



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2026 – KINDER/FIRST

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!

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

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 silly or surprising you've seen someone do to be kind? (Sharing, helping, cheering someone up)*
 - *Would you rather help someone clean up OR let them go first in line? Why?*
 - *What's something that makes you feel really cared for?*
 - *If being kind had a sound or action, what would it be? (Thumbs up, hug motion, smile, cheer)*
- *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

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

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!”**

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

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.

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

BIBLE STORY TOSS

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: "Bible Story Questions" Cards; "Yes or No " Activity pages; Bean Bags; Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Place the "Yes" and the "No" signs on the floor about three feet apart.
- Create a line a few feet away from the sign using floor tape that the kids will stand behind to toss the bean bag or just have kids line up a few feet away.
- One at a time, pull a card and ask the first kid in line one Bible story questions.
- Encourage the kids to toss the bean bag onto the "yes" if the answer is yes and the "no" if the answer is no.
- Once the kid has made their choice, instruct them to collect the bean bag and give it to the next kid in line.
- Continue until you've read all of the questions and everyone has had a turn.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

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.**"

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; “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.**”

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids in your group to pray if they’d like to!
- Close in prayer for the group.

What You Say:

“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.”