



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Comes
Winter Year 2, Lesson 34

John the Baptist

Take Home Point: *Jesus is God's Son.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 3

We will help children know:

- John was sent to prepare the people for Jesus.
- John baptized Jesus with water.
- Jesus is God's Son.




We will help children feel:

- Excited to know that Jesus was baptized.
- Happy that God sent his Son to save us.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us that water is used for baptism.
- Make a dove craft.
- Play a learning game called *Do We Use Water For This?* and a movement game called *God's Child...Go*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: ***Jesus is God's Son.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy puppet, rubber ducky or tub toy
	4	Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
	8	Activity 2: Snack	<i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water pretzels
	9	Activity 3: Craft	<i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coffee filters, one per child markers (remove black & brown) spray bottle with water one large paper clip per child paper towels to blot craft
	10	Activity 4: Learning Game	<i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none
	11	Movement Game	<i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	13	Review Lesson and Take Home Point	
	13	Pray	
	14	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: children’s picture Bible, rubber ducky or other bathtub toy

Judy Learns about Baptism

Presenter: Boys and girls, let’s call out Judy.

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.**

Judy: Hi, everyone.

Presenter: Hi, Judy. We are glad to see you today.

Judy: I brought my special friend. Do you want to guess who it is?

Presenter: I think we can all guess, can’t we boys and girls? Is it your favorite, your pink pony?

Judy: No, it’s not.

Presenter: You brought another friend?

Judy brings out rubber ducky or whatever toy you are using.

Judy: Yes. It’s my rubber ducky. I wanted to show everyone.

Presenter: That’s really nice. Why is it so special?

Judy: Because I love bath time. It's fun to play and splash in the water.

Presenter: Well that sounds like fun. It's wonderful to be all clean. Did you know that today we are talking about a special way water was used when Jesus lived?

Judy: Did he take a bath with his rubber ducky?

Presenter: It's not about a bath. It's when Jesus was baptized.

Judy: What's that?

Presenter: I'll explain it when I read it from the Bible. Listen carefully. When Jesus was baptized, God said, "Jesus, you are my Son. I am so happy with you."

Judy: Why was God happy with him?

Presenter: Because Jesus is God's Son and he gave his life for us to wash away our sins so we can be children of God.

See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible.

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.

Presenter: Judy, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

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Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JESus is God's SON,
JESus is God's SON,
HE came to SAVE us ALL.
JESus is God's SON.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Jesus is your Son. Jesus is your Son.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

John the Baptist

Matthew 3

Introduction

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them, too.

John the Baptist uses water to baptize.

- John the Baptist lived in Jesus' time. He was called John the Baptist because he used water to baptize people. He baptized in the Jordan River. Let's pretend we are standing in the river and splashing.
- To baptize means to pour water on someone or dip them in the water. When John the Baptist did this, it would remind people to do what God wants. Let's point to heaven to remind us that we want to do what God wants.
- John the Baptist told people about God. He told people that someone very special was coming. This person would be God's Son. He would be mighty. He would point people to God. Let's point to heaven.
- John told people that Jesus would be coming to save us by taking away our sins. Jesus would give his life for us so that we could all be God's children, too. John was helping people get ready to believe in Jesus. Let's give ourselves a hug to remind us that God wants us to be his children, too.

John lives in the desert.

- John the Baptist was a great man but he did not look like a great man. John lived in the desert, not a palace. He did not wear fancy clothes. He made his clothes out of camel hair. It must have been very scratchy and itchy. Let's scratch and itch.
- He did not eat fine foods. He ate locusts and wild honey. A locust is a big flying bug that makes a loud buzzing sound. Let's all make a loud buzzing sound like a locust.
- Locusts probably did not taste very good for food. Show me the face you would make if you had to eat a locust.
- John also had wild honey to eat. Honey is very sweet. Show me the face you would make if you ate honey.

John says Jesus is coming.

- John told people that God was sending someone who was very special. This person would help rescue all of us so we could be part of God's family. John did not think he was important enough to touch this man's sandals. Let's reach down and touch our shoes.
- John said that the person who is coming is someone who is mighty. This special person is God's Son. Who do you think John was talking about? Pause for answer. That's right—Jesus is the mighty Son of God who was coming.

Jesus wants to be baptized.

- One day, Jesus came to the river where John the Baptist was. He wanted to be baptized by John. John did not think that he was important enough to baptize Jesus. John told Jesus "You should baptize me, I should not baptize you." He bowed down to Jesus. Let's all bow down.
- Jesus told John that it was right for him to be baptized by John. Jesus wanted to show everyone that it is important to turn to God, just like John taught. John baptized Jesus. Let's pretend we are all wet with water.

