


LESSON 6: JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: Virtual/ At Home lessons

 Matthew 3; Luke 3:21-22

12/06/2020

Note to Parents

Dear parents,

These lessons are the same as the lessons done at church; however, this packet is meant for you to learn about God as a family. There are lots of fun activities here, but you know your kids best, so don't feel like you have to do all the activities. Pick and choose what will work best for your family. The first section is an overview of the lesson to help you get comfortable with the story. Followed by a list of supplies broken into each activity and the links to songs, videos, and printable pages. The final pages are the actual lesson to follow along with. We hope you enjoy following along at home with these fun activities and learning more about God as a family. If you have any questions contact me at [ssstrong@horizoncc.com](mailto:sstrong@horizoncc.com).

Best Regards,
Sierra Strong

Overview of Lesson

Parts of the Lesson:

- Opening
- Music Video
- Talk-About Video
- Object Lesson
- Deeper Bible
- Low-Energy Game
- Life Application Wrap-Up
- Take-Home page (for families to do at home)

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 3; Luke 3:21-22
- In This Passage: John the Baptist shows up to prepare the way for Jesus. He travels around baptizing people and preaching that they need to repent and prepare their

hearts for Jesus. When Jesus comes, John the Baptist baptizes Jesus. At Jesus' baptism, the skies open and God the Father announces that Jesus is his Son.

- Bible Point: Jesus is God's Son.
- Summary Verse: "And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy' " (Matthew 3:17).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is God's Son*. Kids may hear a lot of things about who Jesus is: that he's not real; that he was just a teacher; that he didn't come back to life after he died. They need to know the important truth of who Jesus is: God's own Son, sent in human form to show them who God is.
- Think About: What does the fact that Jesus is God's Son show you personally about God's character? How has Jesus made a difference in your life?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that the kids in your group will want to know Jesus and be more like him as God's children.

Quick Tip

- When kids answer questions, be sure to accept all answers in a nonjudgmental way by thanking kids for sharing. Avoid praising your favorite answers or dismissing those that you don't agree with. If an answer is really off base, consider asking the rest of the kids what they think about the topic.

Supplies for each activity



OPENING

▲ Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



MUSIC VIDEO

▲ Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- "You Gave" (John 14:19b) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) music video (watch or download [here](#))



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

▲ Kids follow instructions and draw John's message.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers or crayons



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

▲ Kids watch a video and discuss today's Bible Point.

Supplies

- "John Baptizes Jesus" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



DEEPER BIBLE

▲ Kids explore the Trinity by mixing paint.

Supplies

- Bible
- blue, yellow, and white washable paint, each in a separate bowl
- paintbrushes (1 for every 2 kids)
- disposable paper bowls (1 for every 2 kids)
- paper
- wet wipes



LOW-ENERGY GAME

▲ Kids remember and copy others' actions.



OBJECT LESSON

▲ Kids part pepper with dish soap.

Supplies

- Bible
- clear bowl
- cotton swab
- liquid dish soap
- water
- a shaker of ground pepper

Easy Prep

- Fill a bowl with water.
- Coat one end of a cotton swab with dish soap.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

▲ Kids hear that they are God's beloved children.

Supplies

- Bible

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

START TEACHING HERE



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we'll learn about a man named John the Baptist. When John baptized Jesus, God let everyone know that Jesus is God's Son.

Share

Say: When we say that Jesus is God's Son, it means that Jesus is just like his Father, who is God.

Tell about a way *you're* like your parents.

Have kids get in pairs and tell about ways *they're* like their parents. Be sensitive to adopted or foster children. Kids may be like their parents in non-physical ways, such as in the hobbies they prefer or the talents they have.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: Today we'll explore how Jesus is God's Son, and what that means to us. We'll dig into the Bible to find out. The Bible is God's message to us. It's an extraordinary way God talks to us. God can talk to you here today!

Pray, praising Jesus because he's God's Son.



MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

You Gave

Supplies

- "You Gave" (John 14:19b) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) music video (watch or download [here](#))

Sing Songs to God

Choose any or all of the songs to do together.



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

[20 min]

John the Baptist Announces Jesus (Matthew 3; Luke 3:21-22)

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers or crayons

Tips

- This Bible Experience is specifically designed for video calls, pre-recorded videos, or parent-led lessons for a wide age-range of kids.

Weird But Important

Have family members do something to make their outfits look weird, such as rolling up just one sleeve, messing up their hair, or turning a shirt around backwards.

Ask: • **What's something you like to do that others might think is a little bit weird? I'll go first!** Tell about a quirk you have or a funny thing you do that other people might think is weird.

Say: **Today we're learning about a man called John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin. John was someone you might think of as a weird guy. He dressed funny, ate bugs, and lived out in the wilderness. Weird! But he had an important message, and a lot of people listened to it. He was there to get people ready to see that Jesus is God's Son. Let's read what the Bible says about him.**

Read aloud Matthew 3:1-6.

Say: John got his name "John the Baptist" because he baptized people—which means he put their heads under water for a second or two as a way for people to show that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done.

The reason John was doing all of this was to get people ready for Jesus. For thousands of years God had communicated his love for people through his actions. People talked about God and they could read about God, but they still didn't really *get* who God was. So God sent his Son, Jesus, to help everyone understand. Let's explore more about what that means.

Follow the Teacher

Have everyone stand. Say: I'm going to read a list of motions, and you'll need to do them all in order.

Read through the following list of motions quickly. Don't repeat yourself and don't model the actions—just read the list.

- clap three times
- spin around
- jump
- do jazz hands
- kick your right leg, then your left leg
- nod your head

Ask: • What happened?

- What would make it easier to follow my instructions?

Read the list again, this time doing the motions as you read it and pausing for kids to copy you.

Ask: • What's the difference between the two times I read the list of actions?

Say: When you could only hear me but couldn't watch me, it was harder to follow along. Think about people who had read about God or talked about him but had never seen him.

Ask: • How would being able to see Jesus help people understand who God is?

Say: God had shown himself to people through miracles and through messengers, but they couldn't see God. So God sent his Son, Jesus, so we could know who God is.

Talk About It

Say: Jesus is God's Son, and by getting to know Jesus, we can learn more about God the Father.

Ask: • **What could someone learn about your family by getting to know you?** First, give an example from your own family, which could be a physical trait like hair color, a personality trait like politeness, or an attribute like a good sense of humor.

Learn John's Message

Say: John the Baptist wanted people to be ready for Jesus, and he had some important things to say to get people ready for Jesus. He told people who thought they were automatically going to heaven that even *they* had to turn to Jesus, God's Son. He shared different messages with people to help them know how to get ready for Jesus.

Let's dig into some of John's messages by drawing them.

I'll tell you the four messages. Each person can pick one to draw. (Children's Ministry Directors: make it easier for families to refer back to the messages. Use the "chat" feature or put the text on the screen if you can in a pre-recorded video.)

- Repent of your sins and turn to God.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is near.
- Prove by the way you live that you have...turned to God.
- Someone is coming soon who is greater than I.

Say: Now think of a fun way to draw this that might pass the message on to others. As you're drawing, talk about this: How does this message help people get ready for God's Son, Jesus?

Allow time for everyone to draw and talk, and then invite each person to show their artwork and answer to the question: How does this message help people get ready for God's Son, Jesus?

Jesus' Baptism

Say: John baptized a lot of people and wanted them to turn to God. But then one day *Jesus* asked John to baptize *him*. At Jesus' baptism, something very special happened.

Read aloud Matthew 3:16-17.

Say: Before Jesus did any miracles, or taught anyone, or did anything else that we would think of as amazing, God told people who Jesus was. Jesus is God's Son! Jesus is God's Son, and he brings God great joy. He came to earth to show us who God is and how much God loves everyone. The more we get to know Jesus, the more we get to know God!



John Baptizes Jesus

Supplies

- “John Baptizes Jesus” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Discuss and Watch “John Baptizes Jesus”

Say: We’re learning about a guy named John who was a little bit different from other people—and who had a pretty amazing experience with Jesus. Let’s watch this video to see John’s story.

Watch “John Baptizes Jesus.”

Ask: John shared the message “Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!” What do you think this means?

After several kids have shared their thoughts, say: John wanted everyone to have their hearts ready for Jesus. He wanted them to start thinking about what they were doing and how they were living. But it sounds like he was a little surprised when Jesus came and wanted to be baptized. Jesus said that this was what God wanted, so John agreed to baptize Jesus.

It must have been amazing when the sky opened up and a dove came down and landed on Jesus! And it must have been *really* amazing when everyone heard God’s voice say, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Ask: • Why do you think God wanted everyone to hear this message?

• Jesus is God’s Son. When we get to know Jesus, we get to know God. What do you know about Jesus that is also true about God?

Say: It’s exciting to know that we can get to know God by getting to know Jesus. We know for sure that Jesus loves us—and that means God loves us, too!



How Can Jesus Be God's Son?

