

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 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 NIV

### Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Bible Story Review: Jesus Is #1

- Coloring supplies
- Clear tape

Application Activity: Jesus at the Top

- Tape Jesus on to one cup for every group you divide into for the day

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### Bible Story Summary

John the Baptist is a Witness about Jesus

Throughout the month, we take a look at humility in the life of Jesus, and in the lives of people He encountered. In Week 1, followers of John the Baptist are up in arms about all the people going to follow Jesus. He's the competition, right? But John the Baptist is secure in his calling—that his whole purpose is to point people to Jesus, rather than to himself. [BOTTOM LINE] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

## 1. Bible Story Review- Jesus Is #1



### What You Need:

- “Foam Finger” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies
- 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 and markers 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!”

## 2. Application Activity- Jesus at the Top

### What You Need:

- “Jesus at the Top” Activity Page printed on paper- tape one to a cup for each group
- A stack of plastic cups (10-12) for each group, including a prepared cup with the Jesus 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 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.”

### 3. Memory Verse Motions

#### What You Need:

- Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***Finding verses for 2-3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.*

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Gather the kids and explain that you'll work together as a group to make up motions for your new Memory Verse.
- Say the verse line by line and invite the kids to share their ideas for simple motions for that part of the verse.
  - *Don't do anything only to get ahead. (Maybe shake head "no" and wiggle fingers forward.)*
  - *Don't do it because you are proud. (Maybe puff out chest.)*
  - *Instead, be humble. (Maybe crouch down low.)*
  - *Value others more than yourselves. (Maybe point to friends.)*
  - *Philippians 2:3 (Open hands like a book.)*
- Use their ideas and practice the whole verse with the motions together.

#### What You Say:

"You came up with the best motions for our Memory Verse! This verse helps us remember to be humble, which means putting others first. John the Baptist showed us humility when he joyfully put Jesus first. That's what we're learning today: **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** Even when John the Baptist's friends were upset that the number of John's followers was getting smaller, and the number of Jesus' followers was getting larger. John put Jesus first because he knew that it was all about Jesus! He knew that **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.**"

#### 4. Pray and Dismiss

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

##### What To Do:

- Lead the group in praying a s'more prayer.

##### What You Say:

“Has anyone made a s'more before? They are ooey gooey and delicious! Let's use a pretend s'more to help us pray. Let's start with a graham cracker and say, 'Dear God, thank You for loving us even when things get hard or messy. Then comes the sweet chocolate. God, thank You for sweet moments and people who bring joy to our days. Next is the ooey, gooey warm marshmallow. God, help us spread Your love to others. Now let's add the other graham cracker on top and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, so we can live forever with God.’”

“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.”