

John the Baptist: Lesson 2

SuperTruth: I want more of Jesus and less of me.

SuperVerse: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 (NKJV)

Bible Story: Matthew 3,11; Mark 1,6; Luke 1,3,7; John 1,3

Game Materials Needed:

- Table
- Optional: masking tape
- Nine paper bags—lunch sacks
- Stapler and staples or masking tape
- Sand or small stones—anything to add weight to the bag
- Marker
- Four socks, or more socks, if desired
- Timer: clock/watch with second hand, stopwatch, timer app
- Assistant, such as a sixth grade helper, to return sock balls back to the players

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Child actor, such as a sixth grade helper, who will not need to speak
- Optional: flashlight or spotlight for the skit
- Fifteen building blocks, “Jenga” style blocks, or dominoes
- Two index cards
- Marker
- Table
- Fruit of the Spirit Pattern for any children not present for Lesson 1
- Sample of a finished Fruit of the Spirit craft to show the class
- Optional: make extra Fruit of the Spirit crafts for children to use during the lesson
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers or, chalkboard and chalk
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

This is the second lesson of our Superbook story, “John the Baptist.” John the Baptist was actually a cousin of Jesus! God chose John to prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to repent of their sin.

- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to meet John the Baptist, who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. John preaches a message of repentance to the crowds, and fearlessly confronts King Herod about his sin. The wicked queen plots revenge by having her daughter dance to entice the king then ask for John’s head as her reward. John faithfully chooses to follow God, and the children learn they can point others to Christ.
- Sometimes John the Baptist is called John the Baptizer. To learn more about the time and place he lived, let’s watch our Bible Background Video.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Less of Me (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to defeat our sinful nature.

- The more we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, the more we will choose God’s ways over our own sinful desires. We become spiritually stronger as we overcome our sinful nature. This is a fun game about getting rid of our sinful and evil ways.

Game Instructions:

- Children will stand behind the starting line or mark. One child at a time gets two throws to try to knock bags off the table with sock balls. Each bag must be knocked completely off the table.

Teaching: He Must Increase (15 minutes)

Objective: Demonstrate how John humbly prepared the way for Jesus.

- John knew that Jesus’ ministry would grow while his own would get smaller. John was ready and willing to put the spotlight on Jesus instead of himself. Today’s skit demonstrates how when we speak and do things for God, we should do it with humility and not call attention to ourselves.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- Continue the Discipleship Challenge to learn about the next three fruit—patience, kindness and goodness and allow them to be visible in your lives!

SuperVerse: Superbook Ups and Downs (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- The goal of every follower of Jesus is to become more like Him in our thinking, in our words, and in our actions. The more we become like Jesus, the more we can lead others to Christ.
- Stand in a large circle and hold hands. Everyone should take two steps forward as they raise their hands and say, “He must increase”; then everyone should take two steps backward as they lower their hands and say, “but I must decrease. John 3:30.” Repeat, going faster each time.

Prayer: Increasing Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Prayer is not just talking, it is listening, too! When we listen to God, He will speak to our hearts. Let’s take a few moments and ask God how we can become more like Jesus. Let’s especially pray that we will allow more room for the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Allow time for children to pray silently, then lead a group prayer to close.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Stacking Game: Play a stacking game to illustrate the lesson. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Prayer Activity: Place sinful desires at the cross. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Matching Game: Play a matching game to see more of Jesus. | **Grades 1–3** | 15 min

Bible Study: Discuss scriptures to apply to real life situations. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min