



Kindergarten-2nd

January 19-20, 2013

DATE

John the Baptist

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 3 and 11; Jeremiah 29:11

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can show others how to follow Jesus

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes)
Large Group (30 minutes)
Small Group (20 minutes)
Video and song review (10 minutes)

tips

Engage kids in a specific activity from the moment they walk into the door. Help them find something to color, build, or pretend. This will help each kid feel valued and included...especially, if they are a little nervous.

check-in/out

Let parents know Kids' Club is going to be extra special this year! Encourage them to bring their kids—and their kids' friends.

large group heads up

Today, we're learning about John the Baptist and God's special job for him. God has a special role for US to play in His story, too!



instructions

Goal: To help kids show others how to act like Jesus, just like John did!

Why? In I Timothy 4:11, God calls everyone—even young people—to set an example for others.

Tip: When all the small groups finish today, don't head into free play. Instead, join together for a fun and creative game of Follow the Leader!

QUESTIONS

CONNECT

1. Tell me your name and your favorite food. (Ask them if anybody enjoys eating John's favorite food—bugs dipped in honey!)
2. What's the best part of your week?

REVIEW

3. Tell me about John (he wore a robe with a belt and ate bugs and honey, he lived in the desert until he came back and started telling everybody about Jesus)
4. When John was still in his mom's belly, God had a special job for him. What was it? (helping people follow Jesus)

RELATE

5. John got to be a very special part of God's Story. Who ELSE is a special part of God's Story? (Kids can name Bible characters, but make sure you point to each one and say "you"!)

(Continue on next page before moving to the activity)

ACTIVITY

BRAINSTORM

SAY: Put your hand on your head when you know how you want to show others how to follow Jesus. But don't tell us yet! (Wait for kids to put hands on heads. If they are stuck, reiterate the ways we discussed in large group: getting baptized, trusting God, helping our parents, being kind to other kids.)

CREATE

Give each kid a piece of **black construction paper**. Let them use the **colored chalk** to draw the way they want to show others how to follow Jesus. They can be totally creative in how they want to portray their example of choice, but give suggestions if they need it:

- Draw themselves acting like Jesus
- Draw themselves acting like Jesus in front of someone else
- Draw the place where they'll act like Jesus
- Draw the action they intend to do
- Etc.

(Continued on next page)

QUESTIONS

6. When can you start showing people how to follow Jesus? (Right now!)
7. Read 1 Timothy 4:12 (pg. 1402) again: **Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.** Can you think of somebody who set an example for you? Who have you seen follow Jesus? What did he/she do? (Tailor this question for your age group. Also, let kids decline to respond if they wish; it's possible they don't have many people showing them love.)
8. YOU can do that for others. Think about one way you can show others how to follow Jesus this week. (DON'T HAVE KIDS ANSWER: MOVE TO THE ACTIVITY!)

ACTIVITY

SHARE

When kids are finished (or close) ask them to go around and share the way they plan to act like Jesus this week. Then say this:

Guess what, guys? Remember how John was a part of God's story and he showed people how to follow Jesus? Well, you guys just showed all of US how to follow Jesus! Take your pictures home today so you remember how you want to act like Jesus this week.

***Pray together and ask God to help us follow him, like John did!**

If you have extra time, grab a game and bring it to the table. Engage all kids in a group game or tournament instead of dismissing for free play.

special notes

We're talking about John the Baptist and how he played a special role in God's Story by getting people ready to follow Jesus. God wants us—even kids!—to set an example of how to act like Jesus.

presenter tips

In order to engage the most possible kids, today's lesson asks fewer open-ended questions. Instead, there are some places for all the kids to answer "yes" or "no" or repeat a phrase. Practice ahead of time so you can get used to today's style!

script

**Wear the furry robe with belt. Have the plastic bugs and jar of honey visible to kids.*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Before we get started today, I have an IMPORTANT announcement. Super Bowl is coming soon and we are going to have FUN in Kids' Club!! Here's a video to get you excited about what we'll do in two weeks.

Video: Super Bowl Trailer

WELCOME

Alright, hope to see you all again in a couple of weeks! But let's have some fun today first! (Pretend to be John!): What do you guys think of this **robe**? (Spin around). How about this breakfast? (Show them the **plastic bug**.) I'm starting this morning off with some fresh bugs dipped in **honey**. Raise your hand if you had some bugs with honey this morning! (Let kids respond.)

Don't worry, guys...I'm kidding—I haven't eaten any bugs this morning! Gross! Fortunately, I had some delicious _____ (*insert breakfast food*) instead. But today, we are going to hear about a guy in the Bible who was pretty wacky. He really wore clothes made of camel hair and a leather belt. He really DID eat grasshoppers dipped in honey. His name was John.

But even though John was...unique, God gave him a REALLY important job: John's job was to get people ready to follow Jesus.



script continued

REVIEW

Remember, Jesus had to grow up, just like us. And he showed us how to act as kids by obeying his parents and learning about ____ (Let kids respond. Answer is GOD). As Jesus got older, he kept showing us how to follow God and love other people. (Use your tone of voice to differentiate between John and Jesus.): And *John* got to tell everybody about *Jesus*.

INTRO: JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now we're going to watch a video about John. As you watch, see if you can figure out what John got to do for Jesus.

Video: John the Baptist

...So, what was it? What did John do for Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he baptized Jesus. Getting baptized is what people do when they want to tell everybody "I follow Jesus!" What do people tell everybody when they get baptized? (Let kids respond: "I follow Jesus!")

The cool thing is, John got to baptize JESUS. And when he did, something *amazing* happened. (**Show picture on the screen from the Jesus Storybook Bible pg. 207.**) The Bible says HEAVEN opened. The Holy Spirit came down like a dove. And God's voice came down from heaven, strong and loud so everyone could hear: (Show slide and SHOUT it loud!)

SLIDE: Matthew 3:17: "This is my son. And I love him. I am very pleased with him."

(Whisper the next part, to contrast the shouting):

Guess what? Heaven had broken through to earth. The Great Rescue had begun...

Wow! John the Baptist had a very special part in God's Story. (Hold up three fingers, one at a time): ONE: He got people ready to meet Jesus. TWO: he baptized people who wanted to tell everybody, "I _____." (Let kids respond: "follow Jesus!") THREE: He baptized JESUS! He got to be a really special part of God's story: he taught people to follow Jesus!

WE CAN BE A PART OF GOD'S STORY

But guess what? God wants you to be a special part of his story, too! And just like John, you can show people how to follow Jesus. Now, can you do that as a kid or do you have to wait until you're grown up? I'm going to ask that one more time. When I do, I want you to yell "kid or grown up"? Ready? Can you follow God as a kid or do you have to wait until you're a grown up? (Let kids yell "kid." Feel free to repeat until you engage all kids!)

Yes, you can teach people to follow Jesus as a kid. In fact, 1 Timothy 4:12 says: (**show slide**): **Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.**

God wants us ALL to be a part of his story *by showing other people how to follow Jesus*. What does God want us to show people? (Let kids respond: "How to follow Jesus!") Yep, and we can show OTHERS how to follow Jesus when WE act like Jesus!



script continued

HOW WE CAN FOLLOW JESUS

So we're going to play a little game to come up with ways to act like Jesus. I'm going to show you some pictures. Then I'm going to ask you if JESUS would do what's in the picture. If the answer is yes, give me a "thumbs up". (Model) If the answer is no, give me a "thumbs down". (Model) Ready? (*This should be a quick game—kids will talk more in-depth in small groups, just get them thinking about how to follow God. Take no more than 10 seconds per example!*)

(Show picture of baptism.) This is a picture of a person being baptized. Did Jesus get baptized? (Let kids give a "thumbs up") Then you can ACT LIKE HIM. Remember, baptism is what you do when you decide to tell all your friends and family--and even strangers that you follow Jesus.

(Show picture of two kids watching TV.) You're watching TV with your brother or sister. You can hear your mom making dinner in the kitchen. Do you think Jesus would go help his mom? (Thumbs up) Yes! Then act like Jesus!

(Show picture of kids laughing.) You're with your friends and they're making fun of another kid in your class. Would Jesus make fun of someone else? (Thumbs down) No way! So act like Jesus by being kind to everybody.

(Show picture of storm/scared kids.) It's late at night. It's dark and stormy with lots of loud thunder. You're so scared, but you decide that instead of being scared, you'll ask God to help you. What do you think? Would Jesus have asked God to help him? (Thumbs up) Definitely! Act like Jesus by trusting God to be with you.

John helped people to follow Jesus—and we can, too! We'll talk more about how to act like Jesus in small group, but first, let's worship God together.

WORSHIP

Hey, do you think Jesus would have worshiped God? (Thumbs up) For sure! Our first song reminds us to act like Jesus. The second one remind us to be BRAVE, because God will always be with us to help us out!

Worship Video: Grow Up Like Jesus

Worship Video: Brave-A-Ree

PRAY

Would someone like to come pray for us and ask God to help show others how to follow Jesus this week?



script continued

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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Coloring pages: Shoes
2. 1 piece of black construction paper per kid
3. Each small group: an assortment of pastel-colored chalk
4. NIV Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1402)

large group supplies

1. NIV Adventure Bible for Early Readers
2. Furry robe/burlap sack vest
3. Belt
4. Plastic bugs (grasshoppers or crickets)
5. Unopened jar of honey

a/v needs

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|--|---|
| 1. Video: Super Bowl trailer | folder) |
| 2. Video: God's Story / John the Baptist | 8. Image: making fun (jpeg in curriculum folder) |
| 3. Picture from JSB Pg. 207 (205 in scanned version: Jesus baptized) | 9. Image: two scared kids (jpeg in curriculum folder) |
| 4. Slide: Matt 3:17 (exact wording in script) | 10. Worship Video: Grow Up Like Jesus |
| 5. Slide: I Tim 4:12 (exact wording in script) | 11. Worship video: Brave-A-Ree |
| 6. Image: baptism (jpeg in curriculum folder) | |
| 7. Image: kids watching TV (jpeg in curriculum | |

special room set-up

none

connect questions

Tell me about John the Baptist.
How can we act like Jesus?

parent page

Today's story was about John the Baptist. God had a special job for him: showing others how to follow Jesus. The great news is, John isn't the only one who gets to be a part of God's Story: we do, too! God wants all of US to act like Jesus so the people around us know how to follow him. Ask your kids about it. And read John's story together in Matthew 3 and 11 in the Bible.