

# KIDTOWN GUIDE

*for 1st-5th grades*

**DATE:** 4/5/20 - 4/11/20

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1

**LESSON:** John Pointed to Jesus

## INTRO

*Parents read this to your kids at the beginning.*

Wow! It's been another week of this weird new normal: playing, working, and doing school here at home. But even though it's weird... and especially when life is weird, it's good for us to regularly spend time together focusing on God. Singing and reading scripture and learning about Jesus and His followers is a great way to focus on God!

So, who's ready to do Kidtown together?? (Get kids a little hyped up) I said who's ready for Kidtown?!?! Alright, let's start by playing a game.

## PLAY (10 minutes)

*In a time of high anxiety and stress, play is an easy, fun way for kids to feel relief and safe. Far from a copout, play can actually be helpful for kids and adults alike. Below we have given some suggestions for group games. Use whichever of these works best for your family. If you don't like these games, feel free to make arts and crafts, color or give your children some free play time.*

### **Option 1: Dance Chain (3k - 3rd Grade)**

*Supplies: music*

This game is all about following and dancing. Turn on some fun music and stand in a circle. Pick one person to go first. The first person does one dance move. The person to their left does that dance move and adds another. Keep going around the circle following the dance and adding moves. If someone forgets the order of moves or can't think of a new one, they are out, keep going until there is only one person left.

### **Option 2: Huckle Buckle Beanstalk (1st - 5th Grade)**

*Supplies: any small object*

For this game, you just need one object that you can hide somewhere. You can play this game in one room or in multiple rooms if you want to make it harder. Start by having everyone sit in a circle except for one person, that person is the Hider. The Hider shows the chosen object to everyone and then tells everyone in the circle to close their eyes. The Hider then hides the object. When the object is safely hidden, they say "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk" and that means that it's time for everyone else to open their eyes and look for the hidden object. When you find the object, don't tell anyone or take the object from its hiding spot. Quietly sit back down in the circle and say "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk". Everyone else keeps looking until everyone has found the object. If you want to play a second round, the first person who found the object should become the Hider.

## SING (5 minutes)

*Kids love singing and it's a great way to start to direct their energy in a Godward direction before the lesson. To make it easy, you can have the kids sing along to the lyric videos linked below.*

- [He Must Increase](#) (Current Key Passage Song)
- [James 1:5](#) (A Kidtown Favorite)

## LESSON (10 minutes)

*One of the most important ways we get to disciple kids is by helping teach the truth of God's Word and how it points towards Jesus.*

John's followers didn't know that Jesus was more important than John.

John knew that Jesus was more important than him.

CC: Jesus knew that He was the most important but still died on the cross for us.

### Tell the Bible Story

*Open your Bible to Matthew 3, you can even point out that this story is also found in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1. Show the Bible story video [John Pointed to Jesus](#).*

Wow! That was a pretty cool story about John and Jesus! Let's get started with...

**Story Point #1! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #1!") John's followers got sinfully competitive. (kids repeat)** They didn't like that Jesus was baptizing more people than John was. Do you ever see someone else doing the same thing as you and suddenly it feels like you're in a competition? Maybe when you're doing math problems and you want to do them faster and better than them? Or if you're playing basketball and you want to score more than anyone else? Some competitiveness is fine, but for John's followers it became sinful. They had been baptizing people before Jesus was, so why should He be baptizing more than them? They were frustrated because they felt like they had to win to be important. So they went to John and grumbled about this Jesus guy. Which leads us to...

**Story Point #2! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #2!") John redefined winning for his followers. (kids repeat)** John knew that it was his job to actually point people to Jesus! While John's followers thought they could only win by having the most people following them John knew that he wasn't nearly as important as Jesus. He knew that he was actually "winning" if more people were following Jesus than him. He explained to his followers that it was just like on a wedding day. The best man knows that he is not as important as the groom. John's job was to point people towards Jesus, not to point people towards himself. John said that it was time for him to become less and for Jesus to become greater. And now, we've arrived at our...

**Christ Connection! (Kids repeat, "Christ Connection!") Jesus' redefined winning in the cross. (kids repeat)** This week starts Holy Week that leads up to Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross. Think about this. Does dying on the cross sound like "winning" to you?! Of course not! And it didn't look like winning for Jesus' disciples or anyone else at that time either. But Jesus knew that even though He was the most important one... Even though He's the point... Even though He's God's Son! Jesus knew that His job was to serve people and die on the cross to pay for our sins. And just like John was happy to lose if it meant Jesus got more glory, Jesus was happy to lose on the cross to glorify God and save us!

## RESPONSE TIME (15 minutes)

*The goal of this time is to discuss and apply what we learned from the Bible.*

### Discussion

What stood out to you from this story?

- *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay—we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*

Who was John?

- *The one Isaiah prophesied about, the voice crying out in the wilderness, and Jesus' cousin! Matt. 3:3*

Why did John's followers not like that Jesus was baptizing people?

- *They didn't want people to start following Jesus instead of John.*

How did John describe himself?

- *As the best man, the groom's friend.*

Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?

- *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know and then tell your director afterwards.*
- *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at [kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com](mailto:kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com).*

**Main Application: We win when Jesus and others become more important than ourselves.**

- Adults first then kids - Why is it so easy to make ourselves the most important person in our lives?
- Adults first then kids - What does it look like to make Jesus the most important thing in your life?
- Adults first then kids - What does it look like to make others more important than yourself?

*Parents, if you or your kids have questions about baptism, you can...*

- Watch [this video of our Kids' Baptism Class](#).
- Utilize [this chart](#) as a resource for thinking through your child's readiness for baptism.
- Email us at [kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com](mailto:kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com)!

### Reflection

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

### Coloring Sheet

Today we talked about John knowing that he needed to become less important and Jesus needed to become more important. And our Key Passage for this lesson is John 3:30 "He must become greater; I must become less." And here is a [printable coloring sheet](#) of that verse to help you remember it!

## SNACK (5-10 minutes)

*Taking a break for a snack helps give kids a developmental break after the lesson and be used as a simple reward/incentive for focus during Small Group Time. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks for kids who have Gluten allergies.*

## LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

*This lesson activity is optional based on time. If you need to fill time it can help reinforce what the kids learned in the lesson, but can easily be cut if you're running short.*

### **Increase or decrease?**

Select a kid to think of a number between 1 and 100. Instruct that kid to whisper the number to you, and then allow the other kids to guess the number. After each guess, the kid who's thinking of the number will tell the kids if they should increase or decrease their next guess to be closer. When the kids guess the right number, select a new kid and start again. Be prepared to help kids answer if they are unsure if a guess is above or below their number.

SAY • You had to increase or decrease the values of your guesses to get to the correct answer. Today we learned about a time John told people that Jesus must increase while he decreased. What do you think it means for Jesus to increase?

## PRAYER TIME! (15 minutes)

*From an early age, we want to teach our kids that prayer is the fuel for our lives as Christians. We depend on God for everything and prayer helps us remember that. Especially in these uncertain times, prayer is one of our most important disciplines as God's people.*

### **Pray For Each Other:**

#### **Questions to Ask** (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

### **Pray For Jesus' Mission:**

#### **Questions to Ask** (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!