

## CITY SG – February 28<sup>th</sup>- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**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

### PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** “Disciple Decoder” Activity Page (one per kid), Pens

#### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a “Disciple Decoder” Activity Page and something to write with.
- 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 the group to solve the puzzles.
- \*first grade groups will need help. Do this activity together so you can guide them.
- Once everyone is done, go over the answers together.
  
- **Say:** “Nice work, detectives! You cracked the code. In today’s true story from the Bible, we’re going to hear about John the Baptist. His followers had to do some decoding of their own.

### SMALL GROUP TIME

#### **1. Jesus Is #1**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** “Foam Finger” Activity Page (one per kid), Markers, Stickers, Scissors, Clear tape

#### **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 the “Foam Finger” Activity Page and let them use crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate it.
- Have them cut off the bottom strip.
- Help kids roll their strip up (that says **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!”
  
- **Say:** “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)*”

## 2. Jesus at the Top

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** “Jesus at the Top” Activity Page printed on Avery labels, A stack of plastic cups (50 per cart), cup with the Jesus label on it (5 per cart)

### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into pairs. (Feel free to create groups of three if it's a better fit for your group!)
- Give each pair a stack of plastic cups, including one cup with a sticker of Jesus on it.
- Challenge the pairs to work together to build the tallest tower they can.
- Once they've built their tower, instruct them to carefully place the cup with the picture of Jesus right at the very top.
  
- **Say:** “Great building! You all put Jesus right at the top of your towers! That’s exactly what John the Baptist was teaching his friends. John said that Jesus is ‘from above’ (John 3:31 NIV) and is ‘above everything’ (John 3:31 NIV). Putting Jesus at the top shows what John the Baptist meant. No one else is more important for people to know or see than Jesus. Jesus offers to be each person’s Savior, their Rescuer forever, and their eternal Friend.

## 3. Memory Verse Motions

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles

### **What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse to the group.
  - *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
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Explain that you'll work together as a group to make up motions for your new 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.
  - *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.

## 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)*”
- “Dear God, thank You for our families and friends. Most of all, thank You for Jesus, who came from above to save us. Help us to be like John the Baptist and have joy when we point others to You. Help us to remember that **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 City for a PRIZE!

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