

Week 5 Discussion Questions

Text: John 3:22-36

Icebreaker: Who is someone in your life that you look up to in your faith? In what ways has their faith inspired or encouraged your own?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. John the Baptist is referred to as "Rabbi" by his disciples in this text. To be a Rabbi in the ancient world was a high honor. John the Baptist is a man of prominent place with significant authority. His disciples expect that John would be threatened by the presence of a competing Rabbi down the river. Why is John not threatened by Jesus' presence?
3. "Always the bridesmaid, never the bride" is a phrase usually associated with shame, sadness, and longing as the forever bridesmaid yearns for a turn to be the bride. How does John describe his role as the friend of the bridegroom?
4. How would you describe your own attitude concerning sharing what Christ has done in your life with others?
5. How you think the broader culture would define living a successful life in our world today.
6. What character traits does the broader culture seem to value in a person according to that definition of success?
7. What does John mean by the phrase "He must increase, but I must decrease" and in what way does applying it to your own life shape how you define success?
8. John 3:36 has two parallel statements which identifies *belief* with *obedience*. What does it mean that John uses these words synonymously and how does one impact the other?