



3rd – 5th

January 3-4, 2015

DATE

John the Baptist

LESSON TITLE

1 John 4:19, Matthew 1-12
Adventure Bible (pp. 1374, 1052-1067)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God prepares us for Jesus

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

John the Baptist is a pretty famous character, but we're emphasizing his humility today. John was very important in preparing the way for Jesus, but even more importantly, he didn't claim the spotlight for his own. He did it all for God's glory, not his.

check-in/out

Ask kids about their water paintings! Ask them what it's about, and why they've made a self-portrait under AND over the water.

large group heads up

We'll be building up to John the Baptist by talking about how preparation is important to things in our own lives; help kids identify how important preparation was for God, by connecting it with things like practicing for a big game or rehearsing for a play!



connect time

Goal: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

CHARADES

**Have an adult leader give kids directions in a large group, then have them break off into smaller groups.*

- Tell kids that we're all going to do some acting today!
- Everyone will break up into groups of 5 (or more depending on if you have an extra large group).
- Each group must huddle together and decide on an activity to act out (playing a sport, acting like lions, riding a bike, etc.). Then, they have to decide how to act it out. Everyone must act out the same thing!
- Give everyone a few minutes to practice. Once all groups are ready, go to each group and give them a chance to act out their activity. The rest of the room must guess what the activity is.
- After everyone has finished tell everyone to find a partner, sit down and ask this question:
 - What did you have to do before acting out the activity?
- Once they've talk about that question, ask them this:
 - Was it hard to act in front of everyone? Why or why not?
- Once you're done, ask everyone what the best/worst parts of their week were.

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand why God prepared the world for Jesus' arrival and (2) God used John the Baptist to prepare people.

Why: God sent us his son to rescue us from every bad thing in the world, and this was a really big deal. It required a lot of preparation so that people would be ready to accept him!

Tip: Emphasize that even though Jesus came a long time ago, he's still around us today.

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

*Pass around a **bean bag** to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the bean bag and answer questions.

1. What did Isaiah say about John the Baptist?
2. What was John the Baptist like?
3. What did John say when people said HE was the savior?
4. How did John treat Jesus?
5. What special thing did John do for Jesus?
6. Why did Jesus come to earth in the first place?
7. What does Jesus want us to do?

UNDERWATER ART

- Hand each kid **1 piece of cardstock paper** and **10 blue tissue paper squares**. Set out **markers and gluesticks** on the table/floor (where your group is meeting).
- Tell kids to design half of their paper blue with the markers/tissue paper squares. They could make it a river, like in our Bible story today, or it could be an ocean, a pool, etc.
- After they color/make the water, hand out markers and tell kids to draw a picture of themselves under the water. This represents them before they knew Jesus.
- Next, have them **draw a picture of themselves above the water**. This represents them after they've known Jesus! Along with the top picture, they can write words that describe what it's like to know Jesus.
- Kids may not have made the decision to follow Jesus or understand what it means. Ask kids if they have questions about what it means to follow Jesus and why we get baptized.

(Continued on next page)

Prayer

Thank God for sending us a rescuer, and for the preparing the way for Him.

***Extra time?** Pass the **bean bag** to a kid and ask him about how they could love someone in their life this week. After they're done, they can throw the bean bag to someone else (anyone they choose), and repeat.*

special notes

Today we're talking about how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by telling people about him before he came. Prepare for today by thinking of a way that you've ever felt embarrassed to talk about Jesus, and how God helped you overcome it.

presenter tips

Here's the video clips we'll be watching:
Video: God's Story/John the Baptist
<http://vimeo.com/57088532>

Here's the music we'll be listening to!
You can find it at
crossroads.net/weekend.
Music Video: All That You Need
Music Video: Do Like You Do

script

**Click to play intro music*

CONNECT TIME REVIEW

Hey everybody! How are you all doing? I'm really glad to see you here, and I hope you're ready to have an awesome time in Kids' Club today.

Let's talk about everybody's acting just a few minutes ago. You all had to pretend to do something. Basically, you had to act! Can someone tell me what you had to do BEFORE you acted though? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, you had to practice! You all had to work together to come up with a PLAN of how you would act out the activity. So why did we have to practice, or PREPARE for the acting? (Let a kid respond.) Thanks, you got it! We have to prepare beforehand, because otherwise, you wouldn't know what to do!

Let's pretend for a minute that you're a big movie star (**show slide of movie star**). You're about to make a really cool movie, and there are lots of actors and cameramen who are counting on you to make this movie. You come to the movie set on the first day, but guess what? You haven't prepared at all! You haven't rehearsed any lines! What do you think is going to happen? (Let a kid respond.) Yep, you won't be able to act very well. You can't do the job you're supposed to do!

Let's play a game. I'm going to tell you some sort of activity, and you have to yell out whatever kind of preparation or practice it needs. Ready?

- Putting on a big art show with lots of paintings and sculptures.
- Playing a basketball game.
- Performing a dance recital.
- Making a big fancy delicious dinner.
- Memorizing a Bible verse.
- Taking a test at school.



script continued

INTRO: JOHN THE BAPTIST

All right! Great job guys! Preparation was important to all those things. Today we're going to talk about someone who did A LOT of preparing. But he wasn't preparing for something like a big game or a dance recital. He was preparing for a person. Not just any person, but the most important person in the entire world! Do you all want to guess who that person might be? (Let kids respond.) That's right, Jesus!

So before God sent Jesus to us, he had a lot of preparing to do, and he used a very special person to do it. His name was John the Baptist (**show slide**). Before we get to him, we're going to go even further back in time, all the way to a person named Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet, which means God gave him special words to tell people! Isaiah said this:

SLIDE: Isaiah 40:3: "A messenger is calling out in the desert. Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him."

Isaiah is saying that a person who lives in the desert is going to tell people about God. This person is going to prepare the way for Jesus! He's talking about John the Baptist! Now, how many years before John do you think Isaiah lived? Any guesses? (Let a few kids respond. You can say "lower" or "higher", to help them get to the right number, etc.) Well it was actually 700 years!! That's a really long time!

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MINISTRY

John the Baptist was a pretty cool person. But some people thought he was pretty weird! You guys might think he was a little weird too. Let's watch a video about him to find out more about how he prepared the world for Jesus. **As you watch, pay close attention to what John the Baptist said about Jesus, and how he treated Jesus when he met him.**

VIDEO: GOD'S STORY/JOHN THE BAPTIST

Woah! What an amazing story! Can someone tell me why John seemed like kind of a strange person to others? (Let a kid respond.) Yup, he did some strange things! But that was because he didn't really care about things like cool clothes, or good food. He cared about telling people about Jesus.

Has anyone ever felt afraid to tell other about Jesus? (Let kids respond.) I've felt that way before. It's not easy, because you never know how your friends will treat you, or what they'll think. (If you can think of a personal example, share with kids about a time you felt afraid/embarrassed/self-conscious about talking about Jesus.)

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

There's something else that might seem strange about this story. John baptized Jesus! God's own son, sent here to earth! I don't know about you, but I would think that Jesus would baptize John! Does anybody else feel like that? (Let kids respond.)

John felt like he wasn't good enough to baptize Jesus. Does anybody remember what he said about Jesus' feet? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, he didn't even think he should wash Jesus'



script continued

feet! But Jesus didn't think that. He respected and loved John. Jesus knew that he needed to be baptized, so that he could receive the Holy Spirit too.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After John baptized Jesus, a lot of amazing things happened! Jesus taught people about how much God loved them. He did miracles, and healed sick people, and took care of the poor. But the most important part of this whole story is this: He came here to LOVE us. That's why God spent hundreds and hundreds of years just to prepare for his arrival! That's why John the Baptist prepared the way too! Jesus' job was more important than anything else in the whole world, and it needed a lot of preparation. Let's look at a verse about Jesus' love":

SLIDE: 1 JOHN 4:19: "We love because He loved us first."

Wow, can someone tell me what that verse means to you? (Let a kid respond.) Yep, you're right! Not only does Jesus love us, but we should love too!

Let's all get up on our feet. I'm going to give you some scenarios. In each scenario, if you think you should show love to someone, give a friend a high five! Ready?

- Your mom takes care of you when you get sick.
- You little brother is really annoying!
- Your friend does a kind thing for you.
- A bully at school makes fun of you.
- Someone gives you \$5!
- Someone cheats while playing a video game with you.

So does Jesus want us to love people only when they treat us well? (Let kids respond.) No way! He wants us to love others ALWAYS. It's why He came to earth to rescue us, and it's why John prepared the way for us!

Let's all celebrate together now! We're going to sing some worship songs, and as we sing, I want you to think about all the reasons you need Jesus, and all the things he's done for us!

VIDEO: ALL THAT YOU NEED

VIDEO: DO LIKE YOU DO

PRAYER

God, thank you for preparing the way for Jesus. We're so glad that you sent us your son as the ultimate rescuer. Amen!



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Charades – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per group: Markers, glue sticks, Adventure Bible, beanbag

Per kid: 1 piece of white cardstock, 10 blue tissue paper squares (cut blue tissue paper into 3"x3" squares)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1374, 1052-1067)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Slide: Movie star
3. Slide: John the Baptist
4. Slide: Isaiah 40:3: "A messenger is calling out in the desert. Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him."
5. Video: God's Story/John the Baptist
6. Slide: 1 John 4:19: "We love because He loved us first."
7. Video: All That You Need
8. Video: Do Like You Do

connect questions

Who was John the Baptist?
Why did God prepare the world for Jesus?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc.