

Life of Christ

John Points People to Jesus

John 3:22-36

Younger Verse

Jesus must become more important, while I become less important. John 3:30 (CEV)

Older Verse

Jesus must become more important, while I become less important. John 3:30 (CEV)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

In our story from the Bible for today, still in the book of John, we read in Chapter 3 that after Jesus' visit with Nicodemus, Jesus and His disciples left the city and were baptizing. People were coming to Jesus, maybe because they had seen Him change water into wine, and as they believed in Him and trusted in Him, they would be baptized. That means that they were lowered into the water, usually a river. They went under the water and then were brought back up. They were being baptized, not because being in the water did anything special to them, but because they wanted everyone to know that they had decided to follow Jesus. Baptism is a way to say "Hey, I believe that Jesus is God's Son and because I believe, I am choosing to follow Him and be obedient to what He teaches!"

At that same time, someone else was also baptizing. Further away, up the Jordan River, there was a man named John, also known as John the Baptist. Does anyone remember something about John the Baptist from our earlier lessons? John was sent by God to tell people about Jesus and to get people ready to believe in Jesus. John was the one who baptized Jesus. And he was still baptizing. He was at the Jordan River with some of his followers. His followers were upset about something. They told John that Jesus, whom John had baptized, was also baptizing and that a lot of people were following Him!

What would you have said? How do you think John might have reacted? The Bible tells how John reacted. John reminded his followers that they had heard him say "I'm not the One everyone has been waiting for." John had come to tell others about Jesus, to get them ready to follow Jesus so that everyone could have the chance to believe in Jesus

Lesson Goals

Stress the need to see Jesus as more important than ourselves.
Stress that Jesus is to be believed in, not any other.

through what John said. John explained to his followers that what was happening was that many were following Jesus (even some of John's followers), because it was what God wanted.

John even told a little story about a wedding. He shared that just because you are not the one getting married, it does not mean that you should be sad or upset. It is a happy thing when a friend gets married. And Jesus was John's friend. John explained that what was happening was like a wedding. Jesus is the Bridegroom and everyone who follows Him and puts their trust in Him is the Bride. When Jesus called people to believe in Him, just like a groom invites people to his wedding, it made John happy!

John knew why God had sent him. John knew that he was not the One people would believe in and John was okay with that because he trusted God. John knew that Jesus was more important than he was because Jesus had come into the world to make a way for us to live obediently for God and to spend forever and ever with God one day. John said something very important. He said, "Jesus must become more important, while I become less important." John knew that He was not supposed to be the center of attention. That was Jesus' place! And John was happy to point people to Jesus. John knew that the person who believed in Jesus, not himself, would have eternal life.

How about you? Have you believed in, trusted and chosen to follow Jesus? There is no one more important and nothing more important to do! If you have not, please talk to me. If you are a follower of Jesus, are you like John? Do you realize that it is more important to be obedient to Jesus than to do whatever we want to do? Are you pointing people to Jesus? You have an awesome opportunity at home and at school to tell everyone you know that Jesus died for them!

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Make megaphones to announce that "Jesus must become more important, while I become less important." Print the memory verse on the megaphone and then practice the verse by announcing it!

Prayer Time

Pray for your students, to be aware of their need to follow Jesus and that once they are followers, that they will be like John and point people to Jesus.

**Clean Up and
Snack Time**

Bugles would be a good snack. Reinforce the story by encouraging your students to think of someone they can tell about Jesus.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 10
The Woman at the Well Meets Jesus
John 4:1-30, 39-42

Preschool Lesson

I Can Be Jesus' Friend!

We read in the Bible that Jesus had a friend. John was Jesus' friend . We have talked about John before. John was Jesus' cousin. John baptized Jesus.

John showed that he was Jesus' friend when he taught his followers. Jesus and John were doing the same thing, telling people about God, Jesus' Father in heaven. But more people were coming to Jesus than John. John did not get mad. He told his followers that this had to happen, that Jesus had to be more important and John had to be less important. John told his followers that people needed to know more about Jesus than they did about John. Jesus is the One who can make us friends of God. John was a good friend because he got out of the way and let Jesus be important.

How can you be Jesus' friend?

You can tell your friends about Jesus. You can tell them that Jesus is important. You can tell them that Jesus is God's Son. And you can be like John and be happy when your friends choose to follow Jesus.

Pray: "God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for showing us how to be Jesus' friend."

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Be a friend to someone who needs one. Talk with your students and choose someone who needs a friend, someone who does not receive many visitors, someone who may be sick, etc. Make and decorate cards and deliver them.
- Turn your Bible Study space into a newspaper office. Appoint writers and illustrators. Provide newsprint or manila paper. Have students pair up and create an illustrated article from the story.
- Bring everyday items to class. For example: water, bread, a t-shirt. Ask the students which item they think is the most important, second and least important. Ask each student. Discuss that there are many different opinions. Talk about the truth of John's statement that Jesus is more important than he is, or than we are. Review John 1:3. Jesus was with God creating. The Creator is more important than the creation.
- Create a human-sized game board in your Bible Study space with carpet squares or colored construction paper placed side by side from the starting point until the final "Finish" square. In teams, or individually, have students answer questions from this lesson as well as the previous lessons. Students begin at the "Start" square. They may move when a question is correctly answered. Movement can be based on the roll of a large sponge dice or by pulling numbered strips from a bag. The first on to the "Finish" square wins.