



Lesson Overview



Sermon Title

The Great Hand-Off

Main Theme

Your purpose isn't to be the most popular or the most important, but to be a sign that points others to the one who truly is: Jesus.

Bible Verse

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)



Opening Questions



- 1. Have you ever discovered an awesome new video game or YouTube channel and couldn't wait to tell all your friends about it? Why were you so excited to share it?**
- 2. Imagine you were the captain of the soccer team, but a new kid showed up who was even better than you. How would that make you feel? What would be the right thing to do?**
- 3. Who is someone you really look up to? What makes them a good role model?**



Modern Parable



The Ultimate Shout-Out

Leo was a king on the streaming platform "Glitch." His channel, "Leo the Legend," had millions of followers who tuned in every day to watch him dominate the online game Aetherium. He was famous for his quick reflexes and for discovering secret levels no one else could find. Whenever Leo gave a "shout-out" to a smaller streamer, their channel would blow up overnight. A shout-out from Leo was like a golden ticket.

One afternoon, while scrolling through random streams, Leo stumbled upon a channel with only ten viewers. The streamer, a quiet kid named Sam, was playing Aetherium in a way Leo had never seen. Sam wasn't just good; he was brilliant. He used strategies that were pure genius and found glitches in the game that unlocked amazing new powers. Leo realized that Sam wasn't just another player—he was the future of the game.

Leo could have ignored it. He could have stolen Sam's ideas and passed them off as his own. That would have made him even more famous. But as he watched Sam play with so much joy and skill, something in his heart told him what he needed to do. He thought about all the kids who wanted to get better at the game and knew he couldn't keep this to himself.

The next day, Leo went live. He told his millions of followers, "Hey, Legends. I've been your top guide in Aetherium for a long time, but I'm here to tell you that I'm not the best anymore. I've found the one you really need to be watching." He dropped a link to Sam's channel and spent the rest of his stream talking about how amazing Sam was. He told his followers, "Stop watching me. Go follow him." And they did. Sam's channel exploded. Leo knew he might lose some followers, but he didn't care. He knew his job wasn't just to be a legend, but to point others to the truth.



Object Lesson



It's Not About the Arrow

Supplies:

- A large piece of cardboard or poster board
- A thick black marker
- Scissors

Instructions:

- Hold up the big piece of cardboard. Tell the kids you're going on a treasure hunt, but you need a sign to help everyone find their way.
- Draw a giant, bold arrow on the cardboard and cut it out.
- Hold up the arrow and say, "Okay, here's our sign! Now, is this arrow the treasure?" (The kids will say no.)
- "That's right! The arrow isn't the treasure. It has only one job: to point to the treasure. What if the arrow just pointed to itself? It would be pretty useless, right? An arrow that says 'Look at me!' is a bad sign."
- **Point:** "John the Baptist was one of the most famous people of his time, but he knew he wasn't the treasure. He was the arrow. His whole life was about pointing people to Jesus. We're called to do the same thing. Our lives shouldn't be about saying 'Look how great I am!' but about being an arrow that points people to how great Jesus is."



Sermon



Pointing to the Real Hero

Have you ever seen a movie trailer that was so awesome it gave you goosebumps? The music is epic, the action scenes are amazing, and it gets you totally hyped for the main event. The trailer isn't the movie itself, but its job is to get you ready and point you to the real thing. In the Bible, John the Baptist was kind of like the ultimate movie trailer for Jesus. He was a huge deal—people came from all over to hear him speak, and he had tons of followers, called disciples. He was a superstar.

But John knew his job wasn't to collect fans for himself. His job was to prepare people for someone much greater who was coming. So one day, when he saw Jesus walking by, he didn't try to compete with Him. He didn't get jealous or protective of his followers. He did something amazing. He pointed right at Jesus and announced, "Look, the Lamb of God!" He was basically shouting, "He's the one! This is the guy I've been telling you about! He's the main event!" And when his own disciples heard this, they immediately left John and started following Jesus. John's mission was a success! He had pointed them in the right direction.

The scripture story for the day is found in the Bible in John 1:29-31; 34-39.

Lessons For Us

This story teaches us a huge lesson about humility and purpose. It's not about how many friends we have or how popular we are at school or online. It's about how well we point people to Jesus. Like John, we can get excited when we see God working in someone else's life. We can "spur one another on" by encouraging our friends, celebrating their successes, and, most importantly, showing them through our actions and words that Jesus is the real hero of our story.



