

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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!

LEADER DEVO

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.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

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

1 John 3:5



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

JUN 28

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, 1 John 3:5 will look like:

Y K T H A I O T T A S A I H T I N S

LESSON

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

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SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What does “Messiah” mean?
- 2) Why was John pointing people to Jesus?
- 3) What did John mean when he said he had to become less important?
- 4) Why is it important to tell other people about Jesus?
- 5) How can we follow John’s example and point people to Jesus?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!