



WEEK 13 DAY 1 John pointed to Jesus

Step 1: Watch

[Week 11 "John Pointed to Jesus"](#)

Memory Verse: John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Step 2: Discuss Story

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.

- Why did John say Jesus must increase and he (John) must decrease?
- Who deserves fame and glory in our own lives—us or God? Why?
- How can we point others to Jesus?

Step 3: Worship

Worship with Chris Tomlin: ["Famous One"](#)

Step 4: Pray

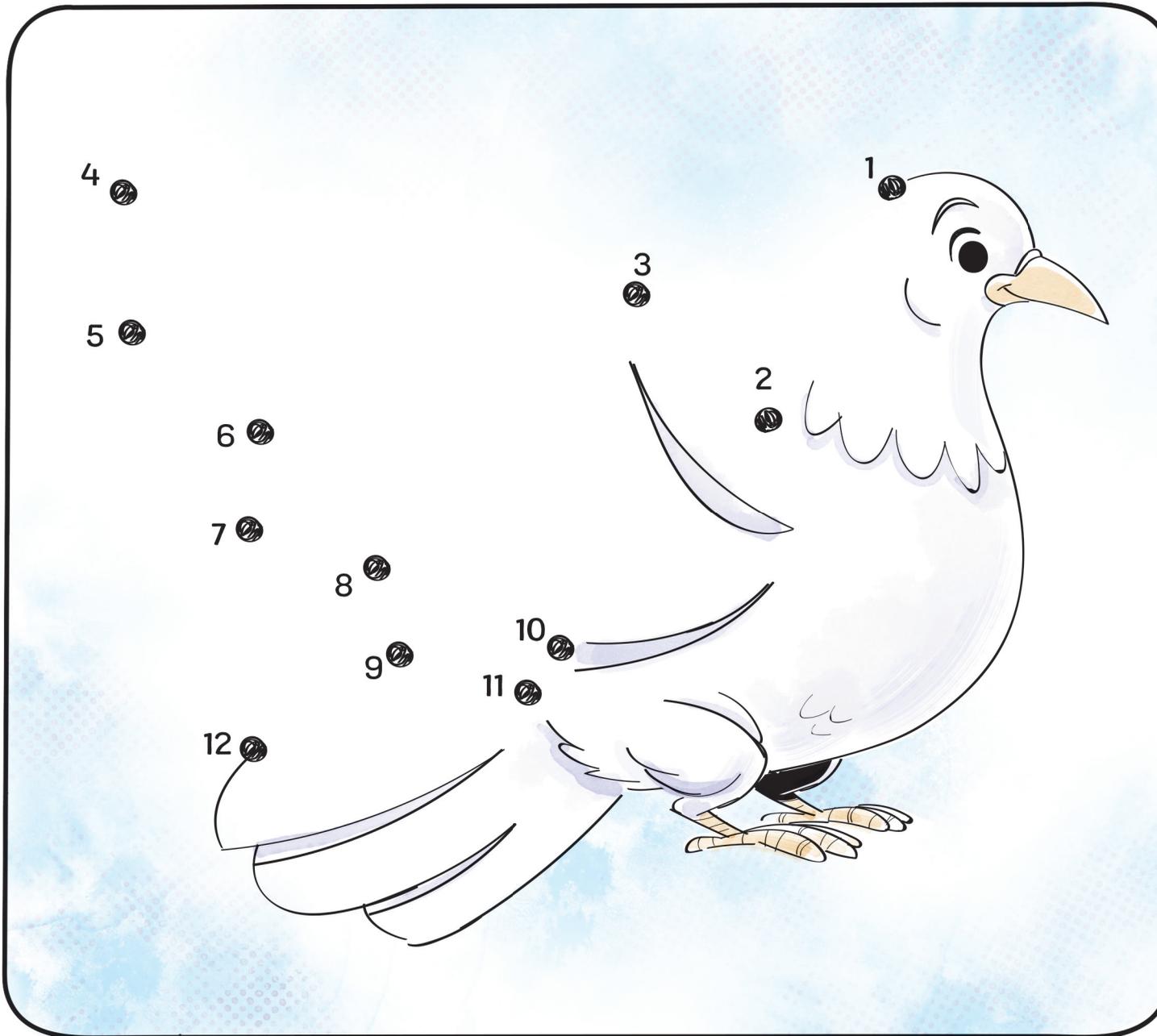
Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Bonus Family Activity

Complete the optional activity sheets included with this devotional.

Connect the Dots

INSTRUCTIONS: Connect the dots to complete the picture.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 20 • Session 3

John Pointed to Jesus

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- John said Jesus was more important than him.
- John's job was to get people ready for Jesus. Now that Jesus had come, John's job was finished.
- John told people to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why was John not angry that Jesus' disciples were baptizing too?
- How is the work God gave Jesus different than the work God gave John?
- How can we make Jesus greater and ourselves less in our own lives?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Give each family member a task to complete in preparation for a guest. When the guest arrives, say, "Now that our guest is here, your job is finished." Talk about how John's job was finished when Jesus began His ministry.

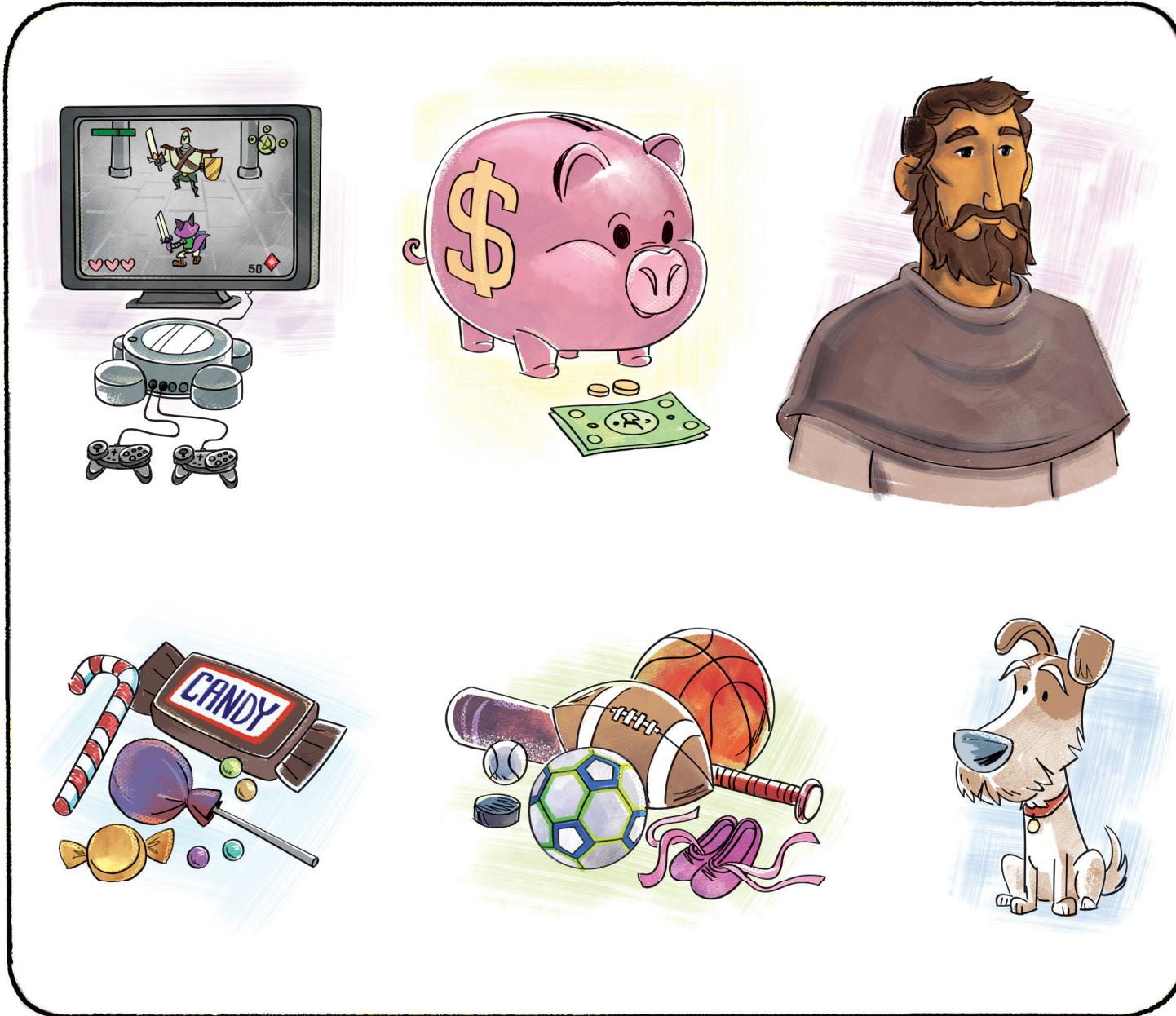


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Greatest to Least

INSTRUCTIONS: Number each picture below to show what you value from most (1) to least (6).



BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- John's disciples were concerned about people following Jesus instead of John
- John said that Jesus is more important than anyone, including John himself.
- John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did Jesus become human?
Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

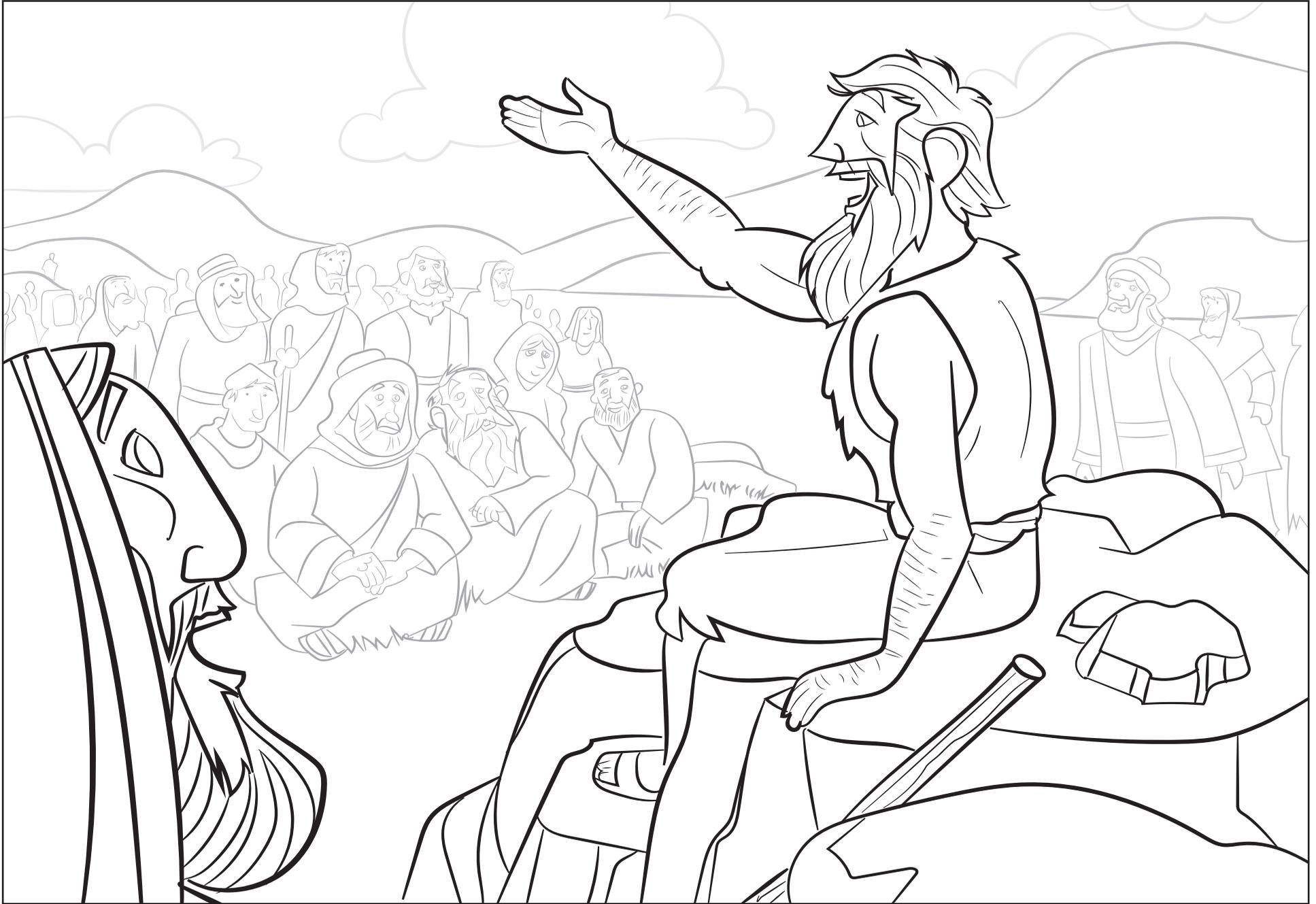
- Why is Jesus the most important person?
- How can we point other people to Jesus?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

