

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JOHN 3:22-36

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Read John 3:22-36 and discuss:

1. See vv.22-26. What emotions do you sense from the followers of John the Baptist? Why do you think they felt that way? Why do we too struggle with Jesus taking priority in our lives, and in the lives of those we are closest to?
2. See vv.27-30. How did John the Baptist understand his role in light of God's sovereign plan? Why does John the Baptist use the Best Man analogy to illustrate his feelings about Jesus' eclipsing him in both popularity and ministry?
3. Vv.31-36 is probably the comment of John the gospel writer. What are we told here about Jesus? What makes Him utterly unique and worthy of first place in our lives (3:31-35)? What consequences flow from the way we respond to Jesus (v.36)? Why is this so?
4. How can reflecting on the greatness of Jesus help us to let Him rule over the areas of life we struggle to let go of? What do you need to remember about Jesus in order to move from resenting His pre-eminence to rejoicing in it?
5. Where in your own life do you most resist letting Jesus be first in an absolute and unrivalled way? Why? What are you afraid of? How does this passage speak to your fears?
6. *"We can never have too high thoughts about Christ, can never love Him too much, trust Him too implicitly, lay too much weight upon Him, and speak too highly in His praise. He is worthy of all the honour that we can give Him. He will be all in heaven. Let us see to it, that He is all in our hearts on earth."* (J C Ryle). How can we as a Lifegroup encourage each other to give our Lord Jesus Christ first place in our hearts?

In Conclusion

- Remember that the aim of John's gospel is "that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (20:31). How has this passage added to your understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do? Pray in the light of this.

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