

## **John the Baptizer**

Section 9 – Lesson 2

Sunday Morning

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

**PRAYER:** *(Ask the children if there are any special things we need to pray for today. Lead the class in prayer, or have a child say the prayer)*

**PRETIME:** Trace Memory Verse Sheet - Matt. 3:17

**ATTENDENCE:** *(Have one student at a time place a sticker on their chart while the others complete the pre-time activity. This is a good time to practice/recite the memory verse.)*

**DEFINITIONS:** *(Discuss the meaning of the words prior to telling the story.)*  
Today's Words - TRUST, FAITH.

### **BIBLE STORY:**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest names Zacharias who lived in Jerusalem. He and his wife Elizabeth were righteous people keeping the commandments of the Lord. They were growing old and they had no children.

One day while Zacharias was performing his duties in the temple, an angel of the Lord spoke to him, saying: "Your prayers for a child will be answered. You and your wife will have a son and you will call him John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit and he will become great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink no wine or strong drink. Because of him, many of the children of Israel will turn again to the Lord their God."

Zacharias asked the angel: "How will this be? I am an old man and my wife is beyond the time of having children." The angel answered: "I am Gabriel and I was sent from God to speak to you. Now, from this time until these things happen, you will be unable to speak. You will be silent because you did not believe my words."

The people wondered why Zacharias was in the temple for such a long time. When he came out, he could not speak a word; he could only make signs. Zacharias went home, and soon Elizabeth knew that she was going to have a child.

When Elizabeth's baby was born, all her family and friends rejoiced with her. On the eighth day, they came to name the baby. They would have called him Zacharias for his father, but Elizabeth spoke up saying: "His name shall be John."

Everyone said: "But John is not a name of your family." They went to Zacharias to ask him, even though he could not speak. Zacharias reached for a tablet, and he wrote on it: "His name is John." As Zacharias wrote, his tongue was loosened and he spoke, blessing the name of the Lord.

All who heard of these things marveled and knew that the Lord was with this child. The child John grew and became strong in spirit.

John preached in the country around Jordan. He ate locusts and wild honey and lived in the wilderness and his clothes were made of camel's hair. He was not to drink wine. He trusted God, and God provided for his needs. John was to prepare the way for Christ, in the spirit and power of Elijah. He preached repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. John baptized the people in the river Jordan. John came to make the way for the Lord easier, getting people to began thinking about the coming Messiah, and to turn the hearts of men back to God. Later, in our next story, when John would see Jesus coming toward him, John would say, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

## QUESTIONS:

1. Who were John's parents?
2. Who told Zacharias that his wife would have a child?
3. What happened to Zacharias when he did not believe the angel?
4. Where did John live while he was preaching?
5. What did he eat?
6. Did John trust in God?
7. Who was John sent here to prepare the way for?
8. What did John teach people that they needed to do?

**SONG:** "Trust & Obey"

**ACTIVITY:** Fun Facts About John Work Sheet

Dot to dot "Clothes for a Man". Let the children color this sheet.

**BIBLE FACT:** *(Quiz children as they are completing the activity listed above.)*

- How many parts is the Bible divided into?
- How many books are in the Old Testament?
- How many books are in the New Testament?
- Name the books of the Old Testament.
- Name the books of the New Testament.

*(This can be done as a group or, have a child recite the books. Record the "single" child's progress on the "memory-record" poster.)*

## MEMORY VERSE:

*"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17*

## TAKE-HOME HANDOUTS(S):

1. Trace the memory verse sheet
2. Fun Facts About John Work Sheet
3. Dot to dot "Clothes for a Man"

"This is My  
beloved son,  
in whom I am  
well pleased."

Matt. 3:17

# Fun Facts about JOHN

MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 1; JOHN 1 – JOHN THE BAPTIST

John, whose ministry had been announced hundreds of years earlier, was a very unusual person. Would you like to learn some interesting facts about John? Just complete the following sentences by matching them with the correct words in the Word Bank at the bottom of this page. (Check the Bible verse if you get stuck!)