Supplies

- Bible
- blue, yellow, and white washable paint, each in a separate bowl
- paintbrushes (1 for every 2 kids)
- disposable paper bowls (1 for every 2 kids)
- paper
- wet wipes

The Same Person?

Read aloud Matthew 3:16-17.

Say: **These verses talk about God in three different ways. There's a person (Jesus), a Spirit like a dove, and a voice from heaven calling Jesus his Son. Does that mean we worship three gods instead of one? How can Jesus be God and God's Son at the same time? Let's grapple with that.**

Mixed Together

Have kids form pairs, pairing up older kids with younger kids. Have partners use paintbrushes to dab a little of each of the three different colors of paint in a bowl. Encourage older kids to take responsibility for avoiding a mess. Then have the kids mix these colors together thoroughly.

Ask: • **How many colors are in your bowl?**

• **Could you separate your paint back into the three original colors?**

Say: **The color in your bowl was made out of three totally different colors. You *saw* the three colors, so you know there were three—but now they're all just one color and you can't split them apart. That's kind of like God. There's just one God, but there are three different parts that make up who he is. One of those parts is Jesus, who is God's Son.**

Read aloud Hebrews 1:3.

Say: **This is really hard to understand, and that's okay! Even adults have a hard time understanding how one God can have three parts.**

Allow time for kids to share what's confusing about the concept of the Trinity. Don't try to answer all their questions unless you feel confident in doing so. It's okay to admit that even you have a hard time understanding this concept.

Say: **Even though it's confusing, we can believe that Jesus is God's Son.**

Painted Message

Have pairs each use the paint they mixed to paint two signs that say Jesus is God's Son. Remind older partners to help their younger partners.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Clap, Snap, Stomp

Repeat Actions From Memory

Ask: • **What are some things you do the same way your parents do them?**

• **If someone watched you for a whole day, what would they see in your appearance, actions, or words that would remind them of your parents?**

Say: **Let's play a game to discover how we see others and learn from them.**

Have children stand in a circle. Be sure you join in and play, too!

Choose a child to start the game by picking an action to do: clapping, snapping, or stomping a single time.

Going to the left, have the next child in the circle repeat the first child's action and then choose one of the three actions to add.

Continue on around the circle until each child has had a turn to repeat all the previous actions and add an action at the end.

Play until you've gone all the way around the circle at least once. If you have fewer than 10 kids, play until you have a pattern of at least 10 motions. Continue around the circle one or two more times as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **Each of you helped continue the pattern by repeating it around the circle. You had to do the same actions as the people before you.**

Ask: • **What are ways the actions and words of Jesus help us understand more about his Father?**

Say: Jesus is God's Son. He came to earth to show us what God is like. Just as you sometimes say or do things the way your parents do, Jesus can remind us of his Father, because Jesus is God's Son.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Part the Pepper

Supplies

- Bible
- clear bowl
- cotton swab
- liquid dish soap
- water
- a shaker of ground pepper

Easy Prep

- Fill a bowl with water.
- Coat one end of a cotton swab with dish soap.

Experiment With Pepper Water

Have kids gather around the bowl of water.

Say: **There are some hard things in our world today. What are some you can think of?**

Kids may think of things like bullies, crime, disease, sadness, and so on.

As each child shares an idea, let that child add a sprinkle of pepper to the water.

Say: **Today we are learning that Jesus is God's Son. Even though these bad things are in our world, Jesus helps us in the middle of them.**

Stick the cotton swab coated in dish soap into the water. The pepper will part and move to the outside edge of the bowl.

Say: **What we saw with this cotton swab is kind of like when Jesus came into our world. What just happened?**

Talk About It

Ask: • **What's different about your own life because Jesus is in your life?** Say: **Because Jesus is God's Son, he can and has conquered the bad things in our world. That doesn't mean the bad things are all gone yet, but it does mean he can help you push them aside and that he helps us in the middle of our troubles.**



Supplies

- Bible

All Children of God

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus is God's Son. And because Jesus is God's Son, he made a way for *us* to be God's children, too!**

Read aloud Galatians 3:26.

Say: **God said that Jesus is his Son, with whom he is pleased. When we have faith in Jesus, we become part of God's family! Take a moment to quietly pray about that, and think about what being a child of God means to you.**

Allow time.

Bless Children

Move from child to child, putting your hand on each child's head and saying: **[Name of child], you are God's beloved [daughter/son]**. If you have a lot of kids, have kids pass on the blessing after you've blessed them.

Thank the children for coming, and tell them you're looking forward to seeing them next week.

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