

# JOHN'S MINISTRY BEGAN

Bible Reference: *Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1*

Date: 4/26/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

2nd Service

## Memory Verse:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14

## Big Picture Question:

Is Jesus God or a human?  
Jesus is fully God and fully human

## Christ Connection

- John’s message for the people is the same invitation for us: “Repent and be baptized.” We can turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

## Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Friends from Afar.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

## Notes and Reminders

Happy last Sunday of April! After this week there are only two months left in our ministry year before Summer Sundays begin. This means you only have four more Sundays left of serving with this group of children! We pray that this year would end with as much strength and intention as the rest of the year has gone!



# SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

The early ministry of John the Baptist is recorded in all four Gospels—*Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*. This preacher whose dress, diet, and living conditions may have seemed eccentric to some, proclaimed the good news of one greater than himself: Jesus, the promised *Messiah*.

Two Old Testament passages tell us about John the Baptist, the first being *Isaiah 40:3*—a verse cited not only by the Gospel writers but also by John himself when questioned about his identity. The second passage is *Malachi 3:1*, in which the Lord declares, “See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me.” The people were expecting to witness the arrival of the *Messiah* and wondered if John was the one they had been waiting for. Many were drawn to John, traveling from far away to confess their sins and be baptized.

John, however, embraced his role of a messenger to the *Messiah*. John began his ministry, humbly declaring both his unworthiness and the supremacy of Christ. He ventured throughout the area near the Jordan River, calling the people to repent and receive forgiveness from sin. He spoke against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them, too, to repent and be changed through faith.

The crowds asked what God would have them do. John called them to love one another and be content with what they had. He exhorted them, yet proclaimed the good news, professing that Jesus is the Son of God and the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. These were weighty statements for one man to say about another, but John trusted God’s Word and proclaimed the same gospel we hear today—the same gospel you will teach to boys and girls this week.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would go before you to prepare children’s hearts to receive the good news for themselves. Ask the Lord to give you words to faithfully proclaim the truth that He alone is worthy of our repentance and trust.



# JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

John the Baptist's early ministry is talked about in all four Gospels- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. John lived in a way that seemed unusual to some people- his clothes, food, and lifestyle were different. But his message was very important. He told people about someone greater than himself: Jesus, the promised **Messiah**.

John made it clear that he was not the **Messiah**. He knew his job was to point people to Jesus. He traveled around the Jordan River, telling people to turn away from their sins and ask God for forgiveness. He also spoke strongly to religious leaders like the Pharisees and Sadducees, telling them they needed to truly change their hearts, not just act religious.

People asked John what they should do. He told them to love others, share what they had, and be content. While he challenged them to change, he also shared good news: Jesus is the Son of God and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. That was a big and important message, but John trusted God and boldly shared it.

As we learn about the life of John the Baptist, we can reflect on the ways we are living. The instructions that he gave people about how to live still apply to us today!

How do you love others? Are you showing them patience when you get frustrated? We can share what we have when someone else needs help. Maybe this is something as small as sharing a pencil with someone who forgot theirs, or something bigger like sharing lunch with someone who has none!

No matter how you are loving and caring for other people, we must be content in our actions. We shouldn't do these things and feel bitter about them because we are losing something- we should celebrate because we are helping someone else! We must remember that without the love of Jesus and the redemption we experience from him, we are no different than anyone else because we are sinners too. We can only share love with other people because Jesus first showed his love to us.



# OUTLINE



## Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Set out the letter J poster and crayons or markers on a table. Greet kids as they come to the classroom. Encourage kids to decorate the letter J. Tape this mural on the wall using the wall tape in your bin with space next to it to add the letters to spell JESUS.
- **SAY** Welcome to church today! I am so glad you are here. Our big picture questions asks, Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human. We are creating a mural with a special message. The first letter is J. Use the crayons to decorate the letter J. J is the first letter in the name John and the first letter in the name Jesus. In our story today, we will learn that John got people ready for Jesus. John told people, 'Turn away from your sins and be baptized. God's kingdom is coming soon!'

## Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

### Thinking Activity

- Invite kids to join you in the group time area. Pass the faux fur to each child. Encourage kids to touch and feel it.
- **SAY** Did you feel the fur? Would you want to wear clothes made of this material? John was a man who lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made of camel's hair, which might feel similar to the fur you felt today. John had an important job. John got people ready for Jesus.

### Bible Story

- John was a man who lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John had an important job. God wanted John to get people ready for Jesus, the One who would save people from their sins. John told people, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized. God's kingdom is coming soon!" "Who are you?" the people asked John. John said, "I am not the one who will save people." "Who are you, then?" the people asked. The prophet Isaiah had answered this question many years earlier. Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Get ready for the Lord!'" John was the man Isaiah was talking about. People came from all around to hear John teach. They listened to John and started turning away from their sins. They asked God to forgive them. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River to show their sins were washed away. John said, "Someone more powerful than me is coming. I baptize with water, but He will baptize with the Holy Spirit."





### Christ Connection

- John's message for the people is the same invitation for us: "Repent and be baptized." We can turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

### Review Activity

- Bring the review spinner to group time. Allow children to take turns flicking the clip in the middle of the spinner. The child can answer the question in the wedge the clip lands on.
  - Was John the *Messiah*? (no)
  - Did John eat locust and wild honey? (yes)
  - What did John wear for clothes? (camel hair)
  - Are followers of Jesus baptized in water? (yes)
  - Was John more powerful than Jesus? (no)
  - When did John come? (before Jesus)
- SAY John's message did not point to himself; it pointed to Jesus! Jesus calls us to repent, or turn from our sin and trust in Him as Savior and Lord.

### Movement Activity

10 minutes

Invite children to sit in a circle. Demonstrate how to pass a beanbag from one friend to another while you sing the Key Passage Phrase song or another familiar song such as "Jesus Loves Me." When the song stops, say the story point together: John got people ready for Jesus. Make the game more challenging by singing at varying speeds, stopping the song in the middle of a phrase, or by encouraging the child holding the beanbag when the music stops to say the story point independently.

SAY John got people ready for Jesus. This was the important job God had for John to do. John told people to turn away from their sins and be baptized. People listened to John and started turning away from their sins. They asked God to forgive them. John's message for the people is a message for us too. We can turn from our sins and follow Jesus.



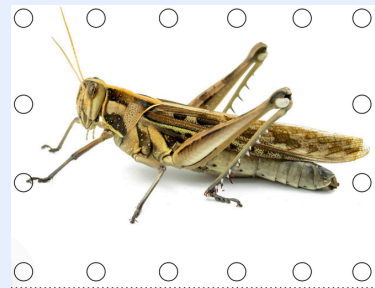
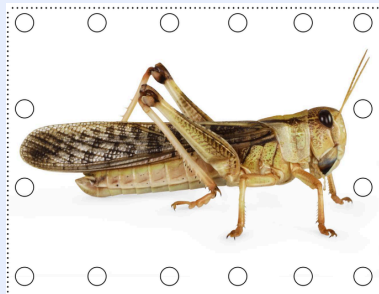


### Craft

5-7 minutes

Before the session, print the “Lacing Cards” printable on heavyweight paper. Then cut out and punch holes in the designated spots to prepare the lacing cards. Cut yarn into 9- to 12-inch pieces and wrap the ends with masking tape. Demonstrate how to thread the yarn through the holes to lace around the picture of the locust.

**SAY** You are lacing around a picture of a locust. A locust is a type of bug. John lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and wild honey. Would you want to eat a locust? John had an important job. God wanted John to get people ready for Jesus. John told people to turn away from their sins and be baptized. The people listened to John and started turning away from their sins. They asked God to forgive them. John’s message for the people is a message for us too. We can turn from our sins and follow Jesus.



### Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

### Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today’s activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month’s Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.





### Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Jesus, thank You so much for coming to earth, just like John said you would. Thank You for saving people from their sins. I pray that one day, each child will repent of their sins and choose to follow You. We love You so much. Amen.

### Bible Verse

- Using the Key Passage Poster, begin by reading the verse once all together. Hold a small ball and say the first word in the verse, then pass the ball to the next person in the circle, who will say the next word in the verse. Continue likewise until the verse is done. You may repeat the verse again so that each child gets a turn. Be sure to assist children with remembering the words if they need help!

### Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Was John the *Messiah*? (No, John told the people the *Messiah* was coming.)
4. What does it mean to repent? (to turn away from our sin and follow Jesus)
5. What does it mean to be baptized? (To lower someone in water and bring him back up. Baptism is a picture that shows a person is following Jesus and that God has forgiven his or her sins.)
6. Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.  
SAY John the Baptist had a very important job. He would get people ready for Jesus! John told people to repent and be baptized, because Jesus was coming. John got people ready for Jesus, so when Jesus came, they knew Jesus was the *Messiah*—the One God sent to rescue people from sin.





## Additional Activities

As Needed

### Who Are You?

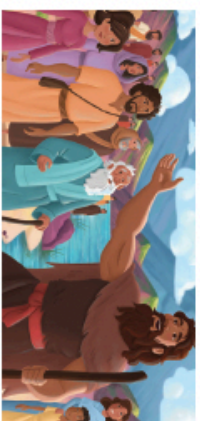
- Invite children to play a guessing game with you. Tell the kids that you are going to pretend to be someone or something else, such as a familiar animal or another friend in the classroom. They must listen to the clues you will give and try to guess who you are. Older children may want to take a turn giving clues while their friends guess.
- **SAY** Let's play a guessing game. Can you guess who I am with these clues? I have four legs, I have a tail, and I bark. Yes, I am a dog. What if I told you, I am a girl, I wear glasses, and I have red shoes? Yes, I am a friend in our class. People asked John 'Who are you?' when he would teach. John told the people, 'I am not Jesus. He is more powerful than I am.' A messenger named Isaiah even knew long before John was born that he would be telling people to 'Get ready for the Lord!' God gave John an important job. John got people ready for Jesus.

### Understand Repentance

- Position all the kids on one side of the room. Stand on the opposite side, facing them. Instruct the kids to begin walking slowly toward you. As they walk, call out "Repent!" in a clear, strong voice. Immediately have the children stop, turn around, and begin walking in the opposite direction. Repeat this process a few times to reinforce the concept. Emphasize that "repent" means to turn away from one direction and go another way.
- **SAY** Great job following directions and turning when I said 'repent.' To repent means to turn the other way. We all disobey God. Disobeying God is called sin. What are some ways we sin? [Allow responses.] We sin when we tell a lie or when we disobey our parents. When we repent, we turn away from our sin and follow Jesus. John told the people to repent because Jesus was coming. John's message for people is the same invitation for us: 'Repent and be baptized.' We can turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



### John's Ministry Began

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

#### STORY POINT:

John got people ready for Jesus.

#### CHRIST CONNECTION:

John's message for the people is the same invitation for us: "Repent and be baptized." We can turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

#### KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:14

#### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.



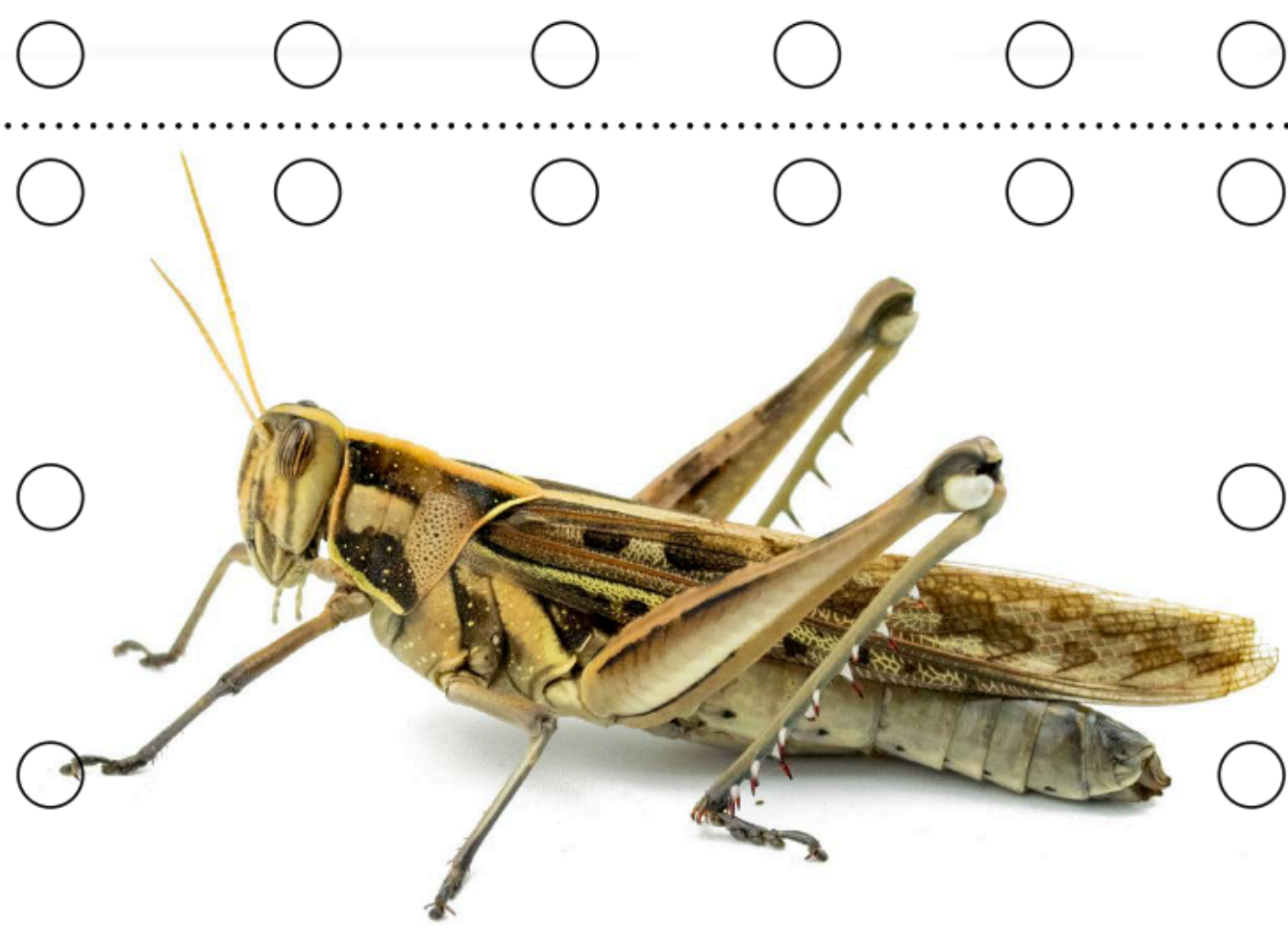
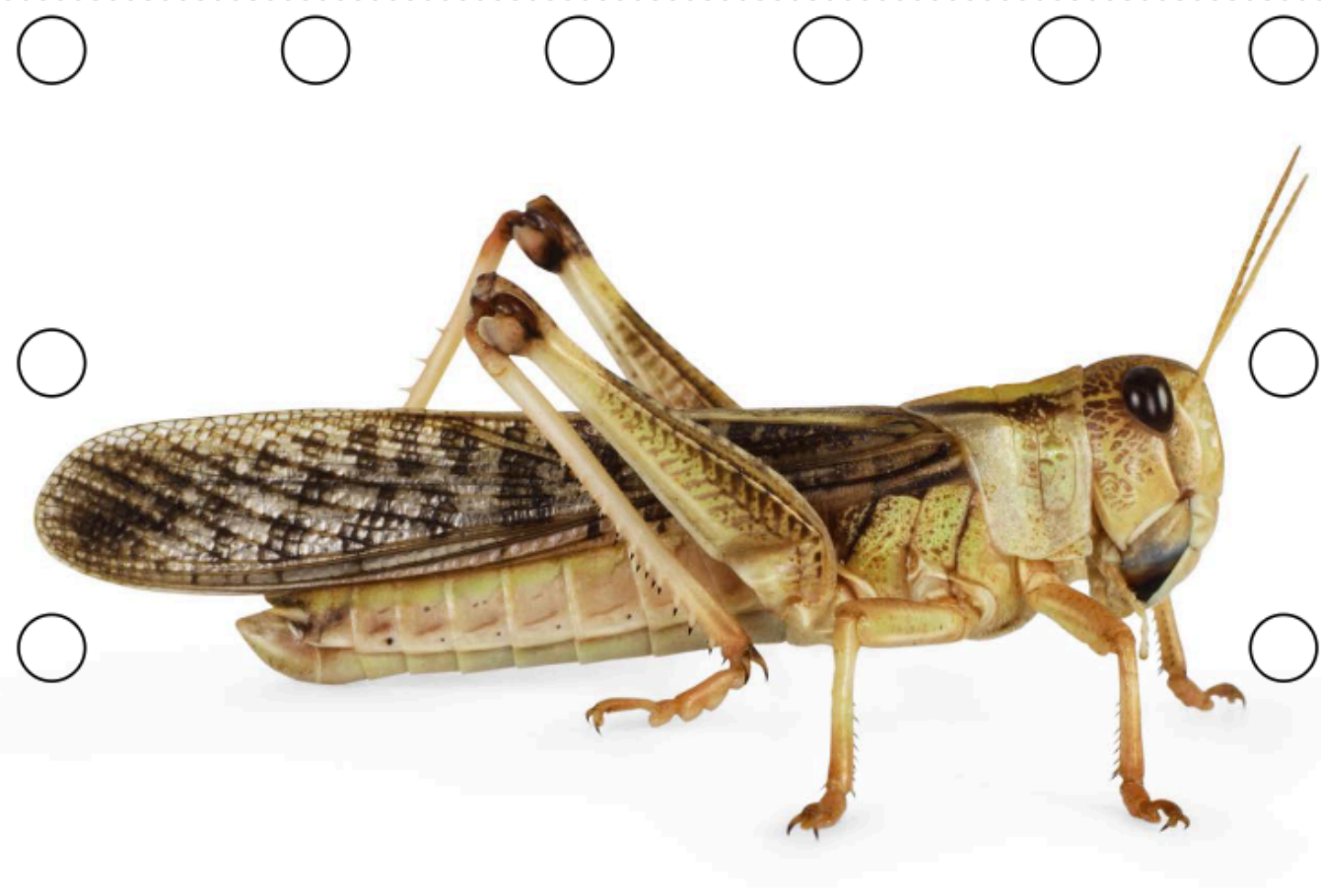
Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!

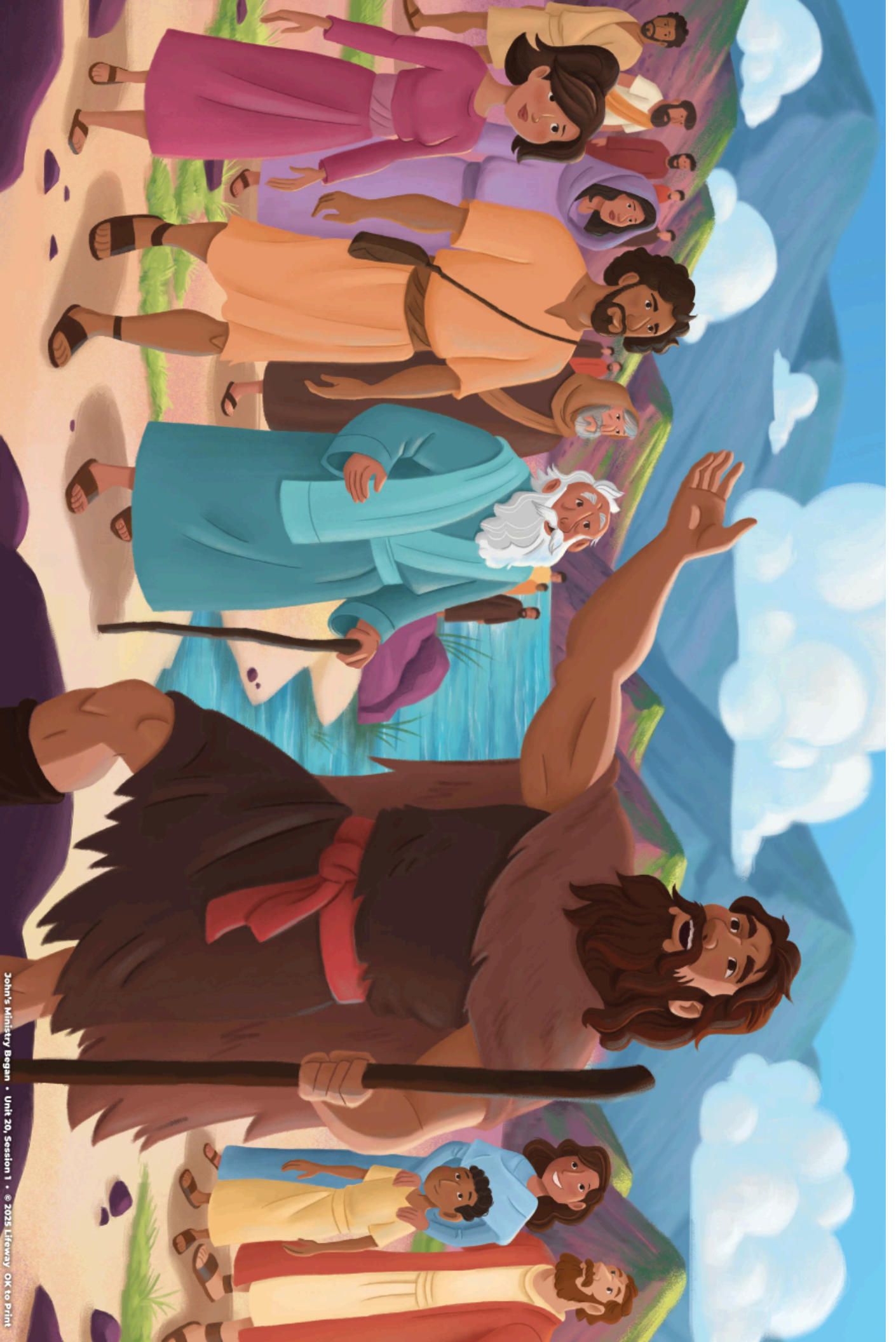


# Match the Picture to Its Shadow

**INSTRUCTIONS:** John's clothes were made of camel hair, and he ate locusts and wild honey. Draw a line to match each picture to its shadow.







**What did  
John wear  
for clothes?**

**Was John  
the Messiah?**

**Are followers of Jesus  
baptized in water?**

**Was John more  
powerful than  
Jesus?**

**When did  
John come?**

**Did John eat locust  
and wild honey?**