

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.

Conversation Starter: How can I show that Jesus is the most important in my life?

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*

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

LEADER: "What's up, everybody! Welcome to [Name of Environment]! I am *so pumped* to be here because we're starting a brand-new theme called 'Upside Down!'"

"The full title of this theme is 'Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you!'"

"Now, when something's upside down, it's not how you expect it to be, right? Well, this whole month, we're going to talk about how Jesus flipped the way people thought life should work. He showed us what it looks like to treat others the way *He* treats us.

"And spoiler alert, when we start living like Jesus, it's not about *me first* anymore. I know sometimes that is hard to hear ... but Jesus showed us that we actually have the best life when we put God first. That might sound upside down, but it's exactly how Jesus lived.

This month, we're learning that following Jesus means turning things upside down.

"It's not about keeping *me* lifted up ... it's about lifting *Him* up. And by doing that, we start learning to live a lot differently.

"That's what today's story is all about: how John the Baptist realized that Jesus must increase ... and he must decrease.

"That's our Bottom Line for the day! Check it out!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

LEADER: "Let's say it together!"

KIDS AND LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “Jesus must increase. I must decrease.”

LEADER: “Awesome job! Let’s learn more about what that means!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Hey, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here today. Our first song today is called ‘Praise.’ This song reminds us that no matter what is happening around us, God is always worthy of our praise. When we sing, we’re not just saying words; we’re thanking God for who He is and for all He has done. So as we sing, let’s lift our voices and focus on Jesus. Let’s give Him the honor He deserves!”

SONG: “PRAISE”

“That was awesome! When we praise God, it helps us remember that He is greater than anything we face. He is strong, faithful, and always with us.

“Let’s keep that in mind today as we move into the true story from the Bible today. Remember, *[Bottom Line]* **Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** That’s where real freedom begins.

“Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here’s what we can remember today: worship doesn’t stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!”

“This whole month, we’re learning how to live with humility, to think of others the way Jesus does. When we understand how much God loves us, it changes how we treat people and live every single day. This month’s Memory Verse is Philippians 2:3! I’ll read it, and then we can say it together.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: “*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)*”

“Let’s say it together!”

KIDS AND LEADER: “*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)*”

LEADER: “Awesome job, everyone! That verse reminds us that when we choose humility, we choose not to be first in everything, but we choose to be aware of others in our lives instead. Let’s try to memorize this Scripture this whole month!”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: So and So Show

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “So let’s think about what that means for us. **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase, I must decrease.** That doesn’t mean we stop being ourselves or disappear. It means we choose to put Jesus first.

“When you focus on your reputation, what starts happening? It’s easy to start getting anxious and worried all the time. When you focus on your image, it’s easy to get insecure and almost feel like you’re not enough. When you live for your followers on social media apps, you always want more; it’s never enough. When you chase after what fades—like trends, clothes, jokes, the cool groups—you eventually become tired.

“But when you focus on Jesus, you get peace—peace that passes all of your understanding. When you live for Jesus, you already *have* more. Jesus completes you. When you chase after Jesus, you’ll find life that lasts.

“John figured it out. He didn’t have to be the star. He just had to shine his light toward the real one.

“That’s what it means when we say: **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase, I must decrease.**

“So use your whole life as an arrow that points to Jesus. Be kind, like Him. Be fair, like He is. Be compassionate, like He is. You’re not just being kind, you’re being like Jesus. You’re not just being merciful, you’re being like Jesus.

“And then, start talking about Jesus and speak His name whenever you have the chance, so people make the connection between the goodness you’re showing and the Jesus you love. Because this good God who is your friend wants to be their friend too. Over time, you are continually pointing people to Jesus.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “So maybe for you, being humble can start with even some simple things:

- Letting someone else go first.
- Choosing to help instead of trying to look good.
- Talking to God before posting something for attention.

“Every time you do that, you’re saying, ‘Jesus, You increase. I’ll decrease.’ And when we live that way, people don’t just see *us*, they start to see *Him*.

“Let’s remember today’s Bottom Line together.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“Say it with me.

COMMUNICATOR AND KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Jesus must increase. I must decrease.”

“That’s what humility looks like. It’s upside down. And it’s the best way to live.

“With this Bottom Line ... That’s not something you just *hear once* and instantly know how to do. It’s something we *practice*—every day, in little choices.

“So here’s the question I want you to think about, not just right now, but all week:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] “How can I show that Jesus is the most important in my life?”

“Think about that. When you go to school, or hang out with friends, or scroll through your phone, what does it look like to make *Jesus* the most important?”

“Maybe it’s letting someone else get the credit. Maybe it’s giving up time to help instead of competing. Maybe it’s choosing what’s right even when nobody else is watching. There are so many ways.

“But here’s the thing, when Jesus becomes more important in your life, it changes *how you see everything*.

“That’s what I want you to talk about later in your group. Be honest. Be real. And don’t be afraid to ask questions.

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s pray together.

“God, we love You. We want to walk in real humility. Help us stop trying to make ourselves the most important person in the story. Teach us to live upside down, to let You increase while we decrease. When we’re tempted to make life about ourselves, remind us to lift You higher instead. And through our lives, let others see who You are. We love You, and we want more of You, Jesus. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme