

Community Group Discussion Guide
Week 7 - Bridegroom
John 3:22-30

June 2, 2013

Read John 3:22-30 and then answer the following questions.

Questions for Study

Introduction

The Gospel of John provides the most comprehensive and penetrating answer to the central question of history... Who is Jesus Christ?

The answer to this question, as I see it, isn't a flat, one dimensional answer. There are many dimensions to who Jesus is. It's in understanding each one that we understand who he is, and what this means for us.

1. Think of an example from your life when your authority was being challenged. Briefly explain what happened and state how you responded.
2. Looking back on that example, are there ways your response was motivated by "self" – either self-protection or self-promotion? Explain.
3. How does our culture reinforce tendencies to organize our lives around ourselves? (Think of ways our culture encourages self-promotion, attention-getting, entitlement, narcissism, etc.)
4. Read John 3:22-26 and summarize what's going on. What are some of the ways John the Baptist *could have* responded when he learned that "everyone is going to Jesus"? How would you have been tempted to respond, if you had been in John the Baptist's place?
5. How did John the Baptist actually respond? What does this say about how John understood his relationship to Jesus?
6. "Christ is the Bridegroom and we – the Church – are His bride. This doesn't negate our identity; it puts it in proper perspective." Restate this in your own words. What does this mean?
7. Why is our identity as "bride of Christ" so important? What truths does this image communicate, and why are these valuable?
8. "Jesus' greatness is for our good." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?
9. How do the rest of the Gospels (or any other passages you can think of in Scripture) prove that Jesus' greatness is for our good? Imagine you had to explain this to a friend and summarize what you'd say.
10. What is one truth that has captured your attention in a special way from this passage? What practically will you do to apply this truth in your everyday life?