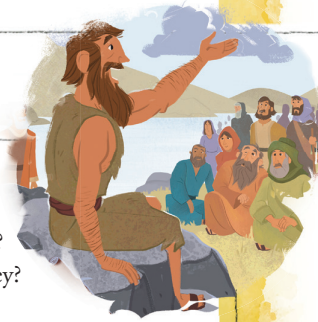


Journal Page



- 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.

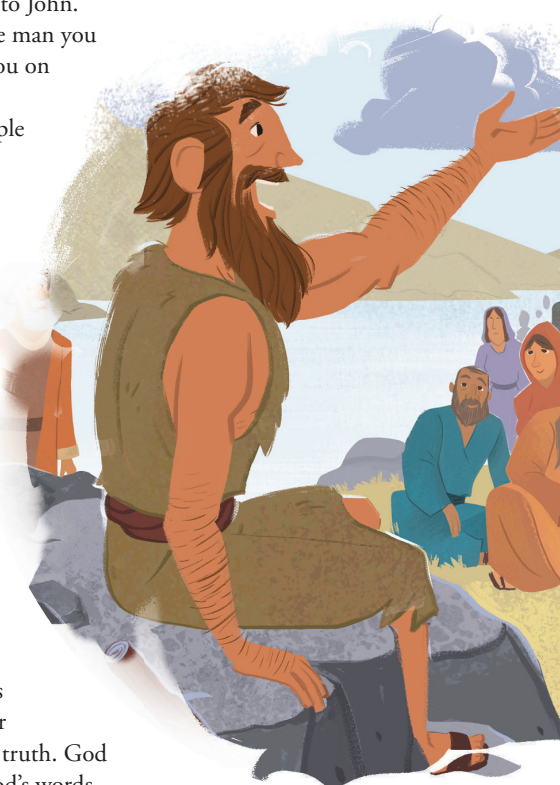
"Teacher," they said, "remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him." John's followers were talking about Jesus. John answered them, "You heard me say that I am not the Messiah."

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.

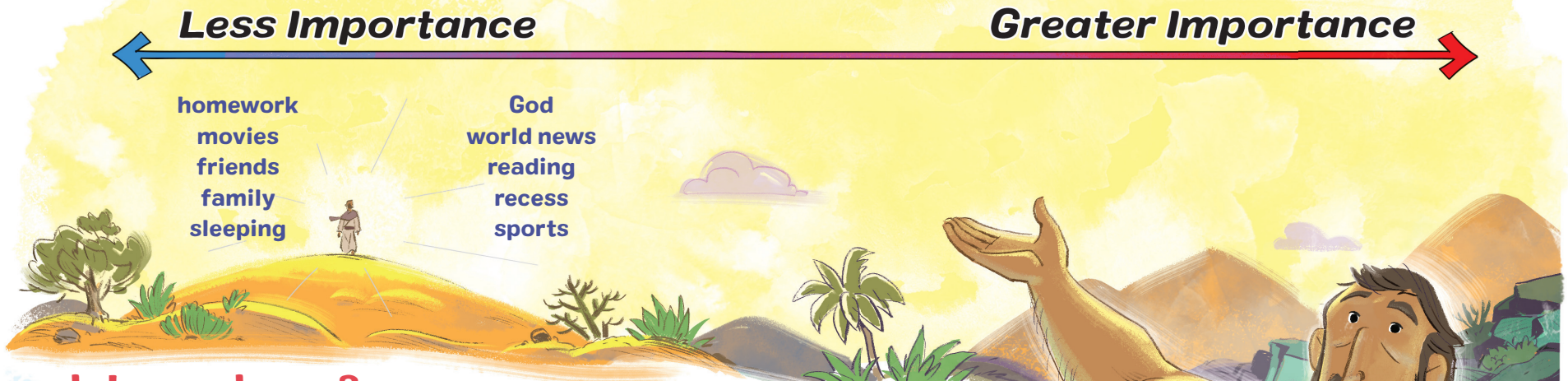
Christ Connection: John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John's mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



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.