



Unit 20, Session 3

John Pointed to Jesus

Matthew 3; John 1; 3

Story Point: John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus.

Jesus and His disciples went out into the countryside. People came to see them, and Jesus taught the people. Many people were baptized. Nearby, John the Baptist was baptizing people too. Some of the people who followed John went to John.

“Teacher,” they said, “remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him.” John’s followers were talking about Jesus. John answered them, “You heard me say that I am not the Messiah.” John tried to explain by talking about a wedding. When two people get married, the man who marries the bride is the groom. His friend stands with him at the wedding, and he is happy to be there and hear the groom’s voice. The groom’s friend should not make it about himself. This was how

John felt—like a groom’s friend—because he was happy that Jesus, the Messiah, had come. John said, “Jesus must increase, but I must decrease.”

Then John explained why Jesus was more important than himself. Whoever believes Jesus knows that God tells the truth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus speaks God’s words. The Father loves the Son and has given Him power over everything. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life, but whoever refuses to believe in the Son will not have eternal life.

Christ Connection: John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John’s mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Fill in each blank with the correct name—*John* or *Jesus*.

Some of the people who followed _____ got into an argument. They went to _____. “Teacher,” they said, “remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him.” _____’s followers were talking about _____.

_____ answered, “You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I am the messenger who goes before Him.” This was true. _____ had said, “Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

_____ tried to explain by talking about a wedding. A wedding is the groom’s special day; the groom’s friend should not make it about himself. This was how _____ felt—like a groom’s friend—because he was happy that _____, the Messiah, had come. _____ said, “_____ must increase, but I must decrease.”

_____ the Baptist told people to get ready for _____, the promised Messiah. Now that _____ was on earth, _____’s mission was complete. _____ was greater than _____, and _____ joyfully stepped aside as _____ began His earthly ministry.

- What does this story teach us about God?

- How is Jesus greater than John?

CHRIST CONNECTION

John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John’s mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



APPLY the Story

- Why did John say Jesus must increase and he (John) must decrease?
- Who deserves fame and glory in our own lives—us or God? Why?
- How can we point others to Jesus?

CHRIST CONNECTION

John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John's mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



APPLY the Story

- Find John 3:30 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, acknowledging that Jesus tells the truth about God and His kingdom. Thank God for the gift of salvation, which we can receive when we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 40:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 |