



## Unit 20, Session 3

# John Pointed to Jesus

Matthew 3; John 1; 3

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**Story Point:** John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus.

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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 and hear the groom’s voice. 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.*