

GRADES  
K-6



# JOHN THE BAPTIST

Printable Lesson Kit



**M** **GHTY MESSAGES**

# THANK YOU

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# JOHN THE BAPTIST

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZES JESUS MIGHTY MESSAGE

The story of Jesus healing a paralytic who was lowered through the roof is a great tale of John the Baptist taught repentance and looked forward to walking with Jesus. Every child needs to meet this great New Testament character and find out what happened the day he baptized Jesus. This lesson will teach that Jesus is the Messiah that God spoke about, and John the Baptist recognized it.



#### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- 'This Week It Bothered Me When' printable sheet (game; follows game instructions)
- Deep bowl or bucket
- Water to fill the bowl or bucket halfway
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

## SCRIPTURE & LESSON

### EXCERPTS FROM MATTHEW 3:1-17 (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



### MATTHEW 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup>John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup>But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup>Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

## Questions for Children about John the Baptist:

1. **Verse 4 says that John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist.** His food was locusts and wild honey. Some Christians believe in a thing called "the prosperity gospel." Prosperity means "rich" or "well off." They believe that it is God's earnest desire to make everyone prosperous. What would they say about John the Baptist? That he was not blessed by God or that he was an exception. Why might God not have given John the Baptist a wealthy lifestyle? **It would distract him; riches don't matter in true happiness or sense of purpose; he probably got a very nice dwelling up in heaven after his job was finished.**
2. John kept saying he was not worthy to carry the coming Messiah's sandals. Then, Jesus said it was proper that he be baptized, even though he was the Son of God. What trait was shown by both men? **Humility, being humble.** What are some ways we can practice humility in our own lives?
3. In Verses 7 and 8, John called the religious leaders "a brood of vipers." He warned them not to say that they were blood descendants of Father Abraham, because that sort of thing doesn't matter much to God. What does matter? **To "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Verse 8).** What kind of actions was John the Baptist talking about? Golden Rule: **Love God; love others as much as yourself.**



## TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Before Jesus spoke to the crowds, John the Baptist was already hard at work. He was telling people that in preparation for Jesus, they needed to prepare their hearts. They needed to want to be good! They needed to want to stop doing nasty things like not sharing and not caring about anyone but themselves.

John the Baptist wanted Jesus' followers to get their hearts clean. Then they could hear Jesus better and understand him better and follow him better. Baptism is a way of saying we want to be like Jesus. We want to follow him. We want to stop getting dirty with our behavior and try to do things the right way.

One of the greatest things about Christianity is this: It simply starts with wanting to. That is what baptism is. It's a start in the Christian life. It's a sign that you and your parents wanted to. Wanting to be like Jesus brings Jesus to you. He helps you to do the right thing. And when you mess up, he wants only to forgive you when you ask.



### DOVE DESCENDS UPON JESUS

**Scripture:** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the Israelites for Jesus. When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John felt unworthy to baptize the son of God. He thought that Jesus should baptize him! But Jesus insisted and John did as he was told. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit took the form of a dove and landed on him. As this happened, God's voice boomed saying, "This is my son, in whom I am well pleased." When this happened, everyone watching knew that Jesus was truly a special gift to the world. Use the dove as a reminder of the gift God gave us in Jesus!



#### MATERIALS:

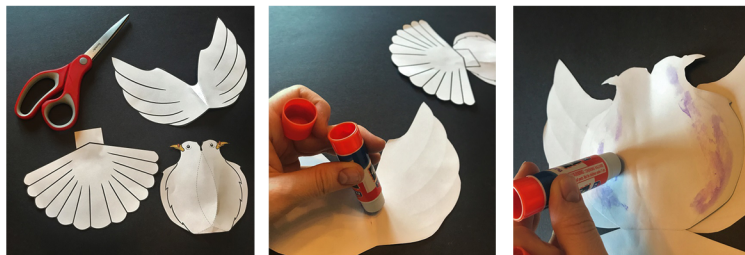
- Paper Dove Templates
- White Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue Stick

