

THE POWER OF GOD

Bible Basis: Matthew 3:1–17; 4:1–11, 24–25; Mark 1:31–2:12; 3:9–15; Luke 8:1–3; John 1:19–34

Bible Verse: “People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. ... Jesus healed all of them.” —Matthew 4:24, NIV

Bible Point: Jesus shows people the power of God. I can look for God’s power in my life.

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 23: “The Power of God”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Say, “Tell me about your week. What is something that happened to you this week? What is something funny that happened? Tell me about somewhere you went. Did you go to preschool? Did you go shopping with your mom?” Spend several minutes discussing the week.

Say, “You have been telling me true stories about your life. Today I am going to tell you a story about Jesus. It is a true story from his life.”

Say, “First, who is Jesus? Does anyone remember from last week? He is God’s Son—the Savior whom God sent to Earth. He was perfect—he never sinned. When we first heard about him last week, he was a baby. Today we are going to talk about something that happened to him when he grew up and was a man.”

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Stuff you need: a fur hat or vest for John the Baptist, 4–5 robes for Jesus and the people

First, read aloud Chapter 23, “The Power of God,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Ask for volunteers to come up front and help you with the story. John the Baptist should wear the fur hat or vest. The people and Jesus should wear robes.

Jesus had a cousin named John. He lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and honey. (Have John come stand by you.) **John baptized people. Many people came to John to be baptized.** (Have the people come stand by John and say, “We want to be baptized!”)

John told them, “God can wash away your sins!” (Have John repeat.)

One day, Jesus came to the river. (Have Jesus stand by John.)

Jesus said, "Please baptize me." (Have Jesus repeat.)

John said, "No way! You are perfect!" (Have John repeat.) "You should baptize me!" (Have John repeat.)

Jesus said, "John, it is right for you to do this." (Have Jesus repeat.)

(Have John tap Jesus on the head to symbolize the baptism.)

At that moment, the skies opened up. (Have everyone look up.)

God's Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son. I love him, and I am very happy with him!" All the people were amazed. (Have the people say, "We are amazed!") The dove coming down from heaven showed all the people God's power.

After this, people knew that Jesus was God's Son. While Jesus was on Earth, he showed people the power of God.

After the Bible story, ask:

- Who baptized Jesus? (John)
- Who showed God's power to many people? (Jesus)

Say, "Jesus showed people the power of God. This story about Jesus is true, and God is still powerful today. Let's ask Jesus to show us God's power in our lives."

Pray with your children that God would show his power in your lives.

Depending on how many children you have in your class, you may want to perform the story a few times, using different groups of children as volunteers.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: NATURE WALK

Stuff you need: a rope, several adult volunteers

Take the children outside for a nature walk. Have them all hold on to a rope, and make sure to station an adult at the beginning of the rope, an adult at the end of the rope, and an adult on each side. Or, if you have enough adults, you can have each adult hold hands with two children. Walk around your church, and point out things God created—the sun, the sky, the breeze, trees, and birds. Remind the children how God's power shows through these things.

OPTION 2: ACT OUT a STORY!

Stuff you need: Bible-time costumes and props, such as robes, head coverings, stuffed animal sheep, shepherd's hook, baby doll

Allow the children to use the costumes to act out today's story or other Bible stories such as the Christmas story they heard last week. You can lead them in this or allow them to have free time for creative play.

OPTION 3: GOD'S POWER ON EARTH

Stuff you need: God's Power on Earth Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Have children look at the picture of Jesus. Does Jesus look super powerful? What makes Jesus so powerful? Have children color this picture of Jesus to take home.

OPTION 4: WEATHER WHEEL

Stuff you need: Weather Wheel Cards Activity Sheet, paper plates, round-tip scissors, glue or glue sticks, metal fasteners, crayons, construction paper strips about 3 inches x ½ inch.

Give each child an activity sheet and crayons. Have the children color and cut out the Weather Wheel Cards. Glue the cards around the plate. Punch a metal fastener through one end of a construction paper strip, and then punch it through the middle of the plate. The Weather Wheel will resemble a clock.

Say, **"We learned today that God is powerful. God is so powerful that he even controls the weather! Hang up your weather wheel at your house, and each morning, you can move the pointer toward the weather you are having that day. Let that remind you of God's power."**

OPTION 5: DOVE PUPPET

Stuff you need: white paper lunch bag, scissors, white and orange construction paper, googly eyes, glue

Preparation: Cut triangle-shaped wings from the white construction paper and a triangle beak out of the orange construction paper.

Put the bag flat on the table with the flap side up. This will be the front of the puppet, with everything above the fold acting as the dove's head. The rest of the bag will be the body. Be sure to keep the opening at the bottom of the bag facing toward you.

Glue the wings to the back of the body close enough to the outer edge so that you can see them from the front. Glue the eyes onto the middle of the head. Glue the beak under the eyes, being careful to attach it only to the head so the mouth will open.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 23*. Say, **“The front of this card will remind you that Jesus shows people the power of God. Show your parents the back, and tell them that you can look for God’s power in your life.”** Have them practice saying this before they leave.

Use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.