



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

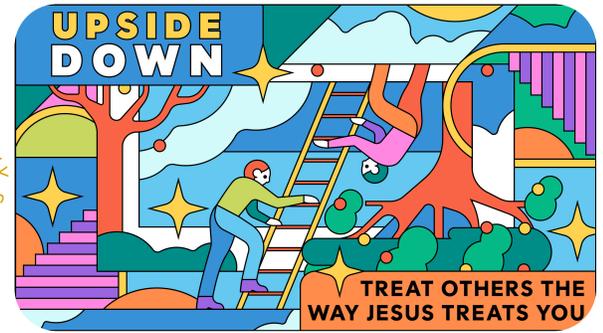
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

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.

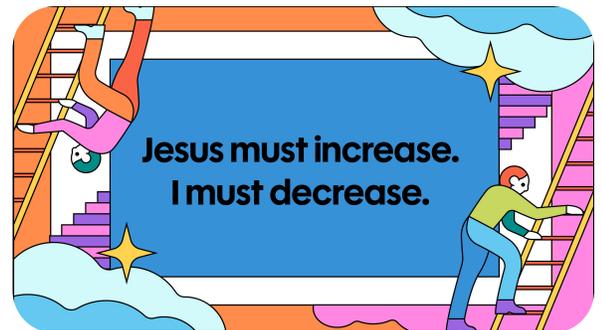


Bible Story

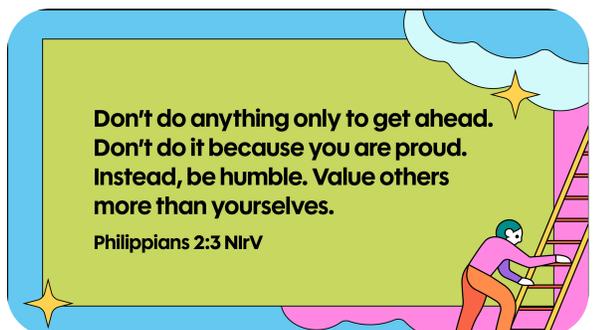
John the Baptist Is a Witness About Jesus

John 3:22-36

Bottom Line



Monthly Memory Verse



K1 | W1

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

Bible Story Ring Toss



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- “Bible Story Questions” Activity Page
- “Yes and No Images” Activity Page
- Markers
- Safety cones
- Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

What You Do:

- Place the cones (with the “Yes” image on one, and the “No” image on the other) about three feet apart.
- Create a line a few feet away from the cones using floor tape that the kids will stand behind to toss their ring.
- Give each kid a ring to decorate.
- One at a time, read one question from the “Bible Story Questions” Activity Page to one kid.
- Encourage the kids to stand behind the tape line and toss their ring onto the “yes” cone if the answer is yes and the “no” cone if the answer is no.
- Once the kid has made their choice, instruct them to collect their ring.
- Continue with a new kid until you’ve read all of the questions on the “Bible Story Questions” Activity Page. (Make sure all of the “Bible Story Questions” are discussed. Some kids will go twice, and that’s okay!)

What You Say:

Great job! You listened well and really know our story! When John the Baptist’s friends saw people following Jesus, they complained. But John the Baptist wasn’t upset at all! He was filled with joy! He was so happy because he knew that Jesus was the most important! John the Baptist wanted people to follow Jesus and celebrate Jesus.

“Have you ever been to a wedding? John the Baptist said he was like the friend of a groom. The groom is the man getting married at a wedding. And at this time, a close friend of the groom would arrange everything and get everyone ready for the wedding. So John was saying that he was like the friend getting everyone ready for Jesus. That’s why he was filled with joy when Jesus showed up! John the Baptist’s whole job was to get people ready for Jesus. That’s why he believed [Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.”

ACTIVITY TWO

Memory Verse Motions

What You Need

- Bible marked at Philippians 2:3
- "Verse Motions" Activity Page



What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Explain that you're going to teach motions to help us learn our new Memory Verse.
- Using the "Verse Motions" Activity Page, teach the verse and motions one line at a time.
- Don't do anything only to get ahead. (Shake head "no" and run in place.)
- Don't do it because you are proud. (Puff out your chest.)
- Instead, be humble. (Crouch down low.)
- Value others more than yourselves. (Point to friends around you.)
- Philippians 2:3 (Open hands like a book.)
- Practice the full verse with motions together several times.

What You Say:

"Awesome job learning the motions to our brand-new verse. This verse is all about humility, which means to put others first. That's just like what happened in today's Bible Story with John the Baptist and Jesus. John didn't want it to be a popularity contest; he wanted to point everyone to Jesus, God's Son. Jesus was the Rescuer of the whole wide world! John knew 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 sending Jesus. Help us to be like John the Baptist and be filled with joy when we point people to Jesus. Help us remember to put others first. 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.



Activity Pages

K-1

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.

Did Jesus choose 12 helpers to travel with Him?
(Yes)

Did Jesus and His followers go to Jerusalem?
(Yes)

Did they go there to celebrate Christmas?
(No)

Did Jesus and His helpers spend time in the countryside of Judea?
(Yes)

Was John the Baptist Jesus's cousin?
(Yes)

Did God say that Jesus was His Son?
(Yes)

Did God speak from Heaven when Jesus was baptized?
(Yes)

Did Jesus and His helpers spend time in the countryside of Judea?
(Yes)

Did John baptize people as a sign they were turning away from bad choices?
(Yes)

Were John's friends happy that many people were going to Jesus?
(No)

Did John's friends think they were winning a popularity contest?
(Yes)

Is "Rabbi" another name for a teacher?
(Yes)

Did John say that Jesus is like the groom at a wedding?
(Yes)

Was John's job to be the friend who helps the groom get ready?
(Yes)

Was John filled with sadness when he heard the groom's voice?
(No)

Did John say that Jesus must become more important?
(Yes)

Did John say that he must become less important?
(Yes)

Does "I must decrease" mean you are not valuable to God?
(No)

Does focusing less on yourself help you worry more?
(No)

Does everyone who believes in Jesus get to have eternal life?
(Yes)



What to Do:
Print on cardstock. One set for each Small Group.
(Page 1 of 2)

“Yes and No Images” Activity Page
March 2026, Week 1, Small Group K-1
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What to Do:
Print on cardstock. One set for each Small Group.
(Page 2 of 2)

“Yes and No Images” Activity Page
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Don't do anything



only to get ahead.



Don't do it because
you are proud.



Instead, be humble.



Value others more
than yourselves.



Philippians 2:3 NIV