

## Jesus and John the Baptist

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** John 3:22-36

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus came from heaven to earth.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Who did Jesus say He is?** Jesus said He is the Messiah.

**Tell the Bible story in your own words**

**Jesus and His disciples left Jerusalem, and they went out into the countryside. Jesus spent time with His disciples, and people came to them. Jesus taught the people, and the people were baptized.**

**Nearby, John the Baptist was baptizing people too. Some of the people who followed John got into an argument.** They went to John to ask him a question.

**"Teacher," they said, "remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? He is baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him."**

**John answered them, "A person can only receive what God gives him. You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I am the messenger who goes before Him to announce that He is coming."**

**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. This was how **John felt-like a groom's friend- because he was happy that Jesus, the Messiah, had come.**

John also knew that a wedding is the groom's special day; the groom's friend should not make it about himself. **John said, "Jesus must become greater and I must become less."**

Then John explained why Jesus was more important than himself. John was from the earth, and he could only talk about things on earth. Jesus-the One who comes from heaven-talked about things in heaven because He had seen, John said, "Whoever believes Jesus knows that God tells the truth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus speaks God's words."

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**John also said, "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. He will never be able to get away from God's judgment."

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

To Know, Love, and Share Christ

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