

Oct. 29/30
take home

LIVECHRIST

LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. ~ John 20:31*

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Text: John 3:22-36

Key Verse: *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” ~ John 3:30*

Biblical Background: John the Baptist was clear from the beginning that he was the forerunner, not the Messiah. Just as the best man (who attends to the bridegroom) at a wedding rejoices in the marriage of the bridegroom, so John the Baptist rejoices in the achievement of his mission to point people to Jesus. The movement of God in history indicates that Jesus must increase and John must fade into the background. It is the same for us, who follow Jesus – our testimony and lives are not meant to bring us glory but to bring Jesus glory.

Sermon Reflections

Text Messages

for personal and small group reflection

John the Baptist pointed the way to Jesus. Has someone been “John the Baptist” for you?

John “testified” on behalf of Jesus. When do you have the opportunity to testify or be a witness for Jesus?

Who do you compare yourself to? How does it hurt you?

In regards to Jesus—how are you like the shospen, the friend of the groom?

John the Baptist sums up this section saying: He must increase, but I must decrease. What does that mean for you?

What words describe John the Baptist’s attitude toward Jesus? Do those words describe you?

Faith Spark

What are the things in your life you hold on to that prevent your relationship with Jesus from being all it could be? What steps could you take to let go of them? Add the steps to whatever system you use for reminders (to-do list, calendar, Outlook task list, etc.).

To read for next week: John 4:1-42

Read the text. As you read, jot down any questions or comments you have.

What do you wonder about? What catches your eye? What effect do these words have on you personally?