

Group Reflection Questions

1. What happens in baptism? Why do we do it?
2. Do you consider spending time with Jesus to be a leisure activity?
3. In what ways have you taken worship lightly?
4. How are you seeking to “decrease” and let Christ “increase” in your life?
5. Are you full of joy to hear the bridegrooms voice?

Playing with Earthly Things

John 3:22-36

We are used to earthly things—the things we see around us, our jobs, our houses, our hobbies. John the Baptist reminds us today that there is more than what we can see with our two eyes. Our experiences of encountering God can sometimes be considered a leisure activity, whereas our real business happens throughout the week.

John tells us most of us have it backwards. Jesus is the one who has come from heaven. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Jesus is the true representative of reality—our world is only a shadow. John the Baptist understands this and recognizes: “Christ must become great; I must become less.”

When we get a true picture of the enormity of the message Jesus was sent down from heaven with, our natural response should be—I want to have more of Jesus in my life. I want to put off my old self and put on my new self in Christ (as Paul puts it). As we realize the new and better reality Christ offers to the world, our natural reaction should be to go and let others know what they can have too.