

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 3:22-30

DISCUSSION 1: JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. What do you recall about the role and purpose of John the Baptist from previous passages (John 1:6-8, 15, 19-28)? How is John faithful to his role as a witness here again in John 3:27-30?
2. Looking at John 3:26-30, share three examples of humility in the words and actions of John the Baptist.
3. Rather than wanting to be something more or do something different, John puts his trust in God's sovereignty and wisdom for where he has been placed and what work he has been called to do (3:27). It seems John finds rest and joy in this act of humble trust. Are there any areas of your life right now you need to entrust to God and rest in His wisdom and sovereignty for where he has placed you?

DISCUSSION 2: HUMILITY

1. The tone of John's disciples in John 3:26 suggests pride, jealousy, and bitterness that Jesus is getting more attention and a larger following than John. Where or when are you tempted to want the glory, attention, respect, and recognition that rightly belongs to God? (Consider if this ever happens in these areas: your work, how you serve or give, your social media presence, any obedience or spiritual growth, blessings in your life, your abilities or skills, etc.)
2. Read John 3:27; James 1:17; and 1 Cor. 4:7. Why is it good for us to remember that anything we have comes from God? How does seeing God as the giver of all things and giving thanks to him create humility and joy?
3. Read John 3:30. We often live seeking that we would increase, even if it means God is pushed to the side. What things get in the way of God's glory increasing in your life or him being made much of?
4. What are two ways you can practically live out John 3:30 this week? Are there any ways you need others to encourage you to pursue this mindset of you decreasing so that Christ might increase?

DISCUSSION 3: NEW JOY

1. What are reasons you or others might struggle with a lack of joy in life?
2. In John's answer (3:28-30) to his disciples, what is it that gives him joy? Why would that give joy?
3. In what ways might being humble threaten to take away our joy? In what ways does humility lead to greater joy?
4. John's joy is not in getting attention or accumulating followers, but in faithfully following God and seeing him get the credit and glory (3:28-30). How can you find joy in your work, how you serve others, your parenting, your relationships and conversations, or other things this week by fighting off selfishness and living for God's glory?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Do we have anything good on our own apart from God? Why or why not?
2. What is humility? Why should we live with humility if we are followers of Jesus?
3. Read John 3:30. What you can you do this week so that God is glorified or his glory is increased through how you put the focus and attention on him?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Share one or two ways each of you can lean into John 3:30 this week and humbly live with a focus on God and seeing him increase. How can you do this in your own personal life? How can you do this in how you live before others? Spend time as a group praying over what's shared. Find ways to encourage one another this week to continue practicing John 3:30. You might also consider if there's something you can do as a group that is selfless or sacrificial that might glorify God for others. Maybe it's a service project, helping someone or an organization out, or doing something nice for a family. But do so as a group in such a way that your humble service exalts God.
- **Individual:** Join others at College Park Church by reading through the 2018 Advent booklet, "[All Things New](#)." Included is a daily reading plan with questions, as well as a weekly hymn, recipes, activities, and recommended resources. Read through a daily Old Testament and New Testament passage connected to theme of each Sunday's passage.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **John the Baptist:** Matt. 3:1-12; 14:1-2; Luke 1:5-45, 57-80; 3:1-22; 7:18-23; John 1:19-34; 3:22-36; Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6.
- **Humility:** Eph. 4:2; James 4:6-10; Luke 14:11; Prov. 11:2; Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Peter 5:5-11.
- "The Social Media Strategy of John the Baptist" by Stacy Reaach at thegospelcoalition.org.
- **Continue reading** through the Advent guide "[All Things New](#)." You can download it online or via the enews, or you can grab one on a Sunday.