God the Father says, "This is my Son."

- As soon as Jesus was baptized, some amazing things happened. First, he rose up out of the water. Then Heaven was opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. Let's flap our arms like the wings of a dove.
- Then there was a voice from heaven. Cup your hand behind your ear and listen. The voice said, "This is my Son. I love him. I am happy with him."

- Who was saying this? It was Jesus' heavenly Father, God himself. Jesus lived a life that was perfect. He did everything that God wanted. The most important thing is that he gave his life for us. He is still with us today, even if we cannot see him. Because Jesus is God's Son and came into this world so that our sins could be washed away, we are children of God. Remember, Jesus is God's Son. Repeat that after me, "Jesus is God's Son."

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
 You are with us. You are with us.
 We love you. We love you.
 Jesus is your Son. Jesus is your Son.
 Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
 In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
 Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JESus is God's SON,
 JESus is God's SON,
 HE came to SAVE us ALL.
 JESus is God's SON.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- Napkins
- Cups and water
- pretzels

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of water. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Jesus is your Son. Jesus is your Son.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Pass out a cup of water and napkin to each child. Today we are going to eat a salty snack. Do you know what happens when we eat a salty snack? It makes us thirsty. What do you have in your cups? Pass out a few pretzels to each child. When you drink your water today, I want you to remember that Jesus was baptized with water. That's when God said, "This is my Son, I am happy with him." Always remember that Jesus is God's Son.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

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Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- coffee filters, 1 per child
- markers, no brown or black
- spray bottle filled with water
- one large paper clip per child
- paper towels

Today we learned that John the Baptist used water to baptize Jesus. When he did, a bird called a dove came down from heaven. Our craft

today is going to look like a bird when we are finished with it. First, I want you to scribble all over your special paper (coffee filter). (Write child's name on outer edge with a pen.) When you are finished with that, you will spray water on it and watch the colors change and spread. (Do not let child spray so much that it drips. You can press the filter between two paper towels to help dry it.) Then we will pinch the paper in the middle and put the paper clip in the middle. This will look like the bird's body and your paper will look like the bird's wings.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.

Let's sing our song of the week.

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JESus is God's SON,
HE came to SAVE us ALL.
JESus is God's SON.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Jesus is your Son. Jesus is your Son.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

We learned that water is used to baptize people. There are other uses for water. Today we are going to play a game called *Do We Use*

Water For This? After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Do we use water to help us put on our shoes? No. Let's pretend to put on our shoes.
2. Do we use water to take a bath? Yes. Let's pretend to wash our face.
3. Do we use water to play on the computer? No. Let's pretend we are pushing the computer keys.
4. Do we use water to help plants grow? Yes. Let's pretend to water our plants.
5. Do we use water to sleep in a bed? No. Let's closes our eyes and snore.
6. Do we use water to get a drink when we are thirsty? Yes. Let's pretend to drink a glass of water.
7. Do we use water when we run? No. Let's run in place.
8. Do we use water to fill up our swimming pool? Yes. Let's pretend to swim.
9. Do we use water to cut paper? No. Let's pretend we are using scissors to cut some paper.
10. Do we use water to baptize people? Yes. Let's pretend to baptize someone.

Movement Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called **God's Child....Go**. This game is just like "duck, duck, goose," except the words are "God's child, God's child, God's child, go!" Children sit in a circle. Child chosen to go first walks around the circle, tapping children lightly on the head. They say, "God's child..." until child chooses to say, "go." Child then chases first child around the circle. Child that did the tapping will sit where chosen child was and chosen child now does the tapping. Play until all children have been chosen. You may have to direct the child's choice so all get to play.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: ***Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.**

Let's sing our song of the week.

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We love you. We love you.
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Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the key words as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

See if you know the word I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event. If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.

John the Baptist was a very important man. Did he live in a palace or the hot, dry desert? (Desert.) Did he eat fancy food or did he eat locusts and honey? (Locusts and honey.) John told people to follow God. Did John the Baptist baptize people with water or with wine? (Water.) When Jesus came to John to be baptized, did John say, "I am not important enough to touch your sandals." Or did he say, "I am not important enough to drive your car."? (Baptize you.) When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, the Holy Spirit came out of heaven and looked like what bird? (A dove.) Then we heard God say, "You are my Son. I am happy with you." Jesus was God's Son and would do just what God wanted. He would give his life for all of us so our sins could be washed away.

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Jesus is your Son. Jesus is your Son.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

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JESus is God's SON,
HE came to SAVE us ALL.
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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God's Son.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

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