



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of January 2, 2022

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*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. These are intended to help spark discussion. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- Is competition always good or always bad? How can we know the difference between healthy, good competition and unhealthy competition?

### The Context

Today, we are going to pick back up in the book of John with one of the most humble interactions in our bible. What we see in John the Baptist is something we should all pursue in this year. It's taking the focus off of ourselves and putting it on Jesus. He must become greater, I must become less.

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

#### **John 3:22-36** NIV

**“After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan--the one you testified about--look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less." 31 The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. 33 Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. 34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.”**

### Discuss

1. What does John mean when he says “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.”?
2. How does this verse apply to you personally and practically? What are some things the Lord has blessed you with this past few months? Have you missed any of His gifts?
3. Have you ever wanted what God has given to someone else? What are often some results of wanting what God has given to others?
4. What do John say His role is in relation to the ministry of Jesus? What illustration does he use to help disciples understand his role?

5. If John is the friend of the groom, and Jesus is the groom, who is the bride? How does this inform your view of your role in the Kingdom of Jesus?
6. In verse 30, John the Baptist makes a powerful statement about his position in relationship to Jesus. Who must increase and who must decrease?
7. Matt Carter has written: *"Next time you're tempted to complain, ask this question: Am I complaining because the glory of Jesus is decreasing, or is it about me? Jesus must increase, but it will only happen as we—our wants, desires, and likes—decrease."* (Excerpt from: "Exalting Jesus in John"! Discuss this quote and how you might be able to apply it to your weekly life and relationships.
8. How could humility help in your life? In your relationships? In your career? In your daily time with God?
9. Is there anything that needs to change in your life, for you to really say that you are decreasing and Jesus is increasing? Is there anywhere that you have tended to avoid humility in your walk with Jesus?
10. How did the following passages teach us more about humility and allowing Jesus to increase in our lives? 1 Peter 5:5-6; Colossians 3:1-2, 12; Philippians 2:3-5; Luke 22:42
11. What in your life needs to be realigned with God's definitions of humility? Trust? Faith? Belief?
12. Whose Kingdom are you currently building - your own, or God's Kingdom?
13. Read verses 31-36 again. In what ways is Jesus superior? What is John encouraging his audience to do with Jesus as a result of these truths?
14. What is the result of not believing in Jesus?
15. When has someone put you above themselves in a meaningful and significant way? How did that impact you?

### **Challenge**

Think of one way that you can decrease and allow Jesus to increase in your life this week. Make a commitment to pursue that this week. Discuss this with a trusted fellow follower of Jesus and help each other stay committed and encouraged on this journey.

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**