

Discussion Guide: The Gospel of John | John 3:22-36

Gathering Question:

What is one way you've experienced God in your life this week?

Gathering Prayer

Father, by Your Spirit, would you guide us into all truth. Help us to hear and be attentive to Your voice as we work through this study. In the name of Jesus, Your Son, we pray, Amen.

Opening Questions

- What stood out to you in the sermon?
- What insights did you gain?
- What questions did it raise?

Read John 3:22-36

- Why do you think John's disciples were anxious? What do their words reveal about them?
- When have you felt like someone else's success diminished your own value or worth?

Spiritual Disorientation

- Where do you see our culture (or yourself) "flying upside down"?
- How does disorientation show up in times of success? In times of decline or loss?
- Reflect on the appeal of the prosperity gospel and the affirmation gospel. Why are these so appealing today? How do these distortions place *self* at the center rather than Jesus?

"A person can receive only what is given from heaven."

- What does this teach us about success, gifts, and limitations?
- How might your life look different if you truly believed that everything you have is received rather than earned?

"I am not the Messiah."

- What burdens are you carrying that aren't yours to carry?
- What does spiritual maturity look like when we embrace that we are not the Messiah?

"The friend of the bridegroom... is full of joy."

- Where do you find yourself asking, "What do I get out of this?" even in your relationship with God?
- How might adopting the "friend of the bridegroom" role bring freedom and joy?

"He must become greater; I must become less."

- What area of your life do you sense Jesus is inviting you to surrender more deeply?
- Where do you struggle to let go of your desire to be seen, recognized, or in control?

Closing Prayer