

Jesus the Word

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 1:10-18

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Christmas 2

Lesson Focus
**Jesus teaches us about
God.**



Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

Kids baptize baby dolls and figures, paint with watercolors, and color Bible story pictures.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Small bowl, water, small washcloths, baby dolls, people figures, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, white paper, paint shirts, containers for water, markers or crayons

Circle Time

Kids are welcomed with a rhyme, hear about the church season, and drop water on a coffee filter.

Leaflet

Coffee filter, eyedropper, water, paper towel, water-soluble markers

Prayer Time

Kids change body positions as they pray.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus the Word Storytelling

Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

John's Song

Kids sing a song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

None

None

John Baptizes the People

Kids add glitter glue to their leaflets.

Leaflets

Glitter glue, cups, drinking water

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Baptism Shell Kids color to reveal a symbol of baptism.	Leaflets	Crayons
Anytime, Anyplace Kids put stickers on leaflet pictures of times and places they can learn about God.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Shell Hunt Kids hunt for hidden shells.	None	Seashells (at least 2 inches [5 cm] large), basket, baby doll, water

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids receive a sticker in the closing ritual.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Prayer Time Kids pray a water prayer.	Family Pages 	Water



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one learning center, sing this song to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down." Sing more than once so the kids hear you and get ready for Circle Time.

Gather round for Circle time, Circle Time, Circle Time.

Gather round for Circle Time.

Let's all sit down together.

Baptize Everyone!

Add water to the bowl. Show kids how to baptize the baby dolls and people figures, and let them have a try. Let them use the washcloths to dry the heads of the figures.

Water Paint

Help kids put on the paint shirts. The kids can use the paintbrushes to put water all over their paper. Add some paint. Kids can add more water or more paint. Let them enjoy exploring what happens.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Small bowl

Water

Small washcloths

Baby dolls

People figures

Watercolor paints

Paintbrushes

White paper

Paint shirts

Containers for water

Markers or crayons

Circle Time

I'm so glad you're here today. God is happy when we say, "Welcome to all who hear and pray." Welcome, [Name], [Name], and [Name]. Continue the rhyme to include every kid by name.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon, a manger, on the front of the leaflet. **This is a manger. Jesus was born in a barn, and his parents placed him in a manger filled with soft hay so he could sleep. This picture of a manger tells us that in the church it is the season of Christmas! The colors for Christmas are white like the manger and gold like the color surrounding the manger picture. White and gold tell us it is Christmas. Christmas is a great time to learn about Jesus. Anytime is a great time to learn about Jesus!**

Use water-soluble markers to color on a large coffee filter while you talk. **In our story today, a man named John wants to baptize everyone! He says baptism will change our lives. What does John use for baptism? Water. Let's see what happens if we put water on this paper.** Let the kids take turns using the eyedropper to put a drop of water on the coffee filter. **We are changed when we are baptized, just like this paper is changed.** Make sure that everyone gets to put water on the coffee filter.

Spark Resources
Leaflet

Supplies
Coffee filter
Eyedropper
Water
Paper towel
Water-soluble markers

Prayer Time

John says that we are changed when we are baptized. Let's say a changing prayer. Every time I say something, we're going to change the way we are sitting. Move your bodies in a different way. You can sit or lie down or do just about anything. Move your body to demonstrate. **Then freeze until the next time to move.** Freeze your body to demonstrate. Pause after each sentence to let the kids move and change.

**Dear God,
Thank you for sending John to baptize all the people.
Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us.
Thank you for sending people to baptize us.
Amen.**

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus the Word Storytelling

John the Baptist talked to everyone about Jesus. He wanted everyone to know Jesus. He wanted everyone to be baptized. Let's read about John in our Spark Story Bible. Get comfy so you can listen.

