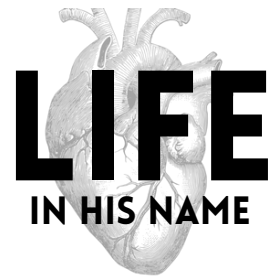


GROWTH GUIDE

I am Second | John 3:22-36

Week of 10/22/2023



SERMON OUTLINE

Big Idea: When you put Jesus first in your life, then you'll find the joy you long for.

- 1) When Jesus is first, then I must be second. John 3:22-30
- 2) When Jesus is first, then I find lasting joy. John 3:29
- 3) When Jesus is first, then I see Jesus for who he truly is. John 3:31-36

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Looking back at the passage, what stood out to you, was helpful, or challenged you? What questions do you have?
- 2) Check for understanding: How would you define pride and humility? How does seeing Jesus clearly help us to be humble? What can we do to help ourselves see Jesus for who he truly is, and live accordingly?
- 3) As a group, share 20 things you're thankful for to God today. Was it easy or hard to come up with that many things? How does thankfulness help us to be more content, and less tempted to bitterness or jealousy?
- 4) Ambition, like many other desires or character traits, can be good or bad. Give examples of each. How can you use your ambition to make Jesus first?
- 5) "True, lasting, joy is found in pleasing God." Why is that true? How can we use this to fight temptation? How do we increase our joy in pleasing God?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

- 1) What is something you identified in your life where you're still seeking your own increase instead of Jesus's? What are you going to do about it?
- 2) What sorts of things do you have a tendency to make you bitter, discontent, or jealous? Why does it seem difficult to make Jesus first in these areas?

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- That Jesus would increase and we would decrease (v30)
- For content hearts with the role and ministry God has given each of us.
- Contentment and joy only found in faithfulness and pleasing God.

