



MAY 24, 2026

JOHN POINTED TO JESUS

JOHN 3

CHRIST CONNECTION

John pointed people to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. When people believe in Jesus as the Messiah, they receive eternal life and can point others to believe in Jesus too!

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

MEMORY VERSE

1 John 3:5

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

We see the humility of John the Baptist in John chapter 3 as he led more people to follow Jesus. We also learn that Jesus' gift of eternal life is ours for the taking when received by faith.

In this passage, we read that both John and Jesus were ministering and baptizing people in the same area of Judea. Suddenly, an argument arose among some of John's disciples and others. They took their dispute to John, saying, "Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him."

John, however, wasn't jealous, nor was he worried about those who listened to him one day and went to follow Jesus the next. John knew who Jesus really is and how worthy He is to be followed. John reminded the people of the words he had already spoken: "I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of him."

John viewed himself like a friend of the groom at a wedding. It was his duty to stand by, listen for Him, and rejoice greatly at His words. John's joy was made complete by the ministry of Jesus as Messiah. John spoke with humility: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

The beauty of the gospel is that God cast His wrath upon His own Son and granted His righteousness to believers, so that all who trust in Him will receive salvation. Jesus took our sin upon Himself so that we may live forever in right relation to God. John understood Jesus was the promised Messiah, and he lived to declare Christ's truths.

As you prepare to teach this session to kids, pray that God would soften their hearts to see that Christ is the only One worth following, the only One with the power to forgive and save. Ask the Lord to show them His offer of everlasting life and His worthiness as the object of our faith.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the memory verse activity below!

MEMORY VERSE

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

1 John 3:5, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on June 28!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JOHN POINTED TO JESUS

Jesus and His disciples went out to the Judean countryside to baptize and minister to the people. John was also baptizing people in the same area.

One of John's disciples came to him and said, "Teacher, the one you testified about as the Messiah at the Jordan River is here baptizing people. And everyone is going to him!"

Instead of being jealous, John responded, "You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I was sent to prepare the way for him."

John also said, "Jesus is like the groom at a wedding. He's the most important man at the event. I'm like the best man, who is glad to stand beside the groom and serve him. I am so happy that Jesus is here. Jesus must become greater, and I must become less important."

In his gospel, the apostle John taught other truths about Jesus. John said that Jesus is the one who came from heaven, and that He is above all. Jesus spoke God's words. God the Father loves His Son, Jesus, and has given everything to Him. God's anger toward sin remains on those who do not believe in Jesus, but whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life.

CHRIST CONNECTION: John pointed people to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. When people believe in Jesus as the Messiah, they receive eternal life and can point others to believe in Jesus too!

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

ACTIVITY: DESCRIBE IT

Either as a group or in teams, have kids take turns to pick a prompt and then describe it to the group/their team. They can't say what it is, but they can describe it however they want (*e.g., rubber ducks - yellow, plastic, goes in the bathtub, toy, fun, etc.*)

If needed, add a level of complexity by turning the game into Pictionary, charades, or add some other element that will make it harder (*e.g., kids can only use one-syllable words, they're limited to three words, etc.*)

CONNECT THE DOTS



John the Baptist told everyone the Messiah had come. He pointed people to believe in Jesus as that Messiah. To do that, he had to describe Jesus and tell the people what to do in response to Jesus' coming.

BIBLE SKILLS: BIBLE DRILLS/TIMELINE REVIEW

Spend some time doing Bible drills or reviewing the timeline in the room. Utilize the provided supplies and games in your extra time folder if needed.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. What does “Messiah” mean?
2. How can we point people to Jesus?
3. What does it mean to have eternal life?
4. What did John mean when he said he had to become less important?
5. Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the “extra time” folder on the TV.

If there’s a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!