



SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Humility | Part 1

John 3:22-30 | May 3, 2026



John 3:22-30 ESV - ²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. What situation in John 3:22-30 created tension between the ministries of Jesus Christ and John the Baptist?

2. What specific words or phrases in John 3:26 reveal the attitude of John's disciples?

3. According to John 3:27, how does John explain the source of a person's influence or ministry?

4. How does John describe his identity and role in John 3:28?

5. What illustration does John use in John 3:29 to explain his relationship to Jesus?

6. What is the significance of John's statement in John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease?"

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. Why do you think the discussion about purification turned into comparison and jealousy?

2. What does John's statement, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven," teach us about God's sovereignty?

3. How does comparison reveal deeper issues of identity, pride, or insecurity in the human heart?

4. Why does clarity about identity (*"I am not the Christ"*) lead to contentment?

5. What does the "friend of the bridegroom" imagery teach us about joy and humility?

6. How does humility shift our source of joy from personal success to Christ's prominence?

APPLICATION | *How should this change us?*

1. Where in your life do you feel tempted to compare yourself with others (work, ministry, relationships, social media, etc)?

2. How do you typically respond when someone else is succeeding where you desire to succeed?

3. What would it look like this week to expose rather than excuse jealousy, envy, or pride in your heart?

4. In what areas of your life are you trying to "be the groom" instead of faithfully embracing your God-given role?

5. What practical steps can you take to trust God's assignment for your life this week?

6. How can you intentionally celebrate Christ's work in others rather than competing with them?

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISE REPORTS
