

HE MUST BECOME GREATER; I MUST BECOME LESS

John 3:22-36

Key Verse: 3:30

1. Read verses 22-24. When and where did this event take place? What was Jesus doing? What was John the Baptist doing? What further reference to the time is made?
2. Read verses 25-26. What sparked the controversy that arose between John's disciples and a certain Jew? Why did John's disciples seem to resent Jesus?
3. Read verses 27-30. What did John mean when he said, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven"? How does this help him to have the right view of Jesus' ministry and of his own?
4. What had John previously taught about himself? (28; 1:20-23) What had he taught about Jesus? Were these loyal disciples good disciples of John? Why or why not?
5. Who is the bride? The bridegroom, The friend? What special joy does each have? What was John's reason for being joyful? What does this parable teach about the believer's relationship to Jesus? What did "He must become greater; I must become less" mean?
6. Read verses 31-36. Who is the one who comes from above? The one who is from the earth? Why is the testimony of the one from above valid? What is the general response to his testimony? Why? What is the result of accepting his testimony? What does it mean to certify that God is truthful?
7. Who is the one whom God has sent? What has the Father done for his Son? How does our response to the Son affect our ultimate destiny? What does this teach us about Jesus the Son? Why was it a life and death matter for John's disciples to to Jesus?