



KIDTOWN GUIDE

for Kindergarten-5th grades

DATE: 4/5/20 - 4/11/20

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1*

LESSON: *John Pointed to Jesus*

INTRO

Parents read this to your kids at the beginning.

Wow! It's been another week of playing, working, and doing school here at home. Maybe this week was frustrating or maybe it was really fun. Either way, it is so good for us to come together as a family and worship God to start off a new week. Singing and reading scripture and learning about Jesus and His followers is a great way to fix our focus on God for this week.

BIBLE VERSE

[Weekly Bible Verse Video](#)

*Read and memorize the Bible Verse together. **“He must increase, I must decrease.” John 3:30.***

Say the key passage multiple times using the hand motions to help kids remember the passage.

- He [Point up towards heaven.]
- must increase [Move hands apart.]
- I [Point to yourself with both thumbs.]
- must decrease [Move hands together.]

SAY • John wanted everyone to glorify Jesus. That's why John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus. In our own lives, we can increase Jesus' glory by loving Him, obeying Him, and loving others.



SING

Kids love singing and it's a great way to start to direct their energy in a Godward direction before the lesson. To make it easy, you can have the kids sing along to the lyric videos linked below.

- [He Must Increase](#) (Current Key Passage Song)
- [Jesus Strong and Kind](#)

LESSON

One of the most important ways we get to disciple kids is by helping teach the truth of God's Word and how it points towards Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 3, you can even point out that this story is also found in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1. Show the Bible story video [John Pointed to Jesus](#).

Story Point #1! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #1!") John's followers didn't understand who Jesus was and why he was baptizing people.

John's followers saw that Jesus was also baptizing people just like John. They were confused and may have even felt like Jesus was competing with John because many of them started following Jesus instead of John. John knew that there was no competition and wanted to point everyone to Jesus. John had been telling his followers all along that He was not Jesus, but that he was sent before Him to tell everyone about Him. Even though John's followers did not understand who Jesus was, John knew that He was the Messiah to come. He made it His mission to tell everyone he could!

Story Point #2! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #2!") John explained that he was like Jesus's Best Man. (kids repeat)

At a wedding, there is a person who is called the "best man". A lot of times this is the groom's best friend or brother. The best man stands next to the groom during the wedding and celebrates with him. John said that he was kind of like Jesus' "best man". The best man knows that the wedding is not about him, but it's actually about the groom. John prepared the way for Jesus to come and celebrated that He had arrived on earth.

Story Point #3! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #3!") John knew that Jesus was the most important. (kids repeat)

John knew that Jesus was the most important person to ever live. John explained that he was not even worthy to remove Jesus' sandals - that's how important Jesus was. John baptized people with water, but he told the people that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. In Kidtown we've talked about the Holy Spirit being a "Helper" given to us as believers when we repent and trust in Jesus as our Savior! John also knew that Jesus was more important because Jesus came from heaven, and could see and understand things from a heavenly perspective. John did not come from heaven, but instead lived on the earth and could only see and understand things from his earthly view. We can trust and know that Jesus knows everything about us and what is going on in the earth. He was and is always in control!

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat, "Christ Connection!") Jesus is the promised Messiah (kids repeat)

John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus



was on earth, John's mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

The goal of this time is to discuss and apply what we learned from the Bible. In Kidtown we use snacks as simple reward/incentive for focus during discussion time. Feel free to grab a snack and begin the discussion questions..

Discussion

What stood out to you from this story?

- *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--but encourage them to interact with Scripture.*

Why did John's followers not like that Jesus was baptizing people?

- *They didn't want people to start following Jesus instead of John.*

How did John describe himself?

- *As the best man, the groom's friend*

What did John want to happen?

- *John wanted Jesus to get the glory as Messiah*

Why is it good to glorify Jesus?

- *Guide kids to understand that people were created by God to glorify God. Jesus is God the Son. When we glorify Him in our lives, we are fulfilling our purpose, and it is good for us. Everything God does is for His glory and our good, including creating us to worship Him.*

Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?

- *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know and then tell your director afterwards.*
- *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*

Parents, if you or your kids have questions about baptism, you can...

- Watch [this video of our Kids' Baptism Class](#).
- Utilize [this chart](#) as a resource for thinking through your child's readiness for baptism.
- Email us at hdisbrow@midtowncolumbia.com

LESSON ACTIVITY

The Lesson Activities are designed to help reinforce what the kids learned in the lesson. You can choose one or more activities to do based on your child's interest and time available.

Increase or Decrease

Ask your child to think of a number between 1 and 100, including both 1 and 100. Instruct him/her to whisper the number to you, and then allow another family member to guess the number. After each guess, the kid who's thinking of the number will tell others if they should



increase or decrease their next guess to be closer. If someone guesses the right number, select a new person to pick a number and start again. Be prepared to help kids answer if they are unsure if a guess is above or below their number.

SAY • You had to increase or decrease the values of your guesses to get to the correct answer. Today we will learn about a time John told people that Jesus must increase while he decreased. What do you think it means for Jesus to increase?

Alphabet Praises

Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to start the game by saying a trait of Jesus or a reason why He deserves all glory. This word must start with the letter A. The kid to her right will say another trait or reason, starting with the letter B this time. Play continues in this way until a trait has been named for every letter of the alphabet. Be prepared with some ideas of words for trickier letters, such as Q or X, and consider allowing some flexible rules, such as using words that start with Ex- instead of X.

SAY • Jesus is the greatest of all. We love and praise Him because He alone is the perfect Messiah who died to save us from sin. John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus. We can tell others to follow Jesus as well!

PRAYER TIME

From an early age, we want to teach our kids that prayer is the fuel for our lives as Christians. We depend on God for everything and prayer helps us remember that. Especially in these uncertain times, prayer is one of our most important disciplines as God's people.

Pray For Each Other:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

Pray: Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

Pray For Jesus' Mission:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?

Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family.