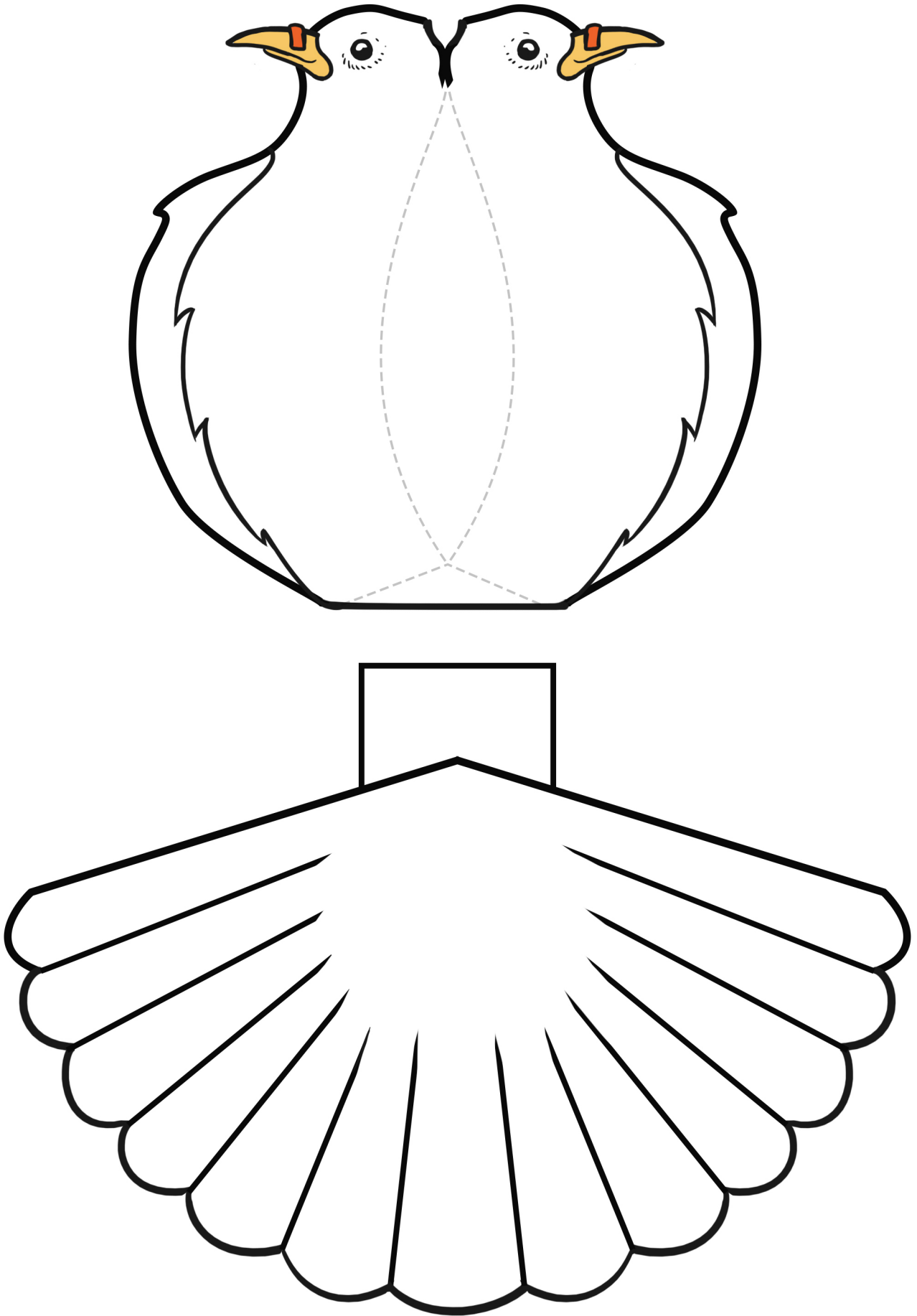


**PRINT OUT A COPY OF THE PRINTABLE CRAFT FOR EACH STUDENT.**

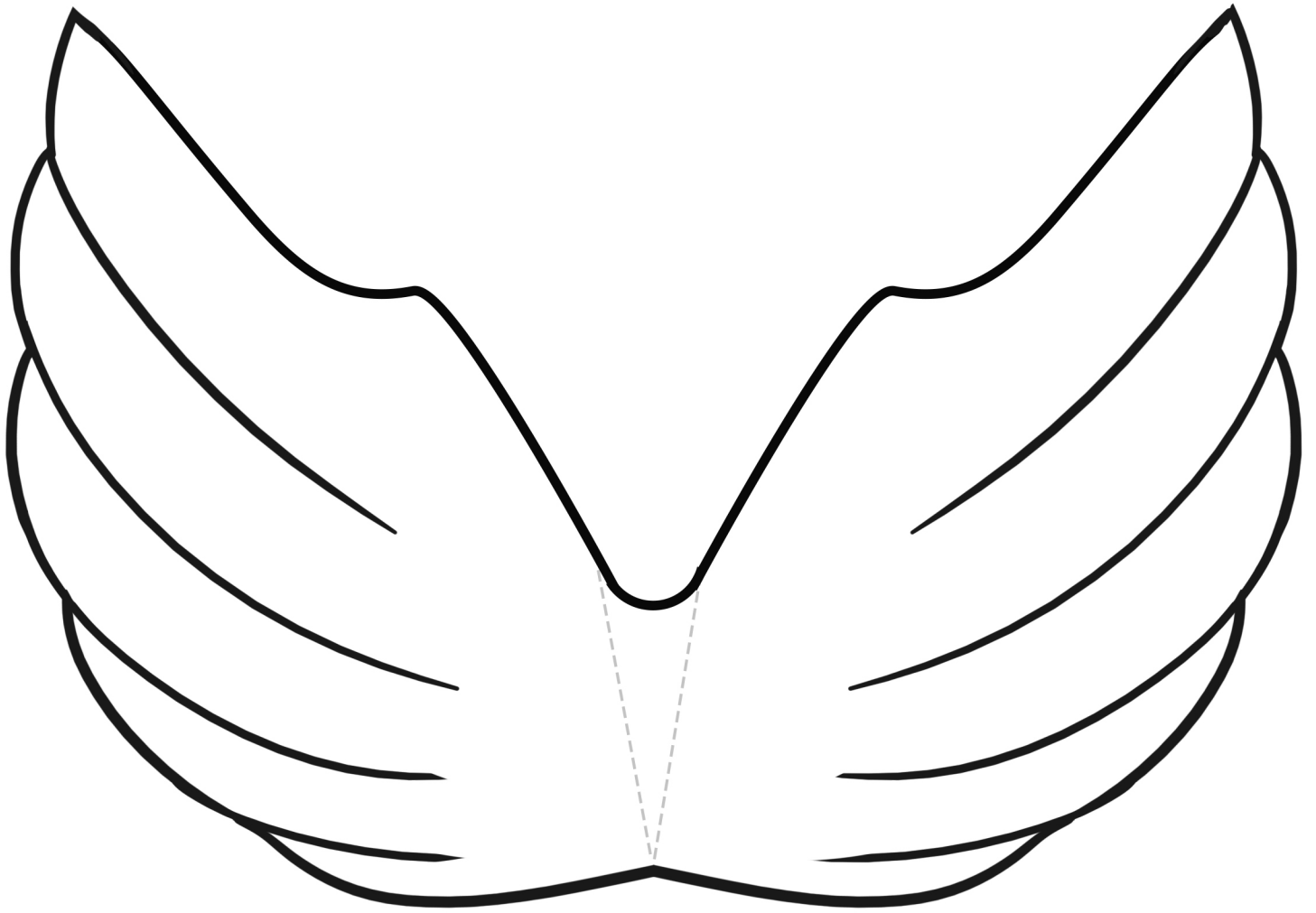
#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color images as desired
2. Cut out Dove Pieces
3. Glue Dove Tail on top of Dove Body, matching up angled ends
4. Glue Dove wings on top of Dove body covering tab from Dove Tail
5. Fold Dove body slightly and glue Dove body pieces together.









