

That you would believe

**The Characters** (John 3:22-25): Jesus & His disciples, John the Baptist & his disciples, those getting baptized

**The Conflict** (John 3:26): More people going to Jesus than John (& his disciples)

- “Their conflict” is also our internal conflict. We often seek to find our significance, security, and success in how people relate to us.

**The Choice** (John 3:27-30): Who will be the focus of my life?

- Comparison is dangerous. It either makes you feel superior or inferior. Neither honor God.
- Contentment comes from knowing that God is the giver of everything anyone has.
- Clarity on who God has designed you to be brings focus to the purpose of your life.

**The Calling** (John 3:29): To listen to the voice of Jesus

- Question for reflection: Is it my joy to listen to the voice of Jesus and do what He says?
- When I pray, do I stop to listen to the voice of Jesus?
- When I study the Bible, do I bring *my* preconceived ideas or do I search for God's perspective?

**The Categories** (John 3:31-36; John 5:25): Us vs. Jesus; Life vs. Death

- Us = Human perspective & power vs. Jesus = Heavenly perspective & power
- Life = Believing in Jesus vs. Death = Rejecting Jesus

How do we know if we are pursuing a life of belief? He > I

\*February spiritual practice & memory verse can be found on the church App

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**Pray:** Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

- How have you experienced God working in your life lately?
- Who has been working on the spiritual practice of prayer this month?
- Who has been working on memorizing the verse for this month?
- Tell us about how that is impacting your daily walk with Jesus.

Looking up:

Read John 3:22-36, have someone summarize this story in their own words.

What stood out to you about the sermon? What was helpful? Confusing? Inspiring?

Where & how do you currently experience the pull toward self-focus in your life? What pride, insecurities, or needs from others does this reveal in you?

Where are you currently experiencing the tension of choosing HE > I vs. I > He?

What does listening to the voice of Jesus look like in your life lately? How actively do you pursue listening?

Looking forward:

Looking over the Lent preparation questions, do you know what you will be surrendering for Lent this year? Why did you choose that and how do you hope it will train you to draw more from God's strength?

**Pray:** Spend time praying together and for one another based on what is shared.

February's Memory Verse & Spiritual Practice: \*See the church App