

Lesson 3: The Life of Jesus: The Baptism of Jesus

Scripture Reference: Matthew 3:13-17

Today's Big Idea: Jesus is the Son of God and God calls us His children too.

Lesson Time:

What is one of the weirdest things you've ever eaten? What did you think? Did you like it or was it gross? In today's Bible story, we're going to hear about a cousin of Jesus who had an interesting lifestyle. His lifestyle included eating some strange things. John only ate locusts and wild honey. Does anyone know what a locust is? Kind of like a large grasshopper. John lived in some interesting ways to express that God had set him apart for a special job. Today, we're going to hear the story of one of the very important things that John did for God.

Share: John was a preacher. What is a preacher? Someone who shares messages from God. He was preaching a message from God in the wilderness outside Israel. People traveled to hear his message and to be baptized in the Jordan River. The message God gave to John was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." What does the word repent mean? It's okay if you don't know right now. We're going to learn about this important word by playing a game.

Play: "Jesus is Coming"

How to Play: *Identify a circuit around the room, such as a loop around the tables. The kids will begin by walking that circuit. At random times say, "Jesus is coming", filling in the blank with a new way of walking. For example, you might say, "Jesus is coming hop on one foot," or "Jesus is coming skip," or "Jesus is coming walk the other direction." Each time you give a new instruction, the kids have to continue going around the circuit in the new method you've given.*

Introduce: The word repent is a funny word. It is not one that we use very often. Repent means to move in the opposite direction. When John was calling people to repent, he was inviting them to change the way they were living. He was preparing them for what Jesus would teach them. Let's play a game that will remind us of the meaning of this important word, "repent".

Debrief: Why do you think God wanted His people to change the way they were living in preparation for Jesus' arrival?

Share: Jesus came to John to be baptized too. Do you think it's strange that Jesus came to be baptized? Why might that be surprising to us, or to John? *Because Jesus is the Son of God, because Jesus had never sinned.*

Watch: The Baptism of Jesus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VMNO2MAmWA

cont. >

We are a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another and make disciples.

Read: Have the kids turn in their Bible to Matthew Chapter 3. It's okay to help them out. When they've gotten there, read aloud Matthew 3:16-17 as they follow along.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Ask: What did God the Father say about Jesus during His baptism? This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. How do you think John, and the other people who witnessed this event felt when they heard these words from God?

Create: God is Our Father

You will need: Construction paper of many colors, glue stick or tape, scissors.

Instructions: Sit down and ask the kids to think about what it means to be someone's child. Make a list of the responses they give. After a few minutes of generating ideas read back through the list. Have them take one of the ideas they came up with. They'll create a depiction of that idea using pieces of construction paper. On that image, have them write a phrase to explain the image. For example, someone might say that a Father watches over their child. To reflect that idea someone could create an eye or a pair of eyes. They would then write the phrase, "God watches over us," on the front of the image they've created.

How to Introduce: When Jesus was baptized, God the Father said this is my Son whom I love. Even Jesus needed to be reminded of the love of God. Jesus was about to do some really hard things. It was important that He knew the Father's love. Did you know, the Bible says that through our faith in Jesus we are God's children too? Romans 8:14 says, "*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*" Repeat that verse a couple of times and even have the kids repeat it after you. When we believe in Jesus, we become a part of God's family! How awesome is that. To reflect this relationship, we're going to create a work of art together. *Explain the project and follow the instructions above.*

Close in Prayer