### ASKING JESUS TO WASH AWAY HARSH FEELINGS

There's no winner or loser here, but it's a great activity to get kids understanding both baptism and Jesus "washing away" the thoughts that tie us down—if we trust in him.



#### MATERIALS:

- **This Week It Bothered Me** When printable sheet (follows these instructions)
- Pencils
- Deep bowl or bucket
- Water to fill the bowl or bucket halfway



#### PREPARATION:

Print out a copy of **This Week It Bothered Me** When for each student and pass out pencils

### INTRODUCTION

Baptism happens at or near the beginning of your walk with Jesus. You only need to be baptized once. However, during your lifelong relationship with Jesus, you will often want to ask him to "wash away" a bad feeling.

Four feelings that are hard to live with are hurt, fear, guilt, and shame. They make us feel bad about ourselves, and Jesus wants us to feel like children of the king—after all, we are his! Let's use all this water and ask Jesus to "wash away" any bad feelings we might have.



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Have students begin to start filling in the sheet. This is a very general start to fit a lot of kids' recent pasts. But you can ask trigger questions that will help them think of something that has bothered them, such as:

- Did somebody hurt your feelings? (Call you a name, say something mean, ignore you, or be selfish, etc.)
- Were you so afraid of something that you couldn't enjoy yourself? (Fear of the dark, fear of being alone, fear of animals, etc.)
- Did you do something that made you embarrassed afterward? (Shame, feelings of not measuring up, feelings like you're not good enough)
- Did you do something you sincerely regret because it hurt someone? Do you wish you could turn back time to change it? (Jesus doesn't want us repeating our guilty behavior over and over. He would like to take it away, but you have to want to not repeat it.)

If you provide trigger questions without pushing, kids should think of just the right thing. Have them write it down, and have older ones help the younger ones. They don't need to show it to anyone and can fold it in half so no one can see if they don't want to share. If they want to share, they can read their feeling.

Bring each child up to a bowl of fresh water. Have them put the paper in the water until it grows soggy and dissolves.

Pray with each child: **"Lord, take this awful feeling of [hurt, fear, shame, guilt] and wash it away. Turn it to slop and replace it with your love. Help me really feel that love and feel like I am your child. Help me see that no bad feeling can ever be stronger than your love for me. Amen."**

### THIS WEEK IT BOTHERED ME WHEN....

Describe what bothered you below. Jot down as many things as you want that made you feel hurt, fear, guilt, or shame. If you can't think of anything, draw in some colors in the letters to Psalm 32. It will help you think:

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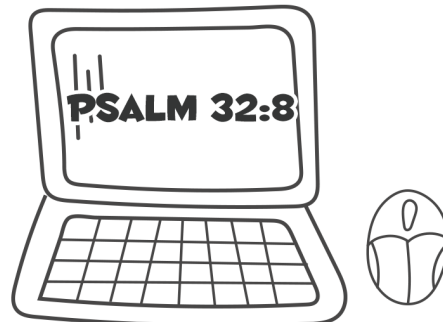
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I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND  
TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU  
→ SHOULD GO: ←  
I WILL COUNSEL YOU WITH  
MY LOVING EYE ON YOU.





## JOHN the BAPTIST - MATTHEW 3:4

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, baptizes people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit fell upon Him.



# WORD SEARCH

John the Baptist came to bring repentance (a change of attitude and behavior) before Jesus came. It was a huge job! All the words below were part of what John did. Find them in the word search.

