



**Week 1: May 12-18**

**Introduce Guests/Share Life:** *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

**Open in Prayer:** *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

**Recall the Guidelines:** *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

**Share the Vision:** *Our goal in group is to form real-life relationships, relationships where we can be totally honest with others & they are totally honest with us. That starts by sharing transparently & listening well.*

**Hook Question:** Can you share about a time when you have been jealous or envious of someone else?

**Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

Imagine this scene... No prophet from God had spoken in Israel for about 400 years (to give perspective, America is only 243 years old). It seemed God had gone silent. There was confusion. There were false prophets claiming to be from God – but their words failed. No one knew what was coming next. But God had not forgotten His people.

Then suddenly, at just the right time in history, God moved in power. The miraculous birth of Jesus is announced. An angel speaks to Mary about a miraculous conception. A host of angels appear to shepherds on a hillside. A long-awaited star is born, and wise men from the East follow the star and arrive on the scene. A new era in God’s redemptive plan of salvation for mankind had arrived. And among it all there is a star witness, a voice crying out in the wilderness, declaring, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make His path straight!” This prophetic voice, the voice prophesied in the Scriptures, is none other than John the Baptist.

Jesus said that among women, no one had ever been born who was greater than John the Baptist! What a claim! Greater than Abraham. Greater than Moses. Greater than David. John the Baptist was God’s star witness to the arrival of Jesus Christ, God in human flesh. John was the last prophet of what we know as the Old Testament period. When he arrived on the scene, John preached and baptized with power; but he always spoke of someone who would come after him, who was greater than him – that person was Jesus.

John gathered a strong following of his own disciples through his baptizing and preaching. However, John held those disciples with an open hand. They had loyalty to John, but John knew that their loyalty would need to change. They needed to become disciples of Jesus. With this in mind, our story begins...

**Tell the story from John 3:22-30:** *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God’s Word.*

**Rebuild the story:** *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

**Read the WHOLE story from John 3:22-36:** *Ask the group to read these verses.*

**Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God’s Word with others...**

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| <p>Head<br/>Questions:<br/>Quicker<br/>tempo.</p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you feel about John’s reply to his disciples? What does it say about John as a man?</li> <li>• What do you like or dislike about this story?</li> <li>• What does this story teach us about people? (We are people. Find an “I” statement in your answer.)</li> <li>• What does this story teach us about God?</li> </ul> |
| <p>Heart &amp; Hand<br/>Questions:<br/>Slow down &amp;<br/>wait!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?</li> <li>• Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?</li> </ul>  |

**Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.  
Close in prayer.**

20min

2min

5min

4min

10min