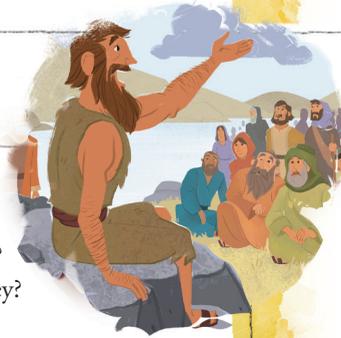
- Play a following or instruction game with your family—like follow the leader or Simon says. Discuss what it means to follow Jesus. Ask your kids to offer examples of how they can put Jesus first in their lives.



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Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What makes a good follower?
- Why might people follow something or someone other than Jesus?
- What can you tell others about Jesus?

John Pointed to Jesus

Matthew 3; John 1; 3

STORY POINT: JOHN THE BAPTIST TOLD PEOPLE TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Jesus and His disciples went out into the countryside. People came to see them, and Jesus taught the people. Many people were baptized.

Nearby, John the Baptist was baptizing people too. Some of the people who followed John went to John.

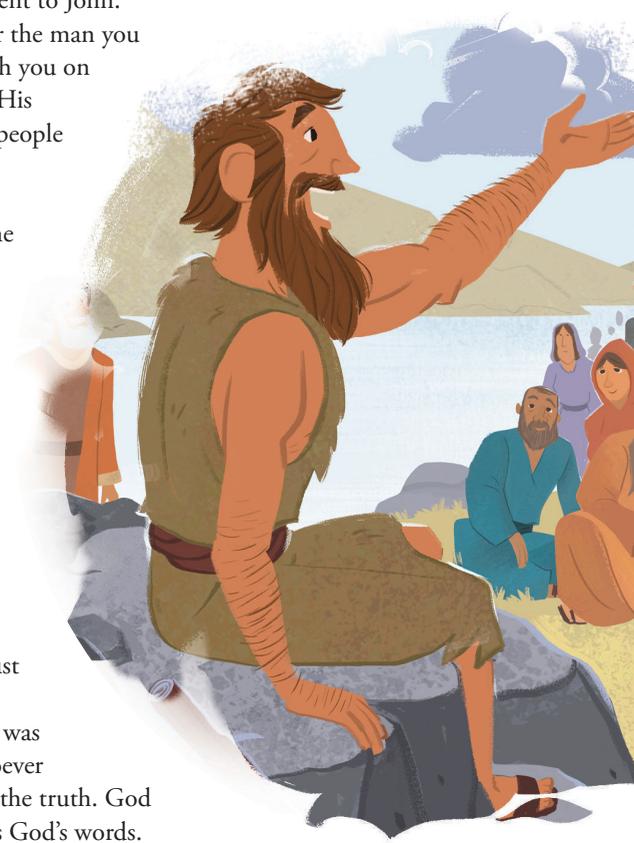
"Teacher," they said, "remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him." John's followers were talking about Jesus. John answered them, "You heard me say that I am not the Messiah."

John tried to explain by talking about a wedding. When two people get married, the man who marries the bride is the groom. His friend stands with him at the wedding, and he is happy to be there. The groom's friend should not make it about himself. This was how John felt—like a groom's friend—because he was happy that Jesus, the Messiah, had come. John said, "Jesus must increase, but I must decrease."

Then John explained why Jesus was more important than himself. Whoever believes Jesus knows that God tells the truth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus speaks God's words.

The Father loves the Son and has given Him power over everything. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life, but whoever refuses to believe in the Son will not have eternal life.

Christ Connection: 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.



FOLD

On the Line

Mark each item on the scale to indicate how important it is to you.



John or Jesus?

Fill in each blank with the correct name—*John* or *Jesus*.

Some of the people who followed _____ got into an argument. They went to _____. “Teacher,” they said, “remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him.” _____’s followers were talking about _____.