E	Z	M	B	M	W	E	O	Y	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E
M	W	C	W	P	Y	C	Q	E	S	E	P	F	N	P	Y
C	S	U	M	M	A	R	I	Z	E	H	Y	W	D	L	U
L	J	P	U	R	I	F	Y	G	P	R	E	P	A	R	E
E	T	E	D	L	J	N	Q	B	N	T	D	J	N	O	U
A	F	Y	Z	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	L	S
N	Q	U	U	B	S	O	H	V	H	V	K	N	Q	E	F
S	A	A	W	W	H	A	Q	C	G	E	E	Y	Y	A	O
E	N	M	V	A	F	J	A	V	G	T	S	F	H	D	R
R	N	Y	X	U	R	E	A	A	H	E	I	C	Y	R	E
R	O	J	L	C	T	N	R	G	H	R	A	Z	P	E	S
E	U	X	Z	R	G	U	I	P	A	E	N	I	T	S	E
B	N	Y	B	Q	O	A	O	L	R	N	T	B	T	T	E
U	C	P	J	C	R	R	C	P	O	R	T	G	I	O	D
K	E	P	N	T	P	P	R	E	C	E	D	E	S	R	Z
E	M	E	S	F	R	G	I	S	Y	C	S	I	K	E	C

### Words to Find:

ANNOUNCE  
 BAPTIZE  
 CLARIFY  
 CLEANSE  
 ENCOURAGE

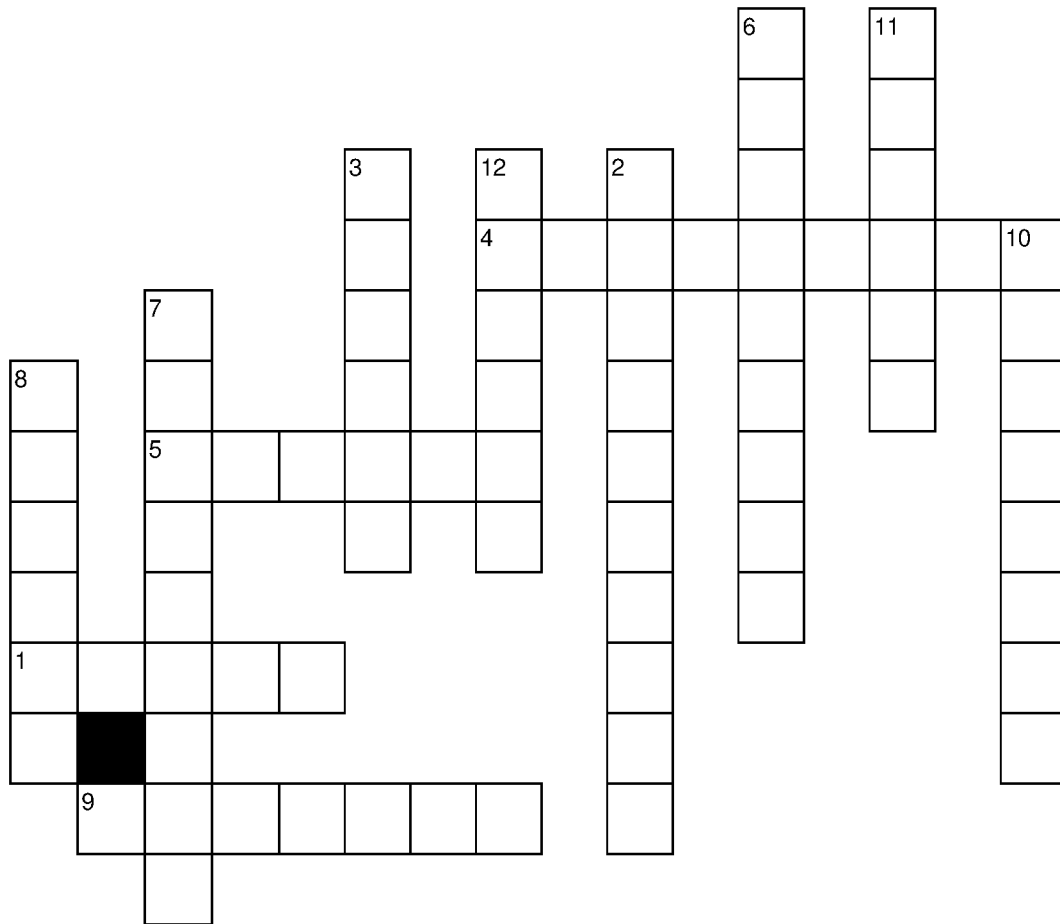
FORESEE  
 LEAD  
 PREACH  
 PRECEDE  
 PREPARE

