

3-6 | March 1

Bible Story: John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

Bottom Line: Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

Monthly Memory Verse: *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 NIRV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Jesus Puzzle" Activity Page
- ☐ *Optional: Floor tape*

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Place the images from the "Jesus Puzzle" Activity Page in a grid of three rows of three pictures.
- As kids arrive, invite them to work together, flipping each piece over and rearranging as needed, to complete the giant picture of Jesus. Tape to secure if desired.

What You Say:

"Look at that! You worked together to put all the pieces into one big picture of Jesus! In the true story from the Bible we are going to learn about today, some of John the Baptist's friends were confused. They could only see a little piece of what was happening and thought it was a popularity contest between John the Baptist and Jesus. **[Transition]** But John the Baptist helped people see the big picture—that Jesus is God's Son, the most important One! Let's go find out more!"

[Lead the children to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Upside Down Craft

What You Need:

- ☐ "Balancing Person" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Paper clips

What You Do:

- Give each kid a cutout from the "Balancing Person" Activity Page to color.
- Help kids attach two paper clips to each hand on their cutout (so four paper clips total).
- Show the kids how to balance their cutout on their fingertips so their person is standing upside down.

What You Say:

“Look at that! Your person is balancing upside down! This is a great picture of what John the Baptist was talking about. He put Jesus first, which feels upside down sometimes. He knew he was to make less and less of himself so more and more could be made of Jesus. John knew that Jesus was God’s Son, who came to offer hope and rescue to everyone who believes in Him. He knew that Jesus was the Rescuer, the Savior, of the whole world! No one will ever be more important than Jesus. So instead of pouting that people were leaving him to follow Jesus, John was filled with joy. That was John’s whole purpose—to point people to Jesus. He knew that **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.**”

3. Jesus at the Top

What You Need:

- ☐ “Jesus at the Top” Activity Page
- ☐ 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. (Feel free to create groups of three if it’s a better fit for your group!)
- 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.

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 NIRV) and is ‘above everything’ (John 3:31 NIRV). 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.**”

4. Pray

“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.”