

Study Guide for Use With Your Family

1. Recap what you thought were the main points of the passage.
2. Children are natural “boasters”. They want to be in the spot light. Describe to your children why John the Baptist wanted to “boast” about Jesus rather than himself. Work through the next three questions with them, asking them, “Should this make you want to boast in Jesus or yourself?” At the end encourage your children with the joy that is to be found in exalting Jesus.
 1. Why is Jesus more mighty than everyone else? What does it mean that John thought he wasn't important enough to untie Jesus' sandals?
 2. Jesus is the only one who gives the Holy Spirit to people when they are converted. Why is this so important? Why does this make Jesus so great?
 3. Jesus is the judge. Why are judges important? If Jesus is a judge, why does it make him so important?
3. Luke also records the other two members of the Trinity's response to Jesus. Children will grow in their understanding of the Trinity but it's never too early to talk about our God—the 1-in-3. Ask them about what they think the members of the Trinity think about one another. Show them that this passage is an illustration of how much the Holy Spirit and the Father think of Jesus, the Son. Introduce your children to the concept that God loves *himself* most.
4. Close your time by encouraging your children that Christians get to “enter into” the love of God.
5. Remind your children that Jesus' shows his desire for them to be with God through his death and resurrection.

Study Questions for Groups

1. Recap what you think were the main points of the passage.
2. John—being questioned by the people—clearly states that he isn't the Christ. He goes on to say why the Christ will be so much better than John and his ministry. Work through John's three reasons together as a group.
 1. Jesus is mightier. Why is John's comments about Jesus' sandals so humbling?
 2. Jesus has a better baptism. What is so special about the Holy Spirit and Jesus' ability to baptize with the Holy Spirit?
 3. Jesus is the judge. Why do people downplay the biblical theme of Jesus judging the world? Why does John include the winnowing fork illustration? Can you have a gospel without judgment? Why or why not?
3. Luke then records the Holy Spirit and Father's response to Jesus, the Son. Work through their responses together as a group.
 1. Think for a moment about Jesus' prayer life. What does that say about Jesus' relationship to the other two members of the Trinity? What does this say about prayer?
 2. The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus. What does this mean in light of Luke 4:18 and Acts 10:36-38?
 3. The Father speaks words of approval on his Son. What implications does this have for our salvation through/in Christ? Is God's favor for the Christian different than his favor for his Son?
4. What are some implications of this passage for your particular life?