PROPHECY  
 PURIFY  
 REBUKE  
 RESTORE  
 STRAIGHTEN

SUMMARIZE  
 TEACH  
 UNDERSTAND  
 WARN



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

1. John's mother was a descendant of this man
4. Name of John's mother
5. John's relationship to Jesus
9. Angel who visited Elizabeth and MARY

### Down

2. Name of someone with few possessions
3. John's father's occupation
6. John had no spouse, which means being...
7. Name of John's father
8. River in which John Baptized
10. Woman who requested John's beheading
11. A word for snakes
12. Do this, for the kingdom is at hand

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

## PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Luke 3:13-16



### This Week We Learned About ...

John the Baptist taught repentance and looking forward to walking with Jesus. Every child needs to meet this great New Testament character and find out what happened the day he baptized Jesus. In class this week, the children learned that Jesus is the Messiah, that God spoke, and John the Baptist recognized it.



#### ✓ Questions for Kids:

1. What was the animal people saw when the spirit landed on Jesus? **A. Dove**
2. What did the voice from heaven say? **A. "This is my son in whom I am well pleased"**
3. What did John say when Jesus came to be baptized? **A. "I need to be baptized by you"**

#### ✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

John the Baptist was clearly very honored to have Jesus come to him to be baptized. Think of a special job you would be honored to do for the Lord. Use your imagination and creativity.

Have you been baptized? Discuss your thoughts on it. If you have been baptized, tell what you liked and what it means. If you haven't, what makes you nervous, or what do you look forward to?

#### Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



*A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God."*  
**Isaiah 40:3**



*John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"*  
**John 1:23**



*Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*  
**Matthew 11:11**

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

## AT-A-GLANCE



**MARRIED:  
NOT MARRIED**

### CHILDHOOD:

- John the Baptist's mother, Elizabeth, was a cousin of Mary, Jesus' mother. Therefore, John and Jesus were cousins.
- John's father Zechariah was a priest.
- John's mother was a descendant of Moses' older brother Aaron.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: 8 BC, in the hill country of Judea

2000's AD

Death: 25 AD, in Jerusalem

### CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Herod's wife Herodias asked for John the Baptist's head on a platter. Therefore, Herod had him beheaded to fulfill the request. This is where the saying comes from, "If you do, I'll have your head on a platter."
- 2 John was a minimalist, meaning he had no interest in possessions. He wore animal skins, ate locusts and honey, lived in the wilderness, and never touched alcohol.
- 3 He frequently yelled at the religious leaders, calling them a brood of vipers (snakes). Such was what got him in trouble with Herod.

### FAMOUS QUOTES:

"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham."  
-Luke 3:7-8

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."  
-Matthew 3:2

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

The angel Gabriel visited both Mary and Zechariah to tell them about the upcoming births of their sons.

Zechariah doubted Gabriel's prophecy because he and his wife were old. Gabriel left him unable to speak as a consequence of his doubt. His voice returned after John was born.

John the Baptist was born about six months before Jesus.

John baptized in the River Jordan.

John baptized for about one to three years before Jesus began his own ministry.

John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Herod had John thrown in jail for it.





# LEARNING LOOKUPS

# JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Lookup:** a famous prophecy to do with the prophet Elijah in Malachi 4:5. Note that Elijah had already been gone about 400 years when this prophecy was written. We say “gone” instead of “dead” because Elijah was one of only two people in the whole Bible who were taken up to heaven without dying. Write the prophecy below:

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**Lookup:** Matthew 17:10-13. Write down verse 13.

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These two scriptures show the fulfillment of prophecy. Obviously, John the Baptist looked and sounded nothing like Elijah the prophet of old. What do you think the prophecy meant?

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Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Tell God how Christians are looking forward today to things like the Second Coming. Ask him to lead and guide you so that you don't become deceived like the religious leaders of Christ's day. Ask in your own words.

