



25 Feb 2024

John 3.22–36 – Belonging

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see.

Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. Who are the people, groups and communities that you in some sense 'belong' to?
2. In v29 John the Baptist makes this profound statement: "The bride belongs to the bridegroom." In this analogy, the bride is the church and the bridegroom is Jesus. To what extent has and does your *belonging to Jesus* shape the way you think of what it means to be a Christian?
3. What comfort, assurance and security is there in recognising that we belong to Jesus, as a bride belongs to her bridegroom?
4. What does it look like, in practical terms, for us to be a 'loyal bride' as we await our 'wedding day'?
5. How does the picture of the bride running off with the best man help you understand (1) what idolatry is and (2) why it's such a scandal?
6. In vv22-26 there's some friction due to Jesus' ministry detracting from the following of John the Baptist. Read vv27-30. How is the way John the Baptist views himself an example and model for us?
7. How would following John's example work itself out in your life? In the way you serve? In what you hope for when you serve? In how you respond to praise?
8. Read v36. Not everyone belongs to Jesus. What might it look like for you to take your 'next step of boldness' in sharing the joy of belonging to Jesus with those you know and love?

Respond to God's word in prayer

Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met

Take some time to pray for each other