

John 3:25

In this lesson John the Baptist is teaching his students about Jesus the Christ. John the Baptist was very famous at that time. (See [Luke 7:24-29](#).)

(1)

Think about [John 3:25-31](#).

... John's disciples ... came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He (Jesus) who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' ... He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all."

- John was told that he was losing followers and Jesus was gaining them. How did John explain this?
 - How did John describe himself?
 - Why do you think John said, "I must decrease"?
 - Why did John say Jesus must increase?
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(2)

Think about [John 3:31-32](#).

He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard ...

- John describes two different kinds of people based on where each is from. What are the two kinds of people he speaks of? Which group is Jesus in? Who is in the other group?
 - How are the words of each kind of person different?
 - What do you think John means saying: "*He who is of the earth belongs to the earth*"?
Consider [Genesis 3:19](#). (God said to Adam) "*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*"
 - Why do you think he who comes from heaven is superior to all?
Consider [John 1:1, 14](#). *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, ...*
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(3)

Think about [John 3:32-33](#).

He (Jesus) bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

Note: Pontus Pilot The Roman Governor set his seal to the tomb of Jesus so no one would steal the body. To set your seal to something is to put your stamp on it, identifying it as belonging to you, and saying no one else may change it. [Matthew 27:65-66](#)

- What are the two different ways people act in response to the words of Jesus?
- For those who believe Jesus' words, what then do they do?

(4)

Think about [John 3:34](#).

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

- What is true of the one whom God has sent?
- Why is this true? (See John 3:34 quoted above.)
Also consider [John 14:10](#). (Jesus said to Philip) *"Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works."*

(5)

Think about [John 3:35-36](#).

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- What has God given Jesus the power to control?
- Who **has** eternal life?
- Who **has** the wrath of God?
- What command has the Son given humans to obey?

Consider [Mark 1:14-15](#). *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*