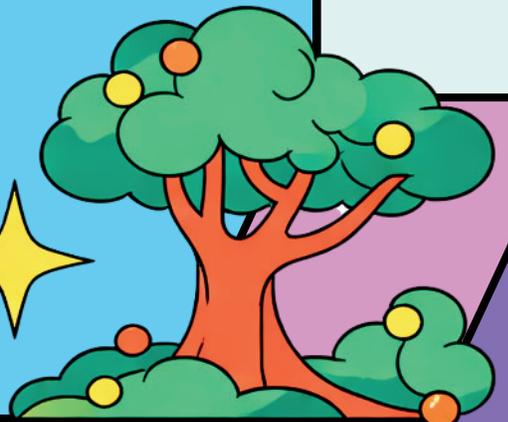




HOPE KIDS

Small Groups

UPSIDE DOWN - MARCH - WEEK 1



Story Recap

Bottom Line: I must decrease. Jesus must increase

John 3:22-26

After spending time with His disciples, Jesus began teaching and baptizing people, and many started going to Him. At the same time, John the Baptist was still baptizing nearby. When John's disciples saw that more people were following Jesus, they became concerned and told John about it.

Instead of feeling jealous or upset, John reminded them that everything comes from God and that he was never meant to be the Savior. His role was to point people to Jesus. John even compared himself to a friend at a wedding who is happy when the bridegroom arrives.

Then John said, "He must become greater; I must become less." John found joy in stepping back so that Jesus could be the focus.

Note overview

Book: John

Chapter: 3

Verse: 22–36

Old or New Testament: New Testament

What did you learn about God today?

Possible answers:

- Jesus is the most important
- Humility is important to God

What is today's Bottom Line?

Jesus must become greater. I must become less.

What do I think God wants me to do?

- Put Jesus first in my life
- Not try to be the center of attention
- Point others to Jesus
- Be humble like John

Ice breaker Question

Ask your small group-

“Can you think of a time when you put someone else before yourself?”

Or

“When was a time you let someone else go first, even when you wanted to go?”

Examples to help:

- Letting a sibling go first at dinner
- Letting someone else have a turn
before you
- Sharing something you really wanted

Prayer time

1. Give every kid an index card and a pencil or pen.

2. Let the kids take a minute to choose one category that they really need God's help with right now.

3. Invite them to sit and reflect.

4. Encourage them to pray to God silently, out loud, or write or draw a prayer on the index card. "God, thank You for being so great. We are sorry for the times we make ourselves or other things more important than You. This week, please help us to be humble and put others first. Help us to live in a way that shows everyone how great You are. We want to live in a way that says, Jesus must increase. I must decrease. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Activity

Pass out the Print out "Disciple Decoder"

What You Do:

1. Give each kid a "Disciple Decoder" Activity Page.
2. They will be decoding the names of all the Disciples that Jesus had.
3. If the kids need help, feel free to help them but challenge them to work together and work as a team to figure out the answer or make it a race so the kids can compete to see who can solve it first!

Memory Verse Activity

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves

Philippians 2:3

1. Write out the memory verse on a white board then have all the kids say it together.
2. Slowly remove a few of the words from the verse and have them recite the whole verse with the missing words.
3. Keep doing this until you do not have any more words left on the white board and have them recite the whole verse

Discussion questions!

1. • John's followers were upset that people were leaving him to follow Jesus, but John was joyful.
 - Why do you think John wasn't jealous or upset—and what can that teach you about humility?
2. • John said, "He must become more important. I must become less important" (John 3:30 NIV).
 - What do you think that means in your own life? How could you live in a way that points people to Jesus instead of to yourself?

Discussion questions!

3. It can be easy to want attention, popularity, or praise. How can focusing on Jesus first help you deal with those feelings when they show up?
4. John's joy came from seeing Jesus' work grow, even if his own influence shrank. When have you found joy in helping someone else succeed—or letting someone else shine?
5. The story says that when we focus on Jesus more than ourselves, we find peace and hope. How might your thoughts, choices, or worries look different if you really believed that Jesus is bigger than any problem you face?

Question Dice

Grab your question dice and say -

Alright everyone, we're going to play a game with our question dice. We're going to take turns rolling the dice, and whatever question you land on, you get to answer it.

While someone is answering, let's all listen and not interrupt, because we want to put others first.

After one person answers, we'll go to the next person and keep taking turns until everyone has had a chance.

Remember, this is a safe place, so there are no wrong answers. Let's have fun and learn together!"