

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
DEFINING GREATNESS – JOHN 3:22-36

How to become great...

1. Know who you are
2. Know who Jesus is

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Who are the most successful people you know and why? How do we measure greatness today? How do you measure success personally? What would a successful life look like to you? Discuss.

The Basics: Read John 3:22-36. How had the success of John the Baptist's ministry brought conflict? What was the root cause of the dispute and how did John specifically challenge his followers?

Quick Fire Round John 3:22-36

- Read Matthew 11:11-14, Mark 1:1-8, Mark 10:42-45 and Philippians 4:11-14. Why did Jesus call John the "greatest man who ever lived"? What made John great in Jesus' eyes and how does this picture of greatness differ from how church and culture defines greatness and success today? What does this mean to you?
- Read John 3:27-30, Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, and Luke 1:57-66, 80. John knew his identity and purpose. How did this enable him to live in a way to make God great and serve others? Why is knowing our identity foundational to living great lives today? Could knowing your God-given identity change the way you live?
- If we do not know who we are "In Christ", how can this lead us to get caught up in the traps of competition, comparison, jealousy and envy? Read and discuss Ephesians 1:3-14, Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 2:1-11.
- Read John 3:31-36. What does John know and articulate about Jesus? How can we tend to take our focus off Jesus and put our trust in either self, others or an institution (even church)?

The challenge: Memorize John 3:30 then take John the Baptist's challenge to increase Jesus and decrease yourself. How can you live every day to this end? What would your life look like if you did? In what areas of your life do you need to decrease?

Prayer: Father, help me to live everyday to make you great by loving you and others before myself. Amen.

Resources: <https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/train-and-grow/bible-studies/no-one-understands-jesus-study.pdf>; Bible Speaks Today – The Message of John; Bruce Milne; Exploring the Gospels.