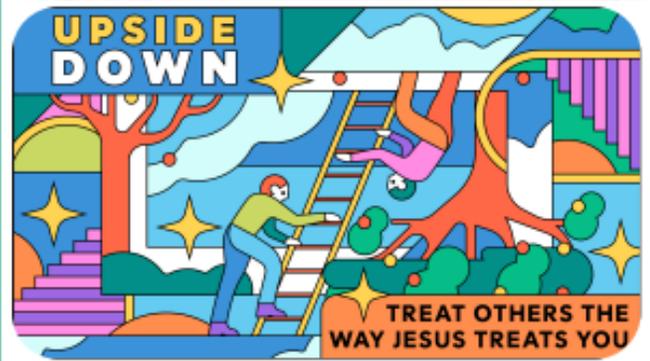




LOWER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 1- STARTER



Activity Name: Jesus Puzzle

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.
- As kids arrive, invite them 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. 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!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 1- SMALL GROUP

Discussion Questions:

- John’s followers were upset that people were leaving him to follow Jesus, but John was joyful. Why do you think John wasn’t jealous or upset—and what can that teach you about humility?
- John said, “He must become more important. I must become less important” (John 3:30 NIV). What do you think that means in your own life? How could you live in a way that points people to Jesus instead of to yourself?
- It can be easy to want attention, popularity, or praise. How can focusing on Jesus first help you deal with those feelings when they show up?
- John’s joy came from seeing Jesus’ work grow, even if his own influence shrank. When have you found joy in helping someone else succeed—or letting someone else shine?
- The story says that when we focus on Jesus more than ourselves, we find peace and hope. How might your thoughts, choices, or worries look different if you really believed that Jesus is bigger than any problem you face?



Bible Story

John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus •
John 3:22-36

Conversation Starter

How can I show others that Jesus is better?

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

Activity Name: Bible Story Bean Bag Toss

What You Need: Yes and No activity pages Bible question cards Bean bag
 masking tape (optional)

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.**

KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP