

K-5 | W1

Leader Summary

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.**

Small Group (20minutes)

Connect Time

Large Group (30minutes)

Countdown and Welcome

Large Group Game

Worship

Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review

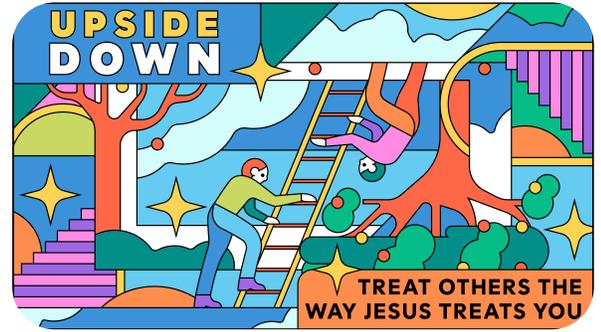
Activity 1

Activity 2

Prayer

Home:

Devotionals for Kids



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

20 min

Connect Time

20 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

 VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC

1

What You Do:

From doors opening to start of large group - Play intro music in the background as you greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks.

Connect time is spent building relationships with some intentional connecting with kids before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or playing or just sit and listen to each other. You can ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group.

5 min

Large Group

5 min

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Hey Friends, I'm so glad you came to hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) - Supplies

"Now, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today:
(*Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.*)

"1. Be Kind

"2. Be Safe

"3. Have Fun

(SLIDE: Theme)

"This month, we're learning to treat others how Jesus treats you in a brand-new series called, 'Upside Down'

"Everybodysay that with me:

Game

What You Need

👤	plastic cups (like Solo® cups)	40
👤	kid volunteers	6
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) on slide	1

Together: "Upside Down!"

What You Say:

"Nice! The full name of the series is 'Upside Down! Treat others the way Jesus treats you.'

What You Do:

Set up the cups in the main area of the floor and have 20 up and 20 down. Make sure they are mixed and not all up or down on one side.

What You Say:

"Now ... I know what you're thinking. *Upside Down?* That sounds kind of weird, right? But here's the thing, Jesus taught people to live in a way that's a little different, a little unexpected ... a little upside down from what the world says.

(Hold up one of the cups that's on the floor and flip it upside down.)

"For example, the world might say, 'Be first! Be the best!' But Jesus says, 'Put others first.' That's pretty upside down!

(Hold another cup that's on the floor and turn it right-side up.)

"And that's what we'll learn this month—how to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

"To get us started, we're going to play a game that's totally upside down! It's called ... 'Cup Up/Cup Down!'"

SLIDE: Cup Up/Cup Down Title

"If you want to play our game, I need six volunteers! If you want to play, raise your hand!

Choose six volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to come on stage. Divide the kids into two teams of three.

"Here's how it works: when the timer starts, you'll have one minute to flip as many cups your team's way as possible. **Team 1, you are Cup Up**—you want all the cups facing up. **Team 2, you are Cup Down**—you want all the cups upside down. When the music stops, we'll see who has more cups their way!"

"Think you're ready? Let's go in 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!"

(Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown).)

"Let's go, Team Cup Up! Team Cup Down's catching up, who's it gonna be?"

(After the one-minute time is up ...)

"Alright! Everyone, freeze! Let's see who's got the most cups flipped their way. Drumroll, please!

(Count the cups that are face-up and face-down to determine a winner.)

"And the winner is ... Team ____!"

(Reset the cups evenly (so 20 are face up and 20 are face down) and play more rounds only if time allows.)

"That was awesome! You guys flipped those cups upside down and back again superfast. You had to pay attention and decide which way to flip the cups. It was a lot of upside-down thinking!

"I'm so excited for this theme and what we are learning about today. You know the world tells us to: 'Make it all about YOU!' But Jesus showed us a different way, an *upside-down* way. He told us to think about others first, to be humble, and to make *Him* the most important.

"And that's exactly what we'll learn today, through the story of John the Baptist. John was super popular, but when Jesus came, John didn't try to be in charge or get all the attention. Instead, he realized that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease. In fact, that's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"Let's say that together—big voices, ready?"

Together: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus must increase. I must decrease!"

What You Say: "Nice work! That's what it means to live upside down, to make more of Jesus and less of us. And you know what? When we do that, we actually find more joy, peace, and love than ever before!"

10 min

Worship

3 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Let's give a round of applause for our teams! That was some upside down kind of fun! Let's keep the fun going with worship! Everyone on your feet! We live like Jesus when we worship God. Worship is a great way to increase God in our hearts and decrease thinking about ourselves. Let's sing!"

