

September 10, 2017

Morning Overview

Lesson: *John the Baptist*

Lesson Objective: Today we look at the life of John the Baptist. John was a cousin of Jesus, but more importantly he had the special job of preparing the way for Jesus. John preaches a message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. This is important to highlight because John was pointing people to the One who would be able to forgive their sins – Jesus! John’s life slowly fades as Jesus takes center stage and begins His ministry (John 3:30). All of this happens after Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. It’s important to note to the children that in this instance we see all three members of the Trinity present (Catechism Questions 6-10). Here we see again that the Father in Heaven is very pleased with His Son, Jesus, while the Holy Spirit rests upon Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-34

Story: Vos Children’s Bible, Chapter 7 (Pages 271-272); Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 200-207;
Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 164-167; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 310-315.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity

Hedbanz: Play with normal cards this week. Enjoy seeing their personalities come out as you play. After a few rounds of traditional cards, have each teacher wear a hedbanz and play “Would you rather ...?” One teacher has a set of cards with things we like to eat, things we like to wear, and places we like to sleep. The other teacher has a set of cards that are less desirable things like John was, wore, or where he stayed. Segway into his story and let them do craft talking about how he was “set apart” to prepare the way. As believers, sometimes we have to forsake the easy and comfortable to be holy and do what God calls us to do. His call affects what we eat, what we wear, where we live, and what we say! Am I pointing to Jesus by the things I say and do and what I wear or calling attention to myself satisfying my wants?

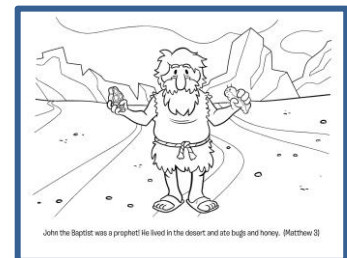
Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: John the Baptist – Locust and Honey

Supplies: Picture of John the Baptist, locust, bee, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Glue locust and bee to John’s hands
2. Color picture



Relay of the Day: Prophet

Props: Burlap, honey pot, bugs, knapsack

Prophets listen to God and tell the people what God says. John went to a lonely place to live, he spent lots of time listening to God, then he told the people what God said! ¹One teacher will be across the room. ²One at a time the children will put on the burlap, pick up their knapsack, gather the bugs and honey pot, and then run across the room to the teacher. ³The teacher will whisper a message to the child from the list provided of teachings of John the Baptist. ⁴The child runs back and relays the message to his buddies and the other teacher before handing off the gear to the next runner. ⁵When all children have had a turn as John the Baptist, reinforce how a prophet listens to God and tells the people what God says.

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: *Hedbanz* (see 9:30 schedule for instructions)

Craft: Dove

Supplies: Paper plate pieces (3), crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Glue outer paper plate pieces to back of center to form wings
2. Draw dove eyes, beak, and feet
3. Color dove if desired



Cherub Church for 3's (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165) – 11:30-11:55

Relay of the Day: *Prophet* (see 9:30 schedule for instructions)

Optional Activity: See bin of squishy balls in classroom for ideas on reviewing catechism questions.

Story: *John the Baptist*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, would you ever eat locusts (if kids don't know what a locust is, say "grasshopper")? Would you eat it with wild honey? What about dressing in itchy, scratchy fur from a camel – would you wear it? Well our story today is about a man who ate these things and dressed this way! This man had a very important job in our story. Let's find out what his very important job is...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- John the Baptist was a prophet of the Lord. His job was to tell everyone that the Promised One was on His way.
- John preached to many people in the desert a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins.
- John kept telling everyone that the Promised One was coming, it was only a matter of time.
- Finally, John sees the Promised One – Jesus – coming towards him. Jesus asks John to baptize Him in the Jordan River.
- John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus comes out of the water, Heaven opens up and the Holy Spirit looking like a dove descends and rests upon Jesus. A voice from heaven says, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased."

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, would you ever eat locusts (if kids don't know what a locust is, say "grasshopper")? Would you eat it with wild honey? What about dressing in itchy, scratchy fur from a camel – would you wear it? Well our story today is about a man who ate these things and dressed this way! This man had a very important job in our story. Let's find out what his very important job is...

Living in The Desert

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. If you remember, Zechariah was the priest that the angel of Lord said could not talk till John was born. Something very special about John was he was the cousin of Jesus. When John grew up, God called him to be a prophet. A prophet was someone who went around telling people about God. That was John's job!

John wore very strange clothing though. The Bible tells us he wore clothes made of camel hair and a leather belt. John also ate some very icky stuff – locusts and honey!

John lived in the desert near Judea. John would do what God told him to do. John preached a very special message from God. People came from very far away to hear John's preaching. He would tell the people to repent from their sins, which means to turn away from their sin, and to ask God to forgive them. After people did that, John would baptize the people who wanted to follow God.

But there were people who came to John and did not really want to follow God. These people were called Pharisees and Sadducees. They were very religious and knew the Scriptures very well. But they did not live their lives according to God's Word. John would not baptize them; John knew they did not really want to follow God. John would tell them "No! I will not baptize you! The way you act must be the same as the words you read in God's Word! Until you do these things, I won't baptize you." John would tell these leaders their lives must honor God and people should see it just as a good fruit tree bears good fruit!

The Baptism of Jesus

John preached a lot in the desert. He would tell people, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one coming after me is mightier than I am. I don't even deserve to carry his sandals! I am not good enough to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John continued to preach often so all could hear God's message. One day John decided to preach near the Jordan River. As he was preaching John saw a man walking toward him, but not just any man, it was Jesus. John told the crowd, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" John went on, "This is the One I was talking about when I said 'A man will come after me, but he is greater than I am, because he was living before me.' Even I did not know who he was. But I came baptizing with water so that the people of Israel could know who he is."

Jesus came to John, and said, "Baptize me." But John tried to stop him. John said, "Why do you come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!" Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So John agreed to baptize Jesus. As Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water Heaven opened, and John saw God's Spirit coming down like a dove and rested upon Jesus. As this happened a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him." John knew Jesus was the Promised One who came to rescue people from their sins!

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was John the Baptist's cousin?
- What kind of clothing did John the Baptist wear?
- What kind of food did John the Baptist eat?
- What message did John the Baptist preach?
- Who came up to John and asked to be baptized?
- What came from Heaven and rested upon Jesus?
- What did the voice from Heaven say about Jesus?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for September:

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

Catechism Questions (1-20)

Hymn of the Month:

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing