

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: January 20, 2021**  
**Fulfilled – John 3:22-4:3**

1. Why did Jesus and his disciples go out to the countryside, according to verse 22?
  - a. They probably need some R&R in the country.
  - b. They went out so that Jesus could spend some time with his disciples.
  - c. Jesus baptized while they were out there, so it seems that there were those who were making commitments to follow Him while they were there.
  
2. Do you think that these sorts of times are important for disciples of Jesus today?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What, according to verse 23, was John doing at this time? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What argument developed between John’s disciples and one of the Jews, according to verse 26?
  - a. I don’t really know.
  - b. It seems that one of the Jews was trying to determine the similarities and differences between John’s baptism and the ceremonial washing of the Jews.
  - c. Well, given the discussion that came out of it in the following verses, the concern may have been about who has authority to baptize and perform ceremonial washings or why some may have received such a baptism from John and then received a baptism from Jesus.
  - d. It is really hard to say but, in the end, whatever the challenge they were bringing about ceremonial washings, the end result was to try to turn John against Jesus by appealing to his ego about how many followers were turning to Jesus and his baptism.
  
5. Do people in our lives deceptively use petty arguments about other issues to try to lure us into bitterness and anger (appealing to our own selfishness and ego)? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What was John’s response to the baptism that Jesus was practicing?
  - a. He told everybody why his own baptism was better.
  - b. He told them that each person can only do what God has called them to.
  - c. He again affirmed that he was not the Messiah, but that Jesus was.
  - d. He recognized his need to become less.
  
7. According to 4:1-2, was Jesus really baptizing more than John? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Explain.
  
8. Is there a similarity between what Jesus was doing and the attitude with which John handled these things?
  - a. No, Jesus had the authority to do whatever he wanted. Even John affirmed it. He was different.
  - b. Well, John deferred to Jesus and refused to defend his own ministry and baptism. Jesus, it is pointed out, didn’t even baptize himself, but used his authority to “ordain” others to do the ministry. This is similarly selfless and deferential.
  
9. Do you think there are elements of this that we could/should incorporate into our own lives? Can we combine these thoughts to find a principle to apply to our ministry/life/leadership? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
How is this different than the “certain Jew” who came to argue about the law and turn John & Jesus against each other? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you think applying this principle in our life might keep us from falling in traps with our ego and make us more like Jesus than that certain Jew? \_\_\_\_\_