

March K-1 | W1

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*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

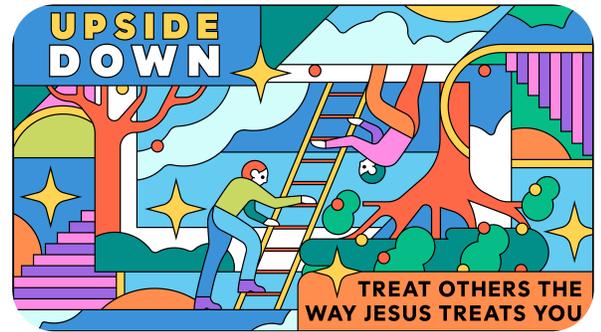
Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

- Bible Story Review: Jesus Is #1
- Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions
- Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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*

5 min

Social

5 min

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Print "Jesus Puzzle" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group	1
 Optional: Floor tape, enough for each Small Group	1

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- 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. **[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!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Jesus Is #1 | Made to Create

What You Need

 "Foam Finger" Activity Page	0
 Coloring supplies	Several
 Stickers	Several
 Clear tape	1

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.**

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Memory Verse Motions | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3 0
-  "Verse Motions" Activity Page 1

I must decrease. Let's all use these foam fingers and cheer for Jesus! Jesus is number one!"

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

5 min

Prayer

5 min

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  "Prayer Cube" Activity Page 0
-  Clear tape 1

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.**"

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."

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Offering container | 1 |
| 2. | Print "Jesus Puzzle" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group | 1 |
| 3. | Optional: Floor tape, enough for each Small Group | 1 |

Jesus Is #1 | Made to Create Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | "Foam Finger" Activity Page | 0 |
| 2. | Coloring supplies | Several |
| 3. | Stickers | Several |
| 4. | Clear tape | 1 |

K1 - Memory Verse Motions | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3 | 0 |
| 2. | "Verse Motions" Activity Page | 1 |

K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | "Prayer Cube" Activity Page | 0 |
| 2. | Clear tape | 1 |