

K-3rd

Large Group

March — Week 1

# Large Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

**Kids arrival** : 9:25 / 11:10

Play high-pitch music as kids arrive

**Countdown** : 9:30 / 11:15

Start the countdown with excitement!

**Large Group** : 9:30-9:55 / 11:15-11:40

- Opener
- Bible Story
- Talk It Out!
- Memory Verse
- Prayer

**Transition to Small group** : 9:55-10:00  
/11:40-11:45

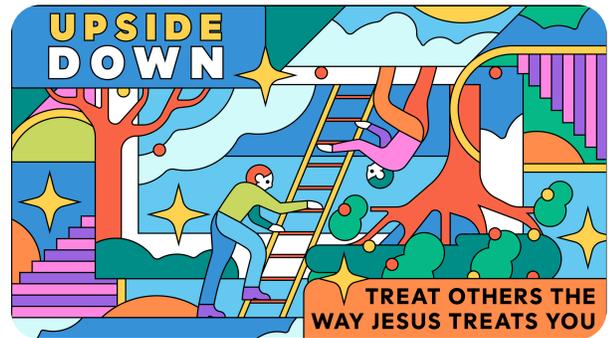
Kids move with their leader to small groups

**Small group** : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Creating a safe place to connect.

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



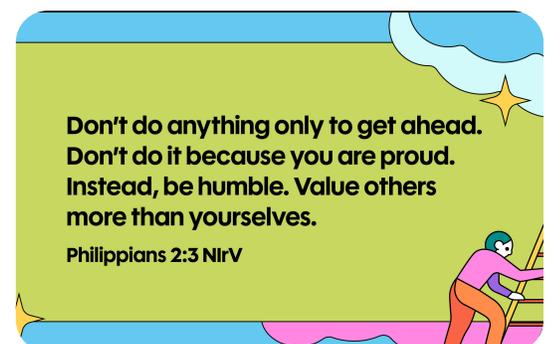
Today's Bible Story

## John Baptist Is a Witness About Jesus John 3:22-36

Bottom Line



Memory Verse



10 MINUTES

# OPENER

## ① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.  
SLIDE → Theme

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown  
Optional Video → Theme Intro

“Hey, Kidz Rock! We’re starting a new series called Upside Down! That means learning to live the way Jesus does—treating others the way He treats us. The world says, ‘Be first! Be the best!’ but Jesus says, ‘Put others first.’ That’s what we’ll be learning about this month—and we’ll even play a fun game to practice it!”

SLIDE → Game\_Cup Up Cup Down Title

“Alright, friends! If you want to play our game, I need six volunteers! Raise your hand if you want to play!”

*Choose six kids and invite them to the stage. Divide them into two teams of three.*

“Here’s how the game works: when the timer starts, you’ll have one minute to flip as many cups as you can your team’s way. **Team 1 is Cup Up**—you want all the cups facing up. **Team 2 is Cup Down**—you want all the cups upside down. When the music stops, we’ll see who has more cups their way.

“Ready? 3... 2... 1... GO!”

*Start the timer and encourage the kids as they play.*

Optional Video → Countdown\_60 Seconds

10 MINUTES

# OPENER

*“Team Cup Up, keep going! Team Cup Down, you’re catching up! Who’s going to win?”*

*After the timer:*

*“Freeze! Let’s count the cups... and the winner is... Team \_\_\_\_!  
Great job, everyone!”*

*Reset cups if you want to play another round.*

*“Wow! You all flipped those cups so fast! You had to pay attention and think quickly. That was a lot of upside-down thinking!”*

*“And that’s just like what we’re learning today. The world often says, ‘Make it all about YOU!’ But Jesus shows us a different, upside-down way. He says we should think about others first, be humble, and make Him the most important.*

*“And that’s what we see in the story of John the Baptist. John was super popular, but he didn’t try to get all the attention. He knew that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease.*

*Let’s dive into today’s Bible Story!*

10 MINUTES

# Story

## ③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W1

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “When John’s friends were worried about losing attention, John reminded them that everything he had came from God. He found joy in pointing others to Jesus. And he knew that Jesus, not him, is the One who gives eternal life. “It’s not that the other parts of our lives—friends, sports, school, fun things—disappear. It’s just that Jesus becomes the most important part of everything we do. When He increases, everything else falls into its right place. [Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease. That’s our Bottom Line for today!

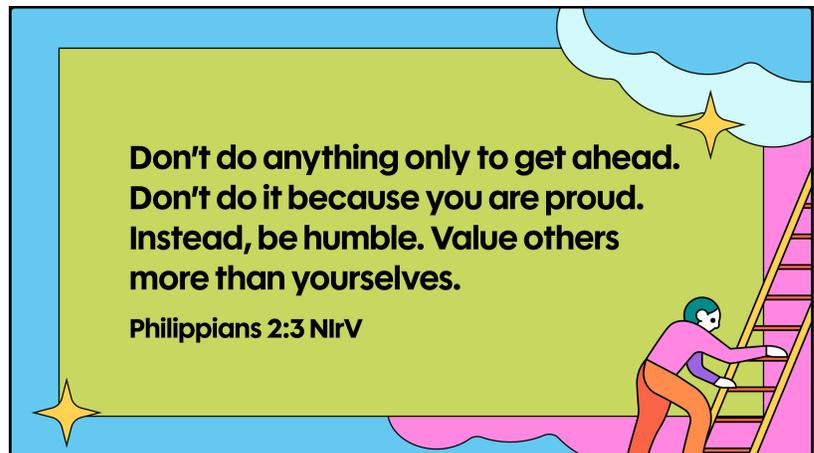
SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Jesus must increase. I must decrease. Say that with me.”

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] “Jesus must increase. I must decrease.”

SLIDE -> Memory Verse



5 MINUTES

# TALK IT OUT



Now, before we move on, I have a question for you... (lean in and whisper) do you know what time it is?

It's time to... (pause, cup your hand to your ear) **TALK IT OUT!**

That means it's your turn to do the talking! You get to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how this story connects to YOUR life.

So, let's put on our 'thinking caps' ... zip up our listening ears... and get ready to Talk. It. Out!"

SLIDE -> Talk It Out

## Talk It Out Questions

**1) Who was baptizing people not too far from Jesus?**

- A) Peter
- B) John the Baptist
- C) Moses

✓ **Answer: B**

**2) What happened when John baptized Jesus?**

- A) It started raining candy
- B) Heaven opened and God spoke
- C) Everyone fell asleep

✓ **Answer: B**

**3) What did God say about Jesus?**

- A) "This is my Son, and I love Him."
- B) "This is my friend."
- C) "This is my teacher."

✓ **Answer: A**

**4) Why were John's followers upset?**

- A) Because John lost his sandals
- B) Because more people were following Jesus
- C) Because the water was cold

✓ **Answer: B**

**5) What did John say should happen?**

- A) "I should become more important."
- B) "Jesus should become more important."
- C) "No one should follow anyone."

✓ **Answer: B**

**5 MINUTES**

# Prayer

## Prayer

“Dear Jesus, we want to live with humility. We want to make more room for You in our hearts and lives every day. When we start to think too much about ourselves, remind us to focus on You. When we want to be first, help us to choose You instead. We want our lives to be an arrow that points to You! Thank You for loving us so much. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.  
AUDIO → Play high-energy music as the kids exit.  
SLIDE → Theme  
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop