



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### John 3:22-30 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

**1. In the early stages of Jesus’ ministry, why might it have been important for Him to have His disciples baptizing in Judea somewhere near John the Baptist and his ministry in Judea?**

Jesus would be close for John to point people toward; then, Jesus would be understood as the One John the Baptist had come to proclaim and prepare people to receive. Some of Jesus’ disciples had first been John’s disciples and they could teach John’s disciples about Jesus when asked by their friends. Both Jesus and John needed to preach together to reach as many as they could with the good news of Jesus’ coming before John was arrested and Jesus began His ministry in Galilee.

**2. Why do you think John the Baptist’s disciples expressed concern that increasing numbers, indeed “all,” they said, were going to Jesus?**

Probably they saw their own influence decreasing and their own hopes about John the Baptist not being fulfilled. Perhaps they thought that John the Baptist would be working together with the Messiah, perhaps at the Messiah’s right hand, and this would be a wonderful opportunity for them to serve both Jesus and John the Baptist, which included political views of what the Messiah would do when He came and what they would do.

**3. What does “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven” mean to you?**

As a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I can only do the tasks that God wants me to do with the gifts He has given me, and that includes receiving and accepting the consequences of my faithful deeds in Jesus' Name. I should not compare myself to what others are doing or become jealous of other servants of the Lord Jesus, but simply try to follow the commands of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit day-by-day.

#### **4. Why was John's joy fulfilled?**

John compared himself to the friend of a bridegroom, who was happy for both the groom and the bride. As a friend of Jesus, he rejoiced to see Jesus fulfilling what he had proclaimed about His coming, and he rejoiced over all Jesus was doing as the Messiah, the Son of God, the Lamb of God.

#### **5. How did John the Baptist express his humility to his disciples, and what effect might that have had on them?**

He said that he and his ministry must decrease, and Jesus and His ministry must increase. As his ministry decreased, he could point his disciples to Jesus that they might follow Jesus instead of him. Since John said Jesus was the Messiah, they might have been disappointed that John would not be working with Jesus and helping them work with Jesus too—they might have expected both their ministries to increase instead of Jesus' ministry and not their ministry.

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