

Don't Hate! Celebrate!

Share a story about a time when you celebrated the success of a friend.

Read John 3:22-36.

1. What were Jesus and John doing in Judea before John's imprisonment?
 - A. Playing tag football.
 - B. Enjoying some time together at the beach.
 - C. They were both in Aenon remembering childhood stories.
 - D. Baptizing people (John 3:22-23).
 - E. Trying to have secret meetings with their followers.
 - F. Preaching the word near Salim.
 - G. Sharing strategies about how to avoid the Romans.
 - H. Arguing about who would have the biggest crowd of followers.
 - I. Jesus was prophesying that John would be jailed.
 - J. Other.

2. What were John's followers complaining about?
 - A. That Jesus was drawing people from their crowd (John 3:26).
 - B. They were arguing about purification (John 3:25).
 - C. They had just caught a man stealing, and Jesus was present.
 - D. The fuss was about Jesus being God, while baptizing people.
 - E. Jesus was giving some instructions that John's people hated.
 - F. John's crowd hated Jesus' crowd.
 - G. There was a rumor spreading about Jesus, and John started it.
 - H. John did not want to see Jesus' success.
 - I. Other.

3. What was John's answer?
 - A. We all should revolt because Jesus is taking my disciples.
 - B. A man can receive nothing unless it is given from heaven (John 3:27).
 - C. I am not the Christ. You have all heard me say that (John 3:28).
 - D. We need to strategize to rebuild our own crowd.
 - E. I am only the forerunner of Christ (John 3:28).
 - F. Jesus is not fair; He is a hater.
 - G. I must have a conversation with Jesus about the size of His crowd.
 - H. We had better pray for power to do the same things.
 - I. Other.

4. What was the meaning of John's bride and bridegroom response?
 - A. John wants to get married, and Jesus will perform the wedding.
 - B. Jesus has a secret bride, and everyone will find out.
 - C. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom (John 3:29).
 - D. The friend of the bridegroom exults because of the wedding (John 3:29).
 - E. John is happy for Jesus' success in ministry (John 3:29).
 - F. Friends should be happy when others succeed.
 - G. People are jealous because Jesus is getting married soon.
 - H. Other.

5. Why did John say, "He must increase, and I must decrease"?
 - A. He wanted Jesus to eat more food to gain weight.
 - B. He meant Jesus is higher than he is.
 - C. Jesus is greater from heaven and he is lesser from earth (John 3:31).
 - D. Jesus needed a bigger crowd because He was the bigger celebrity.
 - E. John had lower self-esteem than Jesus.
 - F. The people obviously loved Jesus more than John.
 - G. Jesus' ministry would surpass the ministry of John.
 - H. Other.

6. Why was John frustrated that people would not receive Jesus' testimony?
 - A. John was upset because Jesus was life and people chose death.
 - B. He was very concerned that only some would accept Jesus' teaching.
 - C. God's Spirit was on Jesus, and he wanted others to believe (John 3:34).
 - D. John didn't like the people who were hating Jesus.
 - E. Because they pretended to be for Jesus but were against Him.
 - F. They were following the hypocrites among the priests.
 - G. The people went to church but did not recognize Jesus as God.
 - H. The people were mocking Jesus as he taught them.
 - I. Other.

7. What makes it easy to celebrate others, and what makes it hard?

8. If Jesus reviews your life now, will He say that you have life or death? Why or why not?