?
 - In what ways does this statement challenge or resonate with your life as a follower of Jesus?
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2. Understanding Why Jesus is Greater (John 3:31-35)

- John the Baptist gives three reasons why Jesus is greater:
 - He is from heaven (v. 31-32).
 - He speaks the words of God (v. 34).
 - He has been given everything by God (v. 35).

Reflecting on these reasons:

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is from heaven and speaks the words of God?
 - How does understanding that Jesus has been given everything by the Father affect how you view Him in your daily life?
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3. Belief and Eternal Life (John 3:36)

- John writes, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life” (v. 36).
Questions for reflection:
 - What does "eternal life" mean to you? How do you understand it in light of this passage?
 - What do you think is required to truly believe in Jesus according to this passage?
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4. The Struggle Between Becoming Less and Focusing on Jesus

- John the Baptist humbly acknowledges his role, stating that he must decrease as Jesus increases.
 - How can we practically live out the idea of "becoming less" so that Jesus becomes greater in our lives?
 - Are there areas in your life where you struggle to "become less" and allow Jesus to "become greater"? What are they?
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5. The Call to Humility (John 3:29)

- John uses the analogy of the “best man” at a wedding, explaining that his joy is complete when the bridegroom (Jesus) takes center stage.
 - How can we live with the humility of John the Baptist in our day-to-day lives?
 - In what ways do you see humility and joy linked in your walk with Jesus?
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6. John the Baptist’s Focus on the Mission (John 3:24-30)

- John the Baptist was content with his role in God’s plan and didn’t compete with others. He recognized that his mission was to prepare the way for Jesus.
 - What can we learn from John’s commitment to the mission of God over personal recognition or success?
 - Are you able to stay focused on God’s mission in your life, or are there distractions you need to address?

Practical Application

- **Living with a "Jesus First" mindset:**
 - Take a moment to reflect: In what specific areas of your life do you need to give Jesus a greater role? Is it in your relationships, work, or personal growth?
 - Personal Challenge: Over the next week, focus on an area where you can make less of yourself (whether it's humbling yourself, letting go of control, or prioritizing someone else's needs) and allow Jesus to take greater prominence.

Closing Reflection and Prayer

- Reflect on what the group has discussed. Share how Jesus becoming greater and us becoming less can be applied practically.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help the group live in humility, commit to His mission, and allow Jesus to become greater in their lives.