

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: Bible Story Ring Toss

- Markers
- 2 Safety cones- tape the yes picture to one and the no picture to the other
- Floor tape

Application Activity: Upside Down Craft

- Coloring supplies

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Clear tape

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- Bible Story Ring Toss



What You Need:

- “Bible Story Questions” Activity Page- listed on next page so you can read ahead of time
- “Yes and No Images” Activity Page
- Paper plates with centers cut out
- Markers
- Safety cones
- Floor tape

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 or just use plain depending on time.
- 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.**”

<p>Did Jesus choose 12 helpers to travel with Him? (Yes)</p>	<p>Did Jesus and His followers go to Jerusalem? (Yes)</p>
<p>Did they go there to celebrate Christmas? (No)</p>	<p>Did Jesus and His helpers spend time in the countryside of Judea? (Yes)</p>
<p>Was John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin? (Yes)</p>	<p>Did God say that Jesus was His Son? (Yes)</p>
<p>Did God speak from Heaven when Jesus was baptized? (Yes)</p>	<p>Did Jesus and His helpers spend time in the countryside of Judea? (Yes)</p>
<p>Did John baptize people as a sign they were turning away from bad choices? (Yes)</p>	<p>Were John's friends happy that many people were going to Jesus? (No)</p>
<p>Did John's friends think they were winning a popularity contest? (Yes)</p>	<p>Is "Rabbi" another name for a teacher? (Yes)</p>
<p>Did John say that Jesus is like the groom at a wedding? (Yes)</p>	<p>Was John's job to be the friend who helps the groom get ready? (Yes)</p>
<p>Was John filled with sadness when he heard the groom's voice? (No)</p>	<p>Did John say that Jesus must become more important? (Yes)</p>
<p>Did John say that he must become less important? (Yes)</p>	<p>Does "I must decrease" mean you are not valuable to God? (No)</p>
<p>Does focusing less on yourself help you worry more? (No)</p>	<p>Does everyone who believes in Jesus get to have eternal life? (Yes)</p>

2. Application Activity- 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. Memory Verse Motions

What You Need:

- Bibles 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 using the Bible Navigation Tips.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book’s name. When the kids 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 right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- 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.**”



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

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- “Prayer Cube” Activity Page
- Clear tape

What To Do:

- Fold and assemble the cube from the “Prayer Cube” Activity Page and tape the edges together.
- Encourage kids to take turns rolling the cube.
- When the cube lands, read the prayer prompt on the top side. (e.g., “Pray for a family member.” “Pray for a friend.”)
- Lead the group in a short, simple prayer that goes along with what was rolled.
- When you’ve prayed several short prayers, close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“These cubes are a fun way to remember all the different people we can pray for. When we pray for others, we are putting them first, just like John the Baptist put Jesus first. That’s a great way to remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** Let’s pray together one more time.

“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.”