_____ answered, “You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I am the messenger who goes before Him.” This was true. _____ had said, “Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

_____ tried to explain by talking about a wedding. A wedding is the groom’s special day; the groom’s friend should not make it about himself. This was how _____ felt—like a groom’s friend—because he was happy that _____, the Messiah, had come. _____ said, “_____ must increase, but I must decrease.”

_____ the Baptist told people to get ready for _____, the promised Messiah. Now that _____ was on earth, _____’s mission was complete. _____ was greater than _____, and _____ joyfully stepped aside as _____ began His earthly ministry.



WEEK 13 DAY 2 John pointed to Jesus

Step 1: Read

[Matthew 3](#)

Step 2: Discuss Story

- Why would John preach in the wilderness? Who would be listening to him there?
- What was the core teaching of John's message?
- What does it mean that the "kingdom of heaven is at hand?"
- What was John's key mission?
- Why was John's clothing and diet important? Are there any lessons we can learn from John in this?
- Why was John so aggressive toward the Pharisees/Sadducees? Didn't he want them to repent as well?
- What does verse 9 mean? What is John's point?
- What is the warning in verse 10? What important lesson can we learn from this?
- What did God have to say about Jesus' baptism in verse 18?

Step 3: Worship

Worship with Michael W. Smith: "[Prepare Ye The Way](#)"

Step 4: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Bonus Family Activity

Take five minutes and watch a clip from the "The Bible" miniseries: "[The Baptism of Jesus](#)"



WEEK 13 DAY 3 John pointed to Jesus

Step 1: Read

[John 1](#)

Step 2: Discuss Story

- In John 1:1-3, what five claims are being made about the “Word”?
- Are these five claims consistent with Genesis chapter 1?
- What does verse 4 say we can find?
- Who can become children of God?
- Who can believe in His name?

Step 3: Worship

Worship with Kirk Franklin: ["Strong God"](#)

Step 4: Pray

Pastor Dave Sellers reminds us “God has made it clear that all of humankind, every person, bears the very image and likeness of God (in theological terms, Imago Dei). What this means is everyone, everywhere without exception is equal in dignity, value and worth.” Pray for the unity of our world through Jesus Christ.

Bonus Family Activity

We want to invite you to a day of fasting and prayer focused on racial healing and reconciliation for our nation, today. Join us for prayer via Zoom from 7-8 pm tonight.



WEEK 13 DAY 4 John pointed to Jesus

Step 1: Read

[John 3](#)

Step 2: Discuss Story

- How are we “born again?”
- What does verse 16 tell us about love?
- What does the darkness represent? Why do people love it?
- Are you living in the light or in the dark?

John described his joy as being complete. (John 3:29) The One for whom he had prepared the people was here. The time had come for John to step aside and let Jesus take the spotlight. John’s mission was complete.

Memory Verse: John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Step 3: Worship

Worship with Hillsong: ["God So Loved"](#)

Step 4: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Bonus Family Activity

Complete the John 3 trivia quiz online together: [John 3 Trivia Quiz](#)



WEEK 13 DAY 5 John pointed to Jesus

John knew that it was his time to fade into the backdrop, but God was not done with him. Even though John was no longer leading a movement, he was paving the way for us to see what it means to follow Jesus. John was put into prison for standing up for the truth. John discovered that decreasing to increase Jesus comes through being willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. Was it hard? Yes. Was it worth it? Definitely. Through our obedience, God plans to bring life and blessing to those around us. We say with John, “I must decrease.”

Step 1: Watch

[Missions Moment: Mission Aviation Fellowship](#)

Memory Verse: John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Step 2: Discuss Story

The Thiemanns live in LeSotho (leh-SOO-too), a small country in southern Africa. Jason Thiemann is a pilot and mechanic with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Life in LeSotho isn’t always easy, but they are there to be obedient to Jesus and to share the gospel. John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus. That’s what missionaries do, too.

- What can you do to be obedient to Jesus and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Discuss ways you can pray, give or go someday to share Jesus with others.

Step 3: Worship

Worship with David Crowder: ["I am"](#)

Step 4: Pray

Pray the Lord will give each member of your family encouragement in their faith. Thank God for allowing us to bring life and blessing to those around us.

Bonus Family Activity

Each member of the family may write a note of encouragement to a missionary, far away family member or friend.