What You Say:

"That was great singing everyone! This whole month we're learning how to live 'Upside Down'. We're discovering what it means to treat others the way Jesus treats us. Our memory verse for the month helps us remember how to do that. It's found in Philippians 2:3. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together.

2 min

Worship Closer & Story Intro

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

SLIDE: 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" -- Philipians 2:3

"Now you repeat after me nice and loud.

"Don't do anything only to get ahead.
(allow kids to repeat)

"Don't do it because you are proud.
(kids repeat)

"Instead be humble.
(kids repeat)

"Value others more than yourselves.
(kids repeat)

"Philipians 2:3.
(kids repeat)

What You Do:

After memory verse, intro the story with the Bottom Line slide. Have a Bible open to Bible Story Verses, John 3:22-36.

What You Say:

"Great job! That's such a powerful reminder that following Jesus means putting others first. When we do that, we make Jesus more important than anything else in our lives.

"This week, we'll hear a story about someone who lived that way. His name was John the Baptist. Lots of people thought John was amazing, but when Jesus came along, John realized something really special.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"He knew: **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.**

"And we're going to find out what that means for us today! Our true story from the Bible comes from John 3:22-36. Let's see what happened with Jesus and John the Baptist."

What You Need

No supplies needed

6 min

Large Group Wrap Up

2 min

Outro**What You Need**

No supplies needed

1 min

Basic Truth**What You Need**

No supplies needed

3 min

Wrap Up Prayer**What You Need**

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"So now we've seen John's example. What about us, what's *our* part in this story?"

"The reality of life is this: No one else is more important for people to know or see than Jesus. Jesus offers to be each person's Savior—their rescue forever—and their forever friend. So make a big deal of Jesus in your life. Try to point to Him in everything you do. People will see His love when you are kind and helpful. People will see His forgiveness when you forgive. People will see His justice when you're fair.

"You're not just being kind, you're being like Jesus. You're not just being merciful, you're being like Jesus. And this good God who is your friend wants to be their friend too.

"John made less of himself—and he made a big deal of Jesus. Because of this, people started to see, love, and follow Jesus! When you make a big deal of Jesus, you're showing the world the Jesus who loves them too!

'So make your life a big arrow that points to Jesus!'

What You Say:

"We're going to pray, but here is the Basic Truth slide.

SLIDE: Basic Truth

"Which truth do you think goes with our story? Take a look, we will keep this slide on the screen, and when you get to small group, this will be the first thing you talk about."

What You Say:

"Let's take a moment to talk to the God who loves you so much together. Everyone, bow your heads and close your eyes so we can focus on Him."

"Dear Jesus, we want to live with humility. We want to make more room for You in our hearts and lives every day. When we start to think too much about ourselves, remind us to focus on You. When we want to be

first, help us to choose You instead. We want our lives to be an arrow that points to You! Thank You for loving us so much. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

20 min

Small Group

5 min

Activity 1 - Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

What You Need

👤 "Thumbs Up Thumbs Down" Activity Page 0

10 min

Activity 2 - Memory Verse

What You Need

👤 "Verse Motions" Activity Page 1

📖 Bibles 1

👤 "Memory Verse poster" Activity Page 1

Spend 5 minutes at the start of small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements. Discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why.

What You Do:

Read the questions from the "Thumbs Up Thumbs Down" activity page.- Have kids answer them with a Thumbs Up for YES, and Thumbs Down for NO.

What You Say:

(After you've answered all the questions together.)

"Great job everyone! You listened well and know our story! When John the Baptist's friends saw people following Jesus, they complained. But John 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 that he was like the friend of the groom. The groom is the man getting married at the wedding. And at this time, a close friend of the groom would make a lot of plans and get everything 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.**"

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse, Philippians 2:3.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.

K-2nd Grade

- 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.

3rd-5th Grade

- Explain that you'll work together to create motions for the 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.

5 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

- *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:

"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.**"

What You Do:

- Ask each kid to think of one way they can increase Jesus in their lives.

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 that you must increase and we must decrease. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Welcome Time

	Quantity
1. VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC	1

Game

	Quantity
1. plastic cups (like Solo® cups)	40
2. kid volunteers	6
3. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) on slide	1

Activity 1 - Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

	Quantity
1. "Thumbs Up Thumbs Down" Activity Page	0

Activity 2 - Memory Verse

	Quantity
1. "Verse Motions" Activity Page	1
2. Bibles	1
3. "Memory Verse poster" Activity Page	1