

UNIT 6, SESSION 4

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

MATTHEW 3:1-12

## KEY POINT

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who came to prepare the way for Jesus? John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus!

## MEMORY VERSE

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

This week, we're introducing our preschoolers to John the Baptist. The miracle child born to elderly parents, the cousin of Jesus, and the one chosen by God to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

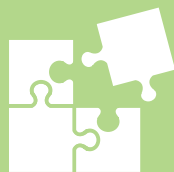
Before you share this lesson this Sunday, pause and reflect on how God prepares things long before we ever see them. John's birth was not random. His purpose was not accidental. God planned him, called him, and positioned him at just the right time to point people to Jesus.

John's job was simple, but not easy: point people to Jesus. He didn't draw attention to himself. He didn't preach about his own ideas or entertain people with stories. He spoke boldly: "Jesus is coming—prepare your hearts!"

John preached repentance, turning back toward God. Repentance isn't just sorrow; it's a change of direction. John invited people to leave their old ways and make room in their hearts for the Savior. Baptism didn't save people; it showed what God had already done. It was a symbol of how they had died to sin and risen to life in Christ.

Just as John prepared people to recognize Jesus, you are preparing little hearts every week. You're shaping their first ideas about who God is, what love looks like, and how to hear His voice. What you do matters deeply. You are not doing this alone. God is preparing the way before you, in you, and through you.

# WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

## WELCOME

Play music through the undercabinet radio (flash drive), or connect your phone to Bluetooth through the radio and play Christian preschool/Bible songs as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

## MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”:

I have hidden  
Your word in my heart,  
that I might not  
sin against You.  
Psalm 119:11

## THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Toddlers & Twos:** Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

**Threes & Fours:** Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

# CRAFT

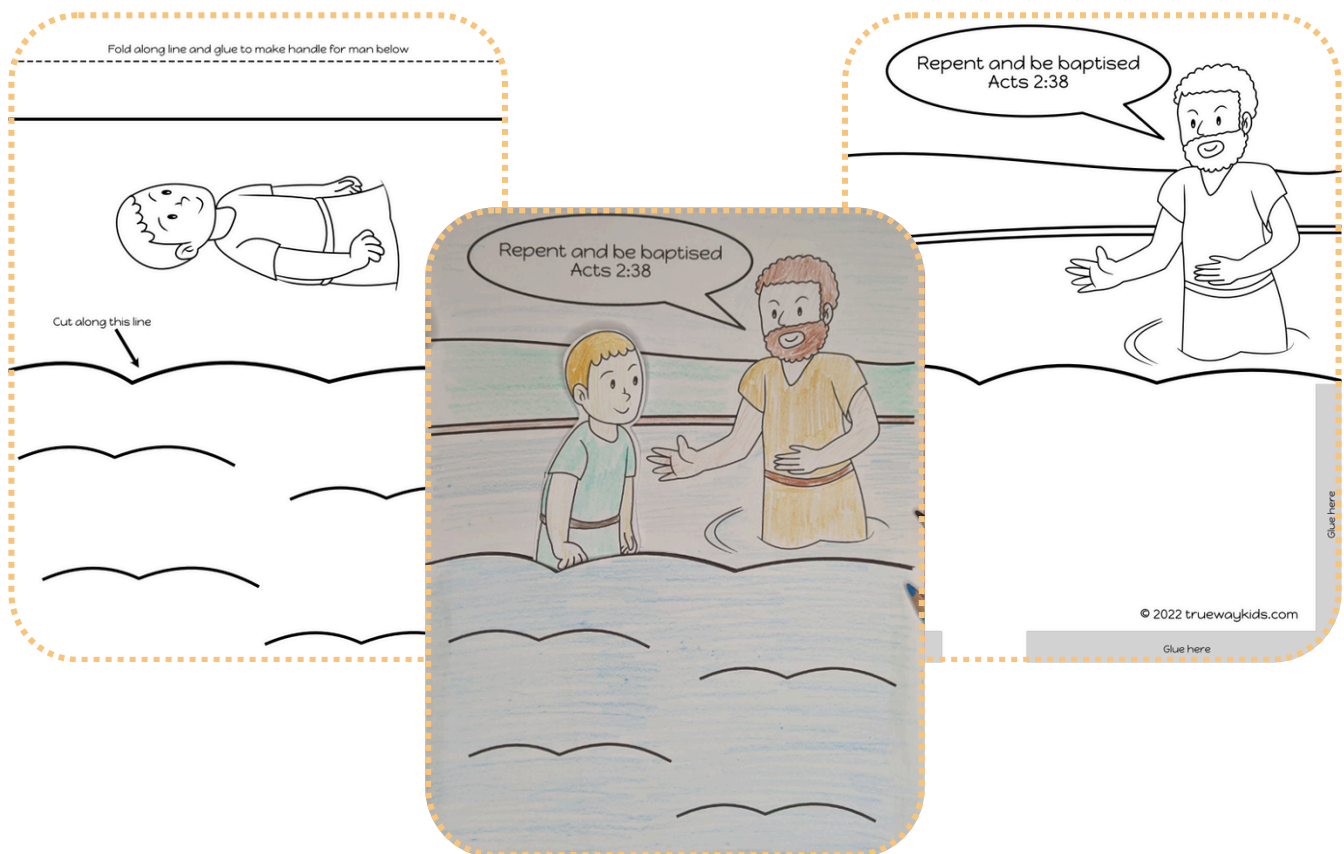


Help children with a craft connected to the Bible lesson.

## CRAFT: JOHN THE BAPTIST

Pass out the provided John the Baptist paper templates. Let children color and decorate their template, then help them cut out the water, the strip for the handle, and the man being baptized.

Fold and glue the handle strip in half as indicated, then glue the handle strip to the back of the paper man. Glue the water to the main sheet along the edges as the template instructs, leaving a small space at the bottom for the handle to slide through.





## BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

John was a very special baby. God planned something important for him even before he was born! His parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, loved God very much. When John grew up, God gave him a big job.

John didn't live in a regular town; he lived out in the desert! He wore scratchy camel hair clothes and ate honey. John told people, "Come back to God! Tell Him you're sorry for the wrong things you did." Many people listened. They wanted to follow God, so John baptized them in the river to show their hearts were clean.

John was getting everyone ready for someone very special: Jesus!

## THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Even when John was a baby, his parents knew God had a special plan for him. Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have a baby. His birth was a miracle! He was also Jesus' cousin.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were good parents, and taught John what it meant to obey God. They thought when he was old enough, John would become a priest like Zechariah. But God had a special mission for John. Instead of working at the temple as a priest, he lived in the desert. He wore clothes made from camel's hair. He ate locusts and wild honey. He began to preach an important message.

John taught people they needed to repent from their sin. Many people came to listen to him. Some thought he was crazy, and many religious people were upset with him. But others believed his message and repented of their sins. They said sorry for the bad things they had done and began to obey God.

John baptized them in the Jordan River. It was a way to show they really meant what they said. It was like washing the bad things away. Many people repented of their sins and were baptized by John. John was preparing the way for Jesus!

## KEY POINT

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What did John the Baptist teach people?
4. Who came to prepare the way for Jesus? John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus!

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**