1. John's birth was announced by an \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Luke 1:13)

2. John was never to drink any \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Luke 1:15)

3. John would preach in the power of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Luke 1:17)

4. John began preaching in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 3:1)

5. John's clothes were made of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 3:4)

6. John ate \_\_\_\_\_ and wild honey.  
(Matthew 3:4)

7. John baptized people in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Mark 1:5)

8. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Look, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

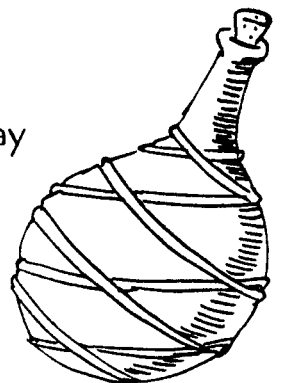
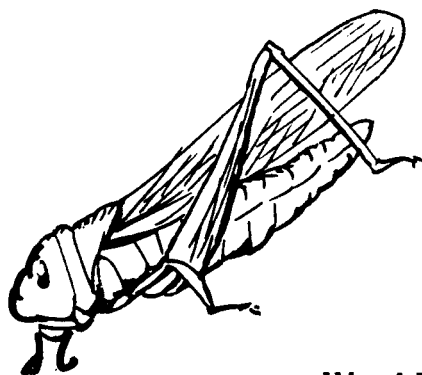
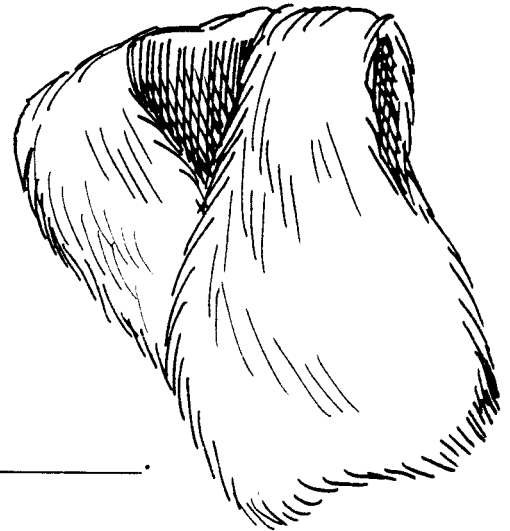
## Word Bank

angel  
camel's hair

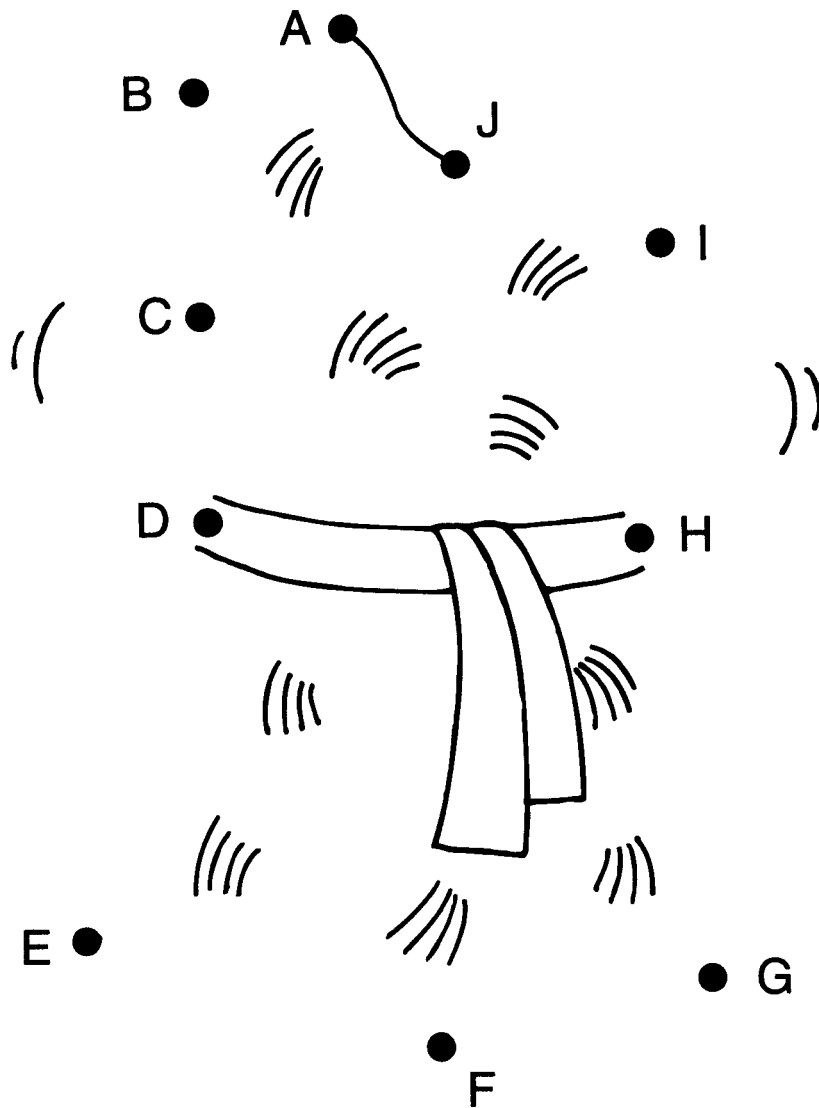
desert  
Elijah

Jordan River  
lamb

locusts  
wine

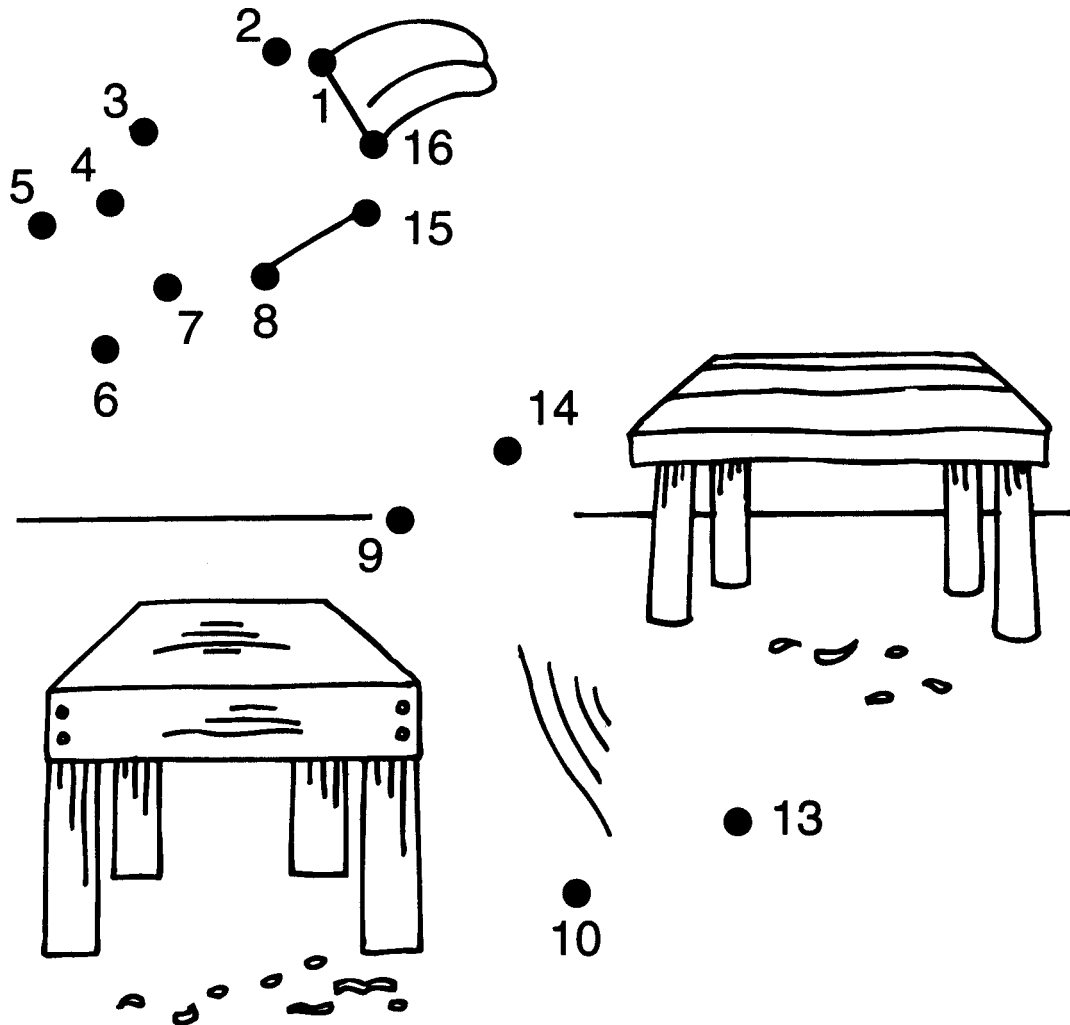


## Clothes for a Man



John was a very rugged man  
Grizzly like a bear.  
Here's a covering for him  
Made from camel's hair.

# The Lord's Tool



Jesus was a carpenter.  
 He did the best he could.  
 He used a tool a lot like this  
 To help him work with wood.

Matt. 3:1-12; 14:3-12

Mark 1:1-8; 6:17-29

Luke 1:5-25, 39-80; 3:1-20

Concept development: Faith - Knowing God keeps his promises

Words to define: trust, faith, repent (act out the military word  
'about face')

Warm-Up

Coloring page with memory work (coloring page can be accented with fake fur or rough cloth, stickers of locusts and honey)

Memory Work

John 3:16, New Testament books

Lesson

Jules Miller Filmstrip #2 - Frame of Zechariah in the temple to baptism of Christ

Application

Bring jacket and hanger, bat, pillow, thermometer, cards

Act out the four scenarios on the application handwork.

Songs

Did You Repent, Fully Repent? (altered . . . Were you baptized?)

Take-home handouts

Map/question sheet and coloring page

# John the Baptist preaches about the coming Savior.

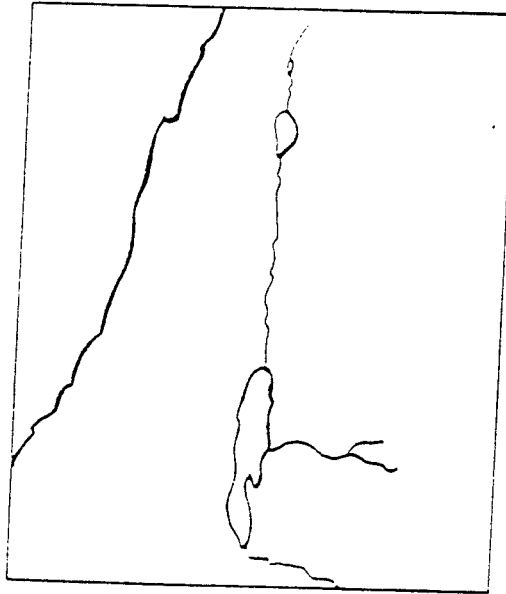
Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20





# History Lesson

1. On your map locate the following:
  - a. The Jordan River
  - b. The Wilderness of Judea



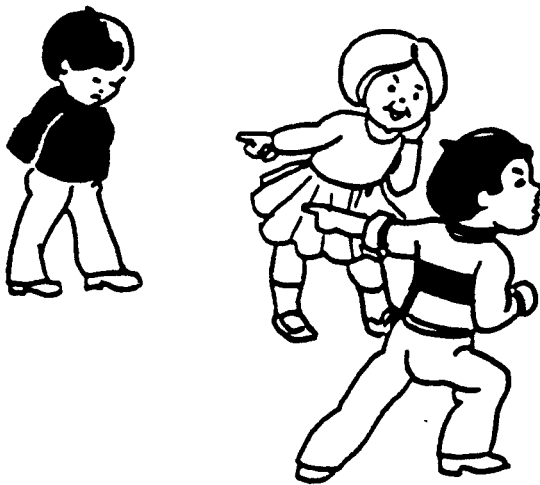
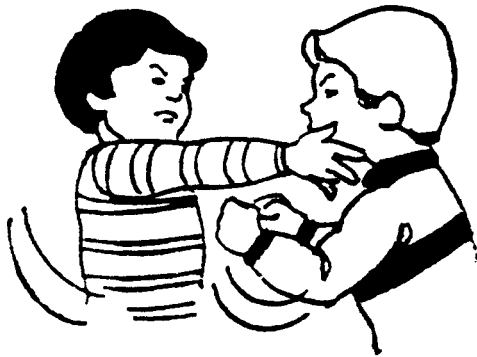
2. What is a prophet? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name two prophets that we have discussed today.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

Fill the blanks in the sentences below with the right words.

1. John was called the Baptizer because he \_\_\_\_\_
2. John told the people of Judea to repent and be \_\_\_\_\_
3. John told the people that \_\_\_\_\_ was coming.
4. John the Baptizer wore a coat made of \_\_\_\_\_
5. John the Baptizer ate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
6. John told the people that there would come after him one who was \_\_\_\_\_ than he. John was not worthy to untie his \_\_\_\_\_
7. The greater one who was to come was \_\_\_\_\_
8. John baptized people in the River \_\_\_\_\_
9. John had to suffer because he was doing \_\_\_\_\_
10. John was called "The voice of one crying in the \_\_\_\_\_."

## Apply The Lesson

Look at the pictures below and tell how you could repent in each instance.



## **History Lesson**

1. On your map locate the following:
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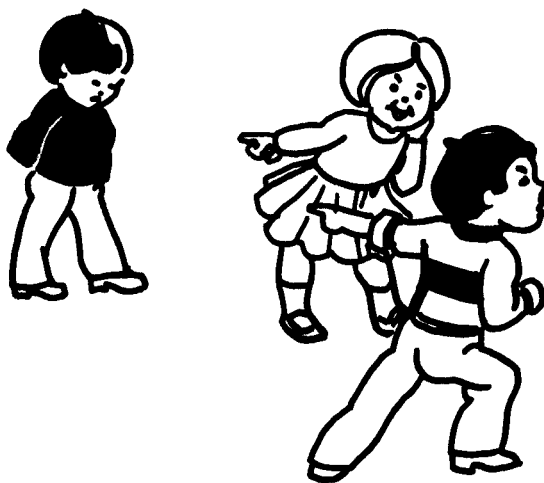
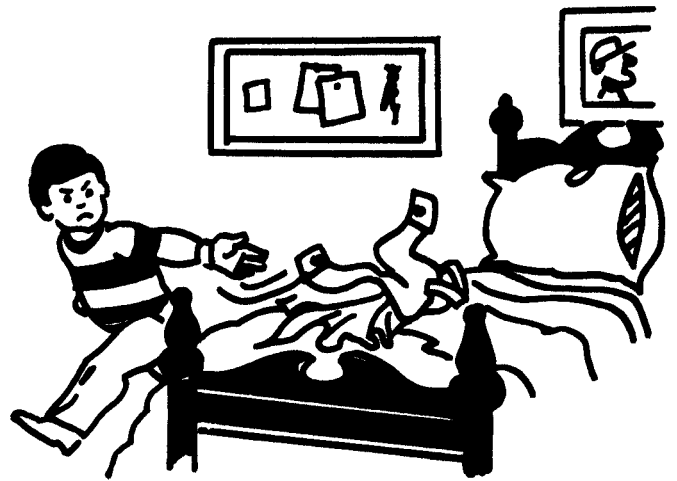
## **Class Activity**

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## **Apply The Lesson**

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## **John The Baptizer**

John, the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, was six months older than his cousin, Jesus. Jesus lived in the city of Nazareth; John grew up in the wilderness.

John wore a coat of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate the foods of the wilderness: wild honey and locusts.

John heard the word of God and went from the wilderness into the countryside around the river Jordan. There he preached the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was to prepare the way for Christ, in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Isaiah, the prophet, had said: "There shall be the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord, saying that the crooked shall be made straight and the rough made smooth, and that all men shall see the salvation of God."

Many people came to John and heard his preaching. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him. They asked his advice and he spoke to them, telling them what they must do to live a righteous life.

"Let the man who has two coats share with the man who has none," said John. "Let the man who has food also share." To the tax collectors he said: "Collect no more than is legal and just to collect." To the soldiers: "Do not rob any man or accuse a man falsely; be content with your wages."

People who came to John wondered if he was the Messiah. To them he said: "I baptize with water, but one is coming who is mightier than I. I am not worthy even to stoop down and untie his shoes."

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