



## WEEK ONE– MARCH 2026 – SECOND/THIRD

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

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus must increase. I must decrease.*

**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)*

**Conversation Starter:** *How can I show others that Jesus is better?*

**Application:** *Humility: Putting others first by giving up what you want*

### Series Overview:

Since Jesus instructs us to live in a way that's opposite of culture, this month's theme is "Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you." Fun upside-down visuals are a great reminder that the way we're called to live and serve with humility may "feel" upside down. But in reality, it's right side up!

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**8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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### Connection Centers

*Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders*

**What You Need:** Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

**What You Do:**

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time and for the kids that show up each week! Pray over their time here and the lessons they learn, relationships they build.*
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
  - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
    - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
  - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
  - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these:
    - *What's something kind someone did for you that you didn't expect?*
    - *What do you think humility is?*
    - *If kindness was a superpower, how would you use it at school or home?*
    - *Would you rather be known for being really strong OR really kind? Why?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
    - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
  - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

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**9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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## OPENING ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** Jesus Puzzle Pages; Puzzle Answer Page

**What You Do:**

- Place the images from the “Jesus Puzzle” Activity Page in a grid of three rows of three pictures.
- Invite kids 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!”**

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

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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.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP**

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## JESUS IS #1

### [Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

**What You Need:** Foam Finger Activity Page; coloring supplies; stickers; 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, markers, and stickers 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!”

## MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS

### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**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.**”

## **PRAYER TIME**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Lead the group in 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.”