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Jesus the Word on page 240. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make faces like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for the kids to answer. **Whom did John want everyone to meet?** (*Jesus!*) **What did John say about Jesus?** (*that Jesus was sent to be God's Word; that Jesus knew everything about God*) **How do you think John felt when he finally met Jesus?** Allow all answers.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
None

John's Song

Let's stand up and sing a song about John together. Clap when I clap, and march when I march. Sing this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Clap to the beat in the first verse, and march in the second verse. Kids can clap and march with you as they catch on to the song. Repeat it a few times.

John said, "Jesus soon will come, soon will come, soon will come."

John said, "Jesus soon will come, God has sent a Son."

Everyone should follow him, follow him, follow him.

Everyone should follow him. He is the special one.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

John Baptizes the People

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **John wanted to baptize everyone. He wanted all the people to know, love, and follow God. John used water to baptize people. Let's use a tiny bit of glitter glue to make the water drops beautiful.** Assist kids in adding a small amount of glitter glue to the water droplets on the leaflet. Show kids how to blow on it to help it dry. **We use water to baptize people in our church, too.** If you need some time for the glitter glue to dry before turning over the leaflet, ask kids to name some of the different ways we use water in our lives, and pass out a refreshing drink of water for everyone to enjoy.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Glitter glue
Cups
Drinking water

Activate Faith (15 Minutes)

Baptism Shell

Have kids turn over the leaflet. Point to one of the water droplets on the puzzle.

The water droplet is a symbol of baptism because water is used in every baptism. We are going to color the parts of this puzzle that have a water droplet in them. You can color them any color. See if you can see what shape will appear as we are coloring. Remember to try to color only where you see a water droplet.

Allow time for coloring, and assist younger kids.

It is a shell, isn't it? A shell reminds us of baptism because we find shells in the water. We can color the shell any color we want. Let kids finish coloring.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Crayons

Anytime, Anyplace

Where can we learn about God? Accept all answers. **We learn about God wherever we go.** Point to the picture on the leaflet of the children and adult walking. **Look at the picture. Where do you think these people are going? Can they learn about God there?** Point to the other pictures, and ask kids if they can learn about God in each of those places. **We can learn about God in all of these places! I have some heart stickers—let's put them near the places where we can learn about God.** Hand out stickers and let kids place them wherever they want—there is no right or wrong. **We can learn about God EVERYWHERE!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Shell Hunt

Hide the shells in the room—enough for each kid to find one. **When we think of baptism, we think of shells. I have hidden shells in the room. When you find a shell, please bring it to me, put it in the basket, and sit down.** Let the kids hunt for the shells. When all kids have found one and are seated in a circle, pull out three shells from the basket and place them in the middle of the circle. **How many shells have I put in our circle?** Pause. **There is a reason why I pulled out three shells. When we are baptized, we say, "In the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit."** As you say, "Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit," hold up one, two, and then three fingers for emphasis. Return the three shells to the basket, and let each kid have a turn at counting out three shells from the basket. Say, "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit," with each shell removed from the basket. **You are all good counters!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Seashells (at least 2 inches [5 cm] large)

Basket

Baby doll

Water

Send (5 Minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **We have had a wonderful time learning about John the Baptist today. John wanted everyone to follow Jesus. He wanted everyone to be baptized. We are each getting a foot sticker today to remind us of John telling people to follow in Jesus' footsteps.** As you give each kid a sticker, say, **"John wants you to follow Jesus, [Name]."**

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. Jesus teaches us about God. We learn about God in lots of places. We learn about God at home, at church, everywhere we go. Read a story about Jesus when you get home. See if you learn something new!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Prayer Time

John told everyone to follow Jesus. He baptized people in the river. We are going to have a water prayer to remember John and the river. Ask kids if they would like to be splashed with water. It's okay for kids to say no. Gently splash those who say yes with a tiny bit of water after each part of the prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending John to tell everyone to follow Jesus. (Splash)

Thank you for sending Jesus. (Splash)

We want to follow Jesus, just like John. (Splash)

Amen. (Splash)

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Water

