



Kindergarten-2nd

January 3-4, 2015

DATE

John the Baptist

LESSON TITLE

1 John 4:19, Matthew 1-12

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1455, 1122-1137)
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 puppets; who do the puppets represent? (Jesus and John the Baptist.)

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 small groups.
- Each leader will decide on an activity for the group to act out (acting like lions, playing basketball, 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, let each group act out their activity up on stage. The rest of the room must guess what the activity is.
- Get silly and exaggerate your motions so that kids have fun with it!
- After everyone has finished, sit down with your small group and ask this question:
 - What did you have to do before acting out the activity?
 - What were the best/worst parts of your week?

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 man did Isaiah talk about a long time ago? (John the Baptist)
2. What strange things did John the Baptist do? (Ate locusts, lived in the wild, wore strange clothes)
3. Who did John the Baptist say was coming to earth soon?
4. What did Jesus ask John to do for him?
5. Why did Jesus come to earth?
6. What does Jesus want us to do, just like he did?

JESUS AND JOHN PUPPETS

- Hand each kid **2 brown paper bags, 2 colored ½ sheets of paper** and let them put **2 eyes** on each of their puppets (**each kid get 4 eyes total**).
- Set **markers, glue sticks, and scissors** around the table.
- Tell kids that we are going to make a John the Baptist puppet, and a Jesus puppet!
- They can use markers to create faces for the puppet along with the eye stickers. Using the colored paper pieces, they can cut out shapes to make clothes, hair, and decoration.
- They can act out the story by having John “dip” Jesus to show the baptism.
- As kids are working, ask them questions about the story of Jesus and John. Ask them about how they can show love to others just like Jesus did.

(Continued on next page)

Prayer

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

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! Let's do a little acting right now. Can you show me a happy face? (Let kids respond.) Okay, how about a really angry face? (Let kids respond.) Yikes! Now let's try to pretend laughing as hard as we can! (Laugh along with the kids.) Awesome job!

Now before we act, we have to prepare! Do you know what prepare means? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, it's like practicing for something! What if you have a basketball game to play, what do you do before the game? (Let kids respond.) That's right, you practice. You PREPARE by playing with your teammates, throwing the ball, practicing!

Let's pretend for a minute that you're a big movie star. **(Show slide of movie star.)** Can you all make a movie star pose? (Act one out to demonstrate.) You're about to make a really cool movie, and there's 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!

INTRO: JOHN THE BAPTIST

All right! Great job guys! Preparation was important to all those things. Let's all say PREPARATION together! (Repeat with kids.) 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



script continued

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**). Can you all say that name with me? (Repeat with kids.) 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!

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 was like, and the way he lived!**

VIDEO: GOD'S STORY/JOHN THE BAPTIST

Whoa! 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! He ate bugs! Can you all make a disgusted face with me? (Make a face and a 'yuck' noise with kids.) He wore animal skin clothes! What if you all had to wear clothes made out of animal skin? Would you want that? (Let kids respond.) He also lived in the wilderness! What if we all had to live in the woods with no house or bed?! Yikes! Do you know why he did those things though? It was because he didn't really care about things like cool clothes, or good food. He just cared about telling people about Jesus!

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

There's something else that might seem strange about this story. John baptized Jesus! That means that Jesus made a choice to show everyone in the whole wide world that he loved God! So John dipped him under the water and then rose him up. That's what baptism is!

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 feet! They were gross! But Jesus didn't think that. He loved John no matter what.

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



script continued

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.
- Your 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!



script continued

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Charades – no supplies needed

small group supplies

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

Per kid: 2 brown paper bags, 4 eye stickers
(OT: IN-57/6047), 2 quarter-page sized colored
construction paper pieces

Coloring Page: John the Baptist

large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1455, 1122-
1137)

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.