



# 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

January 9-10, 2016

DATE

John the Baptist

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 3, Matthew 11:11

WHERE TO FIND IT

John the Baptist had an important role in God's Story

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

When you first arrive in the room set up each table with a different activity. Then as kids come, help them find something that they will enjoy. This cuts down on the chaos of "free play" at the beginning of the hour, and feels much more inviting to new families.

## check-in/out

We talked about baptism today, so kids or parents may have questions. Tell them to check out [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net) for resources that will help them discuss baptism as a family.

## large group heads up

We're talking about John the Baptist, who was pretty wacky, and the important role he played in God's Story.



## 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.*

### **WE'RE ALL UNIQUE**

- Split into small groups.
- Tell kids to think of one thing that they do, or something they like that is unique to them. It could be a sport they play, a hobby they have, something they admire... anything! Give them a few minutes to decide their unique thing.
- Once everybody is ready, have kids each whisper their thing to you. Then write it down on **a piece of paper** and fold it up. Do this for each kid.
- Once everybody is ready, mix the papers up, pick one out and read it. The rest of the group has to decide who they think the unique thing belongs to.
- Go through each piece of paper and let the group decide who each unique trait/hobby belongs to. If you get done early, repeat the exercise, and have kids come up with a new thing!

### **TALK ABOUT IT**

- Why do you think God made us all unique?
- Do you think any people in the Bible had unique, even weird, traits? Do you know any of them?

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell the story of John the Baptist (2) understand the unique role he had in Jesus' life and (3) understand what baptism means for them personally

**Why?** Jesus calls us to be baptized, like he was. We don't want to force that upon kids in *any* way, but we do want them to make an educated decision about baptism when the time is right and understand that they have a role in God's Story *right now*.

**Tip:** You're the game show host today—make it fun and get kids into the Word!

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

- We're going to have a John the Baptist contest!
- SAY: John was a strange guy. It's comforting to remember that, because no matter how silly or crazy we are, we can be a part of God's Story! So, we're going to see who can be the BEST John the Baptist.
- Here's your mission:
  - Choose one person to be "John the Baptist."
  - You'll get a bag of materials. Try to remember details from today's story and use that stuff to dress up your "John the Baptist."
  - You can *only* use the Bible to try to figure out all the props. You get (3-5) minutes...ready? Set? Go!
- Here's what's in the **bag** (don't tell the kids—let them figure it out!):
  - **Brown or burlap material (to make clothes)**
  - **A leather belt**
  - **Fake bugs**
  - **Piece of sandpaper (to represent the desert)**
  - **Fake beard (John probably didn't have scissors or a razor—and it's fun to wear a fake beard!)**
  - **Megaphone (he preached)**
  - **Sticks (can set up a wilderness in the desert, pretend it is a toothbrush like in the movie, or use to pretend to build a fire on the sandpaper)**

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**DIG DEEPER**

1. Though John was strange, God had an important job for him. What was it? (preparing people for Jesus, baptizing people)
2. Are you surprised that John got to be the one to prepare everyone for Jesus? Why or why not?
3. What is baptism? (It's a way for us to publicly announce that we believe Jesus is the Rescuer and we follow him)
4. Is baptism something that people make us do, or is it a choice? Explain.
5. What's one way you can follow Jesus this week, and show outwardly that you love him?

*Extra Time? Play the Connect Time activity again! This time, have kids come up with their favorite food, movie, or something silly they like to do.*

## special notes

John the Baptist had a special role: preparing people for Jesus. But God says we can all be even greater than him! Emphasize the fact that God wants ALL of us to be a part of his story!

## presenter tips

Today, you're facilitating a game to engage kids and an object lesson to explain baptism. Practice beforehand and adapt it to fit your service and site!

## script

**\*Click to play intro music**

### **WELCOME AND INTRO**

Hey guys! Welcome to Kids' Club, it's great to see you! You all did awesome with your connect Time game. You probably learned a lot about each other!

Before we get started today, we're going to play a little game called "I Didn't Eat THAT." Everybody stand up. (Let kids respond.) Okay, now think about what you had for breakfast/lunch today (depending on service). I'm going to say a food. You sit down if...you *didn't* eat THAT. Ready? Cereal/sandwich. Sit down if you did NOT eat cereal/sandwich (Let kids respond.)

Alright, some of you are still standing because you DID eat cereal/sandwich. Let's see if we get more of you to sit down. Here's the next one: orange juice/fruit (Let kids respond.) Sit down...if you *didn't* eat THAT.

One more...how about THIS? (**Show picture of locust.**) Yep, that's a bug. ...A locust, which is like a grasshopper. Sit down if you didn't eat THAT! (Let kids respond.) Whew, I'm glad you're all sitting. Yuck, right? Well, today we're going to learn about a guy who DID eat bugs... for lunch, dinner, maybe even breakfast. His name was John.

### **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

John might sound a bit strange, but had a really special job: his job was to prepare people for Jesus! Remember, Jesus was growing up, just like us. Except he was both a man and...? (Let kids finish the thought.) Yes, God! And he was here to follow God's rescue plan and to show us how to live. So God wanted all of us to be ready for him.

script continued

**JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARED US FOR JESUS**

God had lots of ways he prepared us for Jesus, but one way was through a guy named John. John was not the sort of guy you'd expect to get a really important job from God. He was pretty wacky....

You already know what he ate. (point to the screen) ...Locusts. He liked to dip them in honey. He also wore the same clothes everyday—a robe made of camel's hair and a leather belt. And for awhile, nobody saw him because he went off and lived by himself in the desert.

But none of that stuff—what we wear, what we eat, whether or not people think we're weird--matters to God. John loved and followed Jesus. And he got to be a *really* special part of God's Story. Now, we're going to watch a video about John. As you watch, see if you can figure out how John prepared people for Jesus.

**Video: John the Baptist**

So how did John prepare people for Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, by telling people that God was sending his own son to rescue us and by baptizing everyone who wanted to follow God.

**BAPTISM**

Let's talk about baptism for a minute. Baptism is when somebody goes under the water...and comes back up. But let's talk about what it MEANS. First, can I have two volunteers? I need two HUGE Bengals fans for this. **(Click to show Bengals image and pick out two volunteers.)**

*To kid:* Would you put that up at your house? Why (Let kid respond.) Do you mind that everybody knows you're a Bengals fan? (Let kid respond.) Would you even say that you WANT people to know you're a Bengals fan? (Let kid respond.)

*To everyone:* Putting up this flag doesn't *turn* a person into a fan, but only a fan would CHOOSE to put it up!

**(Click to show Steelers image to the next kid.)** Do you like *this* flag? Would you be willing to put it up in your house? (Let kid respond.) But putting it up doesn't *turn* you into a fan! Doesn't that make you feel better? (Hopefully, it doesn't!) Alright, go ahead and set back down.

**(Click to show picture of baptism.)** That's kind of like baptism. A person who gets baptized goes under water in front of a crowd. They are announcing to *everybody* that they believe Jesus is God's Son, the Rescuer, and they want to follow him! You don't automatically make perfect choices *just* because you get baptized. But only a person who believes in Jesus and *wants* to follow him would choose to get baptized!

**JOHN WAS A SPECIAL PART OF GOD'S STORY**

And who was the very special person John got to baptize? (Let kids respond.) Yes, Jesus! When Jesus got baptized, God announced publicly that Jesus was his perfect Son. The Holy Spirit came down to earth. And Jesus showed us that he was the Great Rescuer.

John was strange. People hated him so much he got his head taken off! But none of that



## script continued

mattered because John understood that Jesus was more important than anything in this life. So he got to be a really important part of God' Story! Let's read what he says in Matthew:

**SLIDE: Matthew 11:11 No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born.**

Jesus was saying that John the Baptist was a really important person in God's story. But Jesus was still the most important person to EVER be born. Now let's look at the rest of this verse, because it's not done! **(Click slide to show the rest of the verse)**

**SLIDE: Matthew 11:11 No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born. But the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is more important than he is.**

Who are the people in the Kingdom of Heaven? Any guesses? (Let kids respond.) Yep, everyone who follows Jesus! That means that no matter who you are or what you've done, if you follow Jesus, YOU can be a really important part of God's Story, too!

## RESPONSE TIME

Jesus has invited all of us to be part of the kingdom of heaven, and a part of his family. Being a part of his family means we follow him, and we show love to others just like he did. Let's look at a verse that tells us how to love:

**SLIDE: 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.**

If you want to follow Jesus, and show love to the world just like he did, then go ahead and tell that to God right now. Tell him that you want to love others like he's loved us. Close your eyes, and spend a minute with him. (Let kids pray for a minute.)

## PRAY

God, thank you for sending a rescuer who knows what it's like to be human. Thank you for loving us so much, that you gave us your only son. We love you, amen.

## WORSHIP

Let's follow Jesus by showing outwardly that we love him. A great way to do that is through worship!

**Music Video: Crazy Love**  
**Music Video: You Are**

*\*Dismiss kids to small groups*



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per kid: 1 quarter sheet of paper

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## small group supplies

Per group

1 brown paper grocery bags with the following items:

- A piece of burlap or brown material, A leather/pleather, Two Fake bugs (grasshopper-like), piece of sandpaper, Fake beard, Megaphone, Two twigs, Bible

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## 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. Image: locust
3. Video: God's Story / John the Baptist (<https://vimeo.com/57088532>)
4. Image: Bengals flag
5. Image: Steelers flag
6. Image: baptism
7. Slide with Matthew 11:11
  - a. On first click (right when slide appears, show this text): **No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born.**
  - b. Click again to add the following part of the verse to the slide: **But the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is more important than he is.**
8. Slide: 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
9. Music Video: Crazy Love (KC & SM media\_videos songs>music>Crazy Love)
10. Music Video: You Are (I <https://vimeo.com/112963091>)

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## connect questions

Tell me about John the Baptist.  
What is baptism?

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## parent page