

ALLEY SG – February 28th- March 1st

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?

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*

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Paper (one per kid), Pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and something to write with.
- Instruct the kids to make a list of things that are important to them. (e.g., family, friends, sports, video games, school, being popular).
- After a minute or two, encourage the kids to look at their list and circle the top 3 most important things.
- Then, instruct the kids to share their top 3 with a partner or the whole group.
- Lead a discussion with these questions:
 - Is it bad to have things that are important to us? (*No!*)
 - What happens when something on our list becomes MORE important than Jesus?
 - What did John the Baptist mean when he said: "*He must become more important. I must become less important*" (*John 3:30 NIV*)?
 - What does it look like in real life to make Jesus more important than the other things on our lists?
- **Say:** "When we put Jesus at the very top of our list—above everything, because as John told us, He is '*above everything*' (*John 3:31 NIV*)—all the other things find their right place. When you make a big deal of Jesus, you're showing the world their loving Savior. Make your life a big arrow that points to Him. When we do this, people will see, love, and follow Jesus. It's living out the truth that **Jesus must increase. I must decrease.**"

2. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Review

What You Need: Bibles, "Bible Bookmark" Activity Page (one per kid), Markers

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up *Philippians 2:3*
- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a bookmark from the "Bible Bookmark" Activity Page and make coloring supplies available.

- Read this month's Memory Verse together that's on the bookmark.
- Instruct the kids to decorate their bookmark. They can color the words and the designs around it.
- Suggest the kids take their bookmark home and put it in their Bible or a book they are reading as a reminder about humility.

3. 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?

4. Disciple Decoder

What You Need: "Disciple Decoder" Activity Page (one per kid), Pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Disciple Decoder" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Explain that they are to decode the names of some of Jesus' first followers. The word bank at the bottom is there to help if they get stuck.
- Let the kids work individually or with a partner to solve the puzzles.
- Once everyone is done, go over the answers together.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- "God, thank You for being so great. We are sorry for the times we make ourselves or other things more important than You. This week, please help us to be humble and put others first. Help us to live in a way that shows everyone how great You are. We want to live in a way that says, **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the Alley for 3 Alley Cash!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one thing they could tell others about Jesus.