



# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

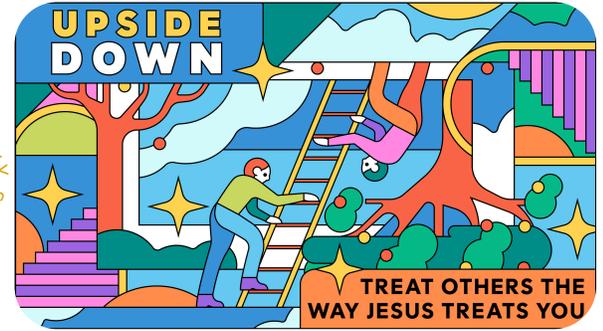
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

### Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.

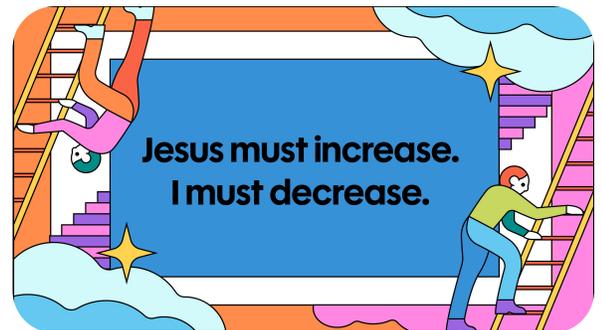


## Bible Story

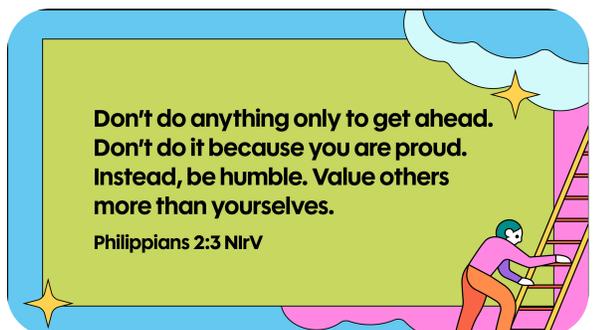
John the Baptist Is a Witness About Jesus

John 3:22-36

## Bottom Line



## Monthly Memory Verse



# Greeting & Prayer



## What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

## ① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that “the whole world” means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

## ② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

# Jesus Is #1

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- "Foam Finger" Activity Page
- Coloring Supplies
- Stickers
- Clear tape



## What You Do:

- Review the story: Remind the kids that John the Baptist told everyone that his job was to get the people ready for Jesus. He knew Jesus was the most important one!
- Give each kid a cutout and a strip from the "Foam Finger" Activity Page and let them use crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate it.
- Help kids roll their strip up (that says [Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.) and tape it to the back of their foam finger.
- Tell the kids their foam finger shows that Jesus is number one! Help them practice holding it up and cheering, "Jesus is number one!"

## What You Say:

"These are so fun, and they look amazing! John the Baptist wanted everyone to cheer for Jesus. He knew that his job was to bring less attention to his life so Jesus could get more attention. John's followers were worried, but John set them straight. He told them, 'I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him' (John 3:28 NIV). John knew Jesus was the Rescuer, God's Son, the Savior of the whole wide world! John wasn't sad; he was filled with joy, like a friend at a wedding cheering for the groom! He taught us that **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** Let's all use these foam fingers and cheer for Jesus! Jesus is number one!"

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

# Jesus at the Top



## What You Need

- “Jesus at the Top” Activity Page printed on Avery labels
- A stack of plastic cups for each group, including a prepared cup with the Jesus label on it

## What You Do:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair a stack of plastic cups, including one cup with a sticker of Jesus on it.
- Challenge the pairs to work together to build the tallest tower they can.
- Once they've built their tower, instruct them to carefully place the cup with the picture of Jesus right at the very top.
- Walk around and admire their towers, pointing out how Jesus is at the top of every one.
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## What You Say:

“Wow! Great building! You all put Jesus right at the top of your towers! That’s exactly what John the Baptist was teaching his friends. John said that Jesus is ‘from above’ (John 3:31 NIV) and is ‘above everything’ (John 3:31 NIV). Putting Jesus at the top shows what John the Baptist meant. No one else is more important for people to know or see than Jesus. Jesus offers to be each person’s Savior, their Rescuer forever, and their eternal Friend.

“So make a big deal of Jesus in your life. Try to point to Jesus in everything you do. People will see His love when you are kind and helpful. People will see His forgiveness when you forgive. People will see His justice when you’re fair. When we remember that Jesus is the most important and put Him first, we are showing that [Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.”

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

# Pray and Dismiss



## What You Say

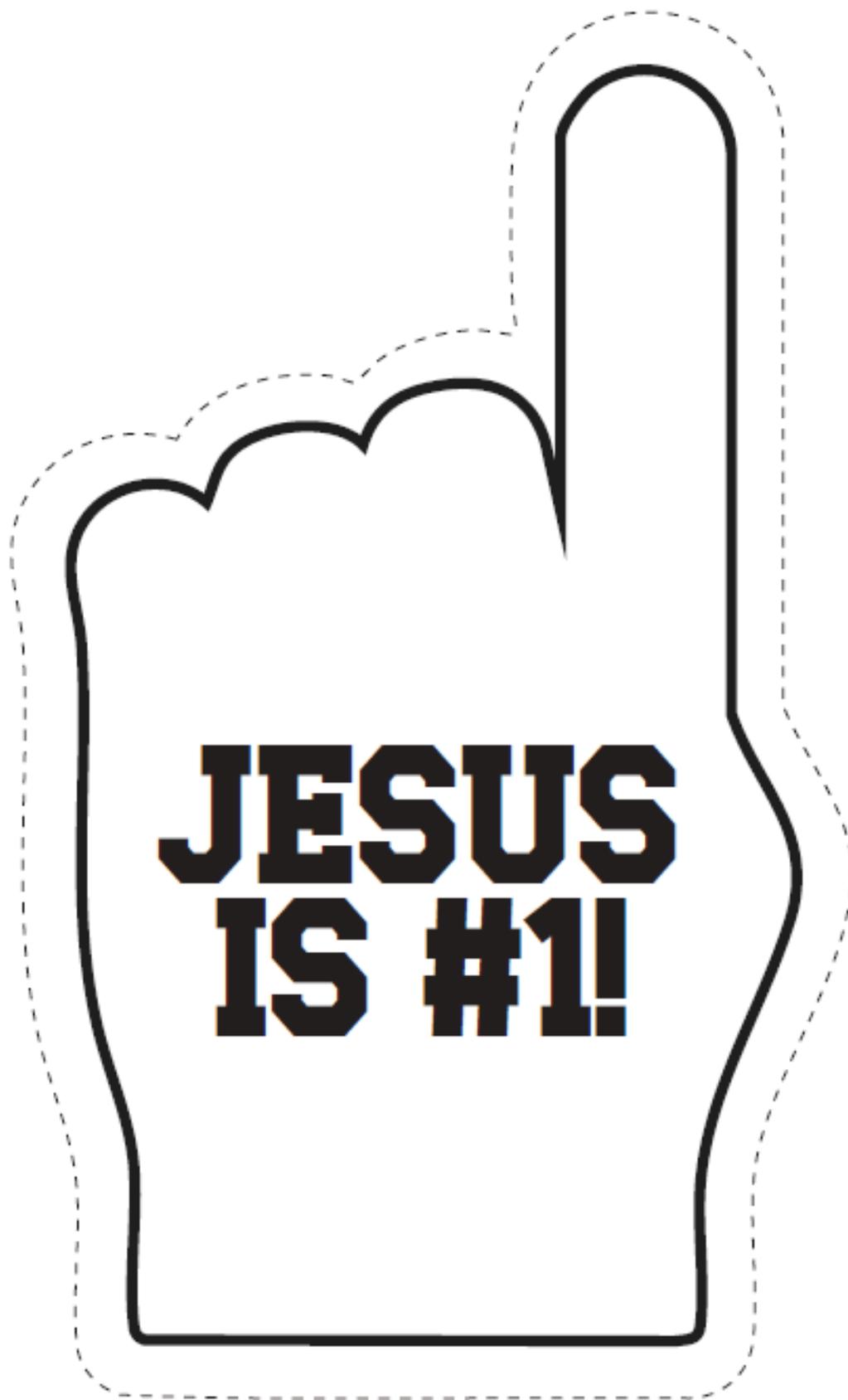
“Dear God, thank You for our families and friends. Most of all, thank You for Jesus, who came from above to save us. Help us to be like John the Baptist and have joy when we point others to You. Help us to remember that [Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



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**JESUS MUST INCREASE. I MUST DECREASE.**