Sermon Continued...



Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending John to prepare the way for Jesus. Help us to be like John—brave enough to stand for what's right and humble enough to know that it's not about us. Help us to be arrows that always point people to You. Use our lives to encourage others and show them your amazing love. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Q & A



? Test your knowledge!

1. **Who was the man who was preparing people for Jesus?**
 - a. **John the Baptist.**
2. **What did John call Jesus when he saw him?**
 - a. **"The Lamb of God."**
3. **Did John get angry when his disciples left to follow Jesus?**
 - a. **No, that was his goal!**
4. **How many of John's disciples started following Jesus in the story?**
 - a. **Two of them.**
5. **What did Jesus say to them when they followed Him?**
 - a. **"What do you want?"**
6. **In the modern parable, what was the streamer's name who gave the shout-out?**
 - a. **Leo.**
7. **What is the job of an arrow?**
 - a. **To point to the destination, not to itself.**
8. **What does our memory verse say we should do for one another?**
 - a. **Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.**
9. **Is our goal to get people to follow us or Jesus?**
 - a. **Jesus!**
10. **Can you be a "pointer" to Jesus even if you're not a super popular person?**
 - a. **Yes, absolutely!.**



Game Ideas



Follow the Light

Instructions: Turn the lights down low. One person is the "Pointer" and gets a flashlight. Everyone else stands on one side of the room. The Pointer's job is to shine the flashlight beam on the wall to create a path for the others to follow to the other side of the room. They can make the path twist and turn. The followers must stay in the light to be safe. This shows how we need to keep our eyes on the one who lights the way.

Spur-On Relay

Instructions: Divide the kids into two teams. Set up a simple relay race (e.g., run to a cone and back). The twist is that before a player can run, the teammate who just finished has to give them a real, specific encouragement, like "You're a really good listener!" or "You are great at running!" The goal is to "spur one another on" and show that encouragement helps us perform better.

Find the Leader

Instructions: Have the kids stand in a circle. One person is chosen to be the "Guesser" and leaves the room. The rest of the group secretly picks a "Leader." The Guesser comes back and stands in the middle. The Leader starts a simple action (like clapping, stomping, or patting their head), and everyone else in the circle copies them. The Leader will subtly change the action every 10-15 seconds, and the group must follow. The Guesser has three chances to figure out who the group is pointing to as their Leader.



Craft Ideas



Point-to-Jesus Foam Fingers

Supplies:

- Craft foam sheets in various colors
- Scissors
- Popsicle sticks
- Markers (Sharpies work best)
- Glue or a hot glue gun (with adult help)
- Pencils for tracing

Instructions:

1. Trace and Cut: Have the kids place their hand on a sheet of foam with their index finger pointing straight up. They should trace around their hand to create the shape of a foam finger.
2. Cut it Out: Carefully cut out the hand shape.
3. Decorate: On the palm of the foam hand, use markers to write phrases like "Jesus is #1," "Follow Him!" or "This Way to Jesus!"
4. Add an Arrow: On the pointing finger, draw a cool arrow to make it clear which way it's pointing.
5. Attach the Handle: Glue a popsicle stick to the back of the foam hand at the bottom to create a handle.
6. Share: Kids can take their foam fingers home as a fun reminder that their job is to cheer for Jesus and point others to Him!



The At-Home Connection



Dinner Table Discussions

Hey Parents!

This week, we learned about how John the Baptist wasn't afraid to step out of the spotlight to point people toward Jesus. He knew his purpose was to be an "arrow," not the destination. You can use these simple questions and the activity below to keep the conversation going at home!

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is someone at school or in our neighborhood that we could "point to Jesus" this week by showing them kindness?
2. When is it hard to let someone else be the center of attention? Why do you think it feels that way sometimes?
3. What's one way you can "spur on" or encourage a family member tomorrow?

Family Activity: Scavenger Hunt with Arrows

This is a super simple way to illustrate this week's lesson.

- **What you'll need:** A "treasure" (like a special snack, a small toy, or a family photo), sticky notes, and a pen.
- **How to do it:**
 - Hide the treasure somewhere in the house.
 - On several sticky notes, draw simple arrows.
 - Place sticky notes around the house to create a trail of arrows that guide your kids from one clue to the next, leading them to the hidden treasure.

The Point: After they find the treasure, remind them that just like those little arrows weren't the prize, our job is to be happy, helpful arrows that point people to the greatest treasure of all: Jesus!