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# JOHN THE BAPTIST QUIZ

## ALL ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST

**1. What strange food did John the Baptist eat? (Matthew 3:4)**

- a. locusts and honey
- b. cactus
- c. sand
- d. lizards

**2. What were John's clothes made from? (Matthew 3:4)**

- a. burlap
- b. sackcloth and ashes
- c. camel hair
- d. bugs

**3. Where did John live? (Matthew 3:1)**

- a. wilderness of Judea
- b. Rome
- c. Jerusalem
- d. his mother's house

**4. What was John's father's name? (Luke 1:5)**

- a. Abram
- b. Daniel
- c. Zechariah
- d. Elijah

**5. How was John related to Jesus? (Luke 1:39-40)**

- a. brother
- b. cousin
- c. nephew
- d. step-brother

**6. What important spiritual rite did John perform on Jesus? (Luke 3:21)**

- a. foot washing
- b. anointing with oil
- c. baptism
- d. all three

**7. What animal did John see land on Jesus? (Matthew 3:16)**

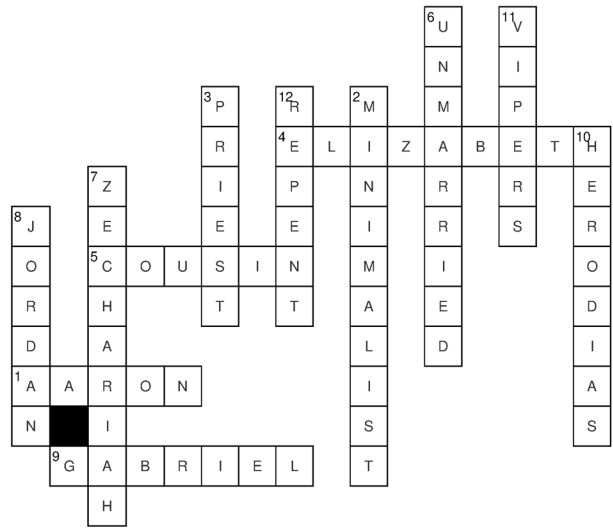
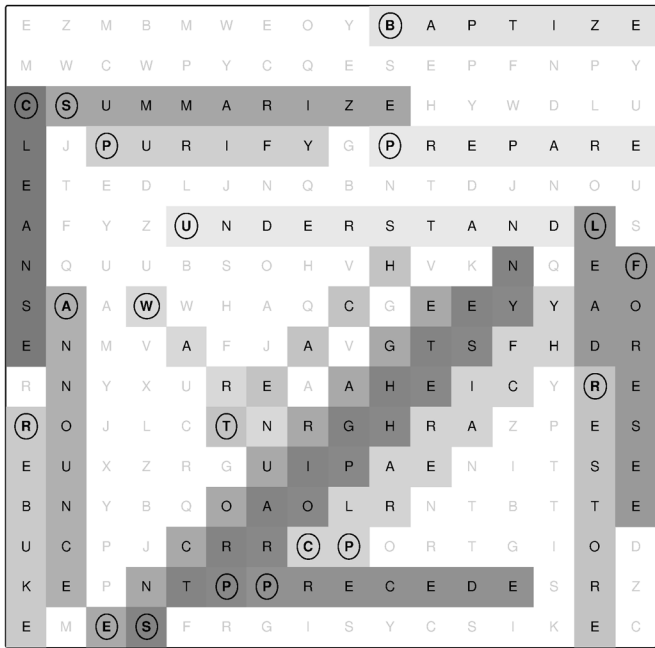
- a. locust
- b. butterfly
- c. goat
- d. dove

**8. How was John killed? (Matthew 14:10)**

- a. thrown to the lions
- b. beheaded
- c. marooned



# ANSWER KEY



1. What strange food did John the Baptist eat? (Matthew 3:4)

- a. locusts and honey
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- a. thrown to the lions
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# JOHN THE BAPTIST



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME:

DATE: