

## Lesson #3-17

# *Jesus and John the Baptist*

Luke 3:1-22

PK-2<sup>nd</sup>

**Key Verse:**

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.  
Luke 3:18

**The Point:**

Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God.

**Making Connections:**

Revelation of the Son of Man

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Gospel

**Spiritual Practice:**

Worship



# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

#### *Desert Sensory Table*

Experience what life is like in the desert.

#### *Like a Dove*

Pretend to be birds.

#### *Water Play*

Sand and water both play a central role.

- † Bins of sand, rocks, and twigs
- † Cups, shovels, and other sand toys
  
- † Bird costumes and wings, or scarves and rubber bands
  
- † Water table
- † Water toys
- † Towels
- † Optional: pans or baking dishes, water

### Into the Story (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### *A Voice Crying Out*

Listen carefully to learn about love.

5 min.

- † None

### Bible Nuts & Bolts (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### *The Gospel Story*

We can learn a lot from books.

10 min.

- † Bible
- † Assorted well-known children's books

# Activities a la Carte

## Learning the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)

### *Jesus and John*

Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist.

10 min.

- † Children's Bibles
- † Simple costumes
- † Dove supplies from Story Centers

## Living the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)

### *Cleansing Water*

Baptist is cleansing.

5 min.

- † Desert sensory table items
- † Bucket of water
- † Towels

## Singing the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)

### *Wash Over Me*

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of "Frere Jacques."

5 min.

- † None

## Additional Activities

### *Prophet, Prophet, He's Here! (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Prophets proclaim the good news, and the Messiah comes.

5 min.

- † None

# Activities a la Carte

## Additional Activities

### *Locusts and Honey (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Snack time reminds us of John the Baptist.

5 min.

- † Celery
- † Peanut butter or alternative
- † Pretzels
- † Raisins
- † Honey
- † Plates
- † Napkins
- † Knives
- † Spoons

### *Coffee Filter Dove (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Make a simple dove craft.

5 min.

- † White coffee filters
- † Clothes pins
- † Black markers

### *Bible Book (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

### *Sending the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

5 min.

- † None

# *Background for Teachers*

## **Making Connections**

This is the season of Epiphany: the season when we celebrate how God is revealed through Jesus, and the season when we focus on Jesus' life here on earth. The previous readings were two stories of Jesus in the temple: one when he was an infant, and again when he was a young boy. Today, we see this child grown into a man and hear the story of the beginning of his public ministry.

## **Story Summary:**

### ***Jesus and John the Baptist***

This Scripture begins setting the scene by listing those in power (Emperor Tiberius, Pontius Pilate, Herod), thus giving us a point in history. Placed into this scene, in the wilderness around Jordan, is the prophet John the Baptist.

John's message is one of redemption and forgiveness. He calls people to baptism by water to forgive their sins and to prepare for the imminent coming of the Messiah, who will baptize by the Spirit.

Jesus comes to John and asks to be baptized. As he is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends on him and a voice is heard: "You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased!" (Luke 3:22). Jesus is revealed.

## **The Point**

### **Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God.**

Throughout this unit, we are looking at how Jesus reveals God to us. One of the first steps in understanding these revelations is recognizing Jesus as a legitimate avenue for us to encounter God. The point of this lesson's Scripture is for us to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon and Anna from last week, and now John, all reveal him as such, and remind us that he comes for the salvation of all!

## **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

### ***Gospel***

The Bible Nuts & Bolts for this lesson is "Gospel" as a genre in the Bible. For this lesson's Scripture, as well as throughout the unit, we will be studying the Gospel of Luke. The Gospels are those books that tell us the good news of Jesus' life. They reveal to the reader how the life and ministry of Jesus proves that he is the good news; he is the Messiah that they have been waiting for.

## **Spiritual Practice: Worship**

In our last lesson, we saw the importance of a community of faith coming together. Worship can be a powerful connection point for a community of faith. This week, we come together around the central focus of baptism. Jesus' baptism by John begins his public ministry. When someone is baptized in the church, they begin their journey as members of the church family, and a member of the great cloud of witnesses that have come before them and are yet to be. We gather together in worship to bear witness and to welcome the new family member.



# Lesson Plan



## Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

### *Desert Sensory Table*

Gather some bins of sand, rocks, and twigs. Place with cups, shovels, and other sand toys for a sensory table. We are introduced today to John the Baptist in the desert. In the lesson, you will reference this center to talk about what grows and thrives in the desert.

### *Like a Dove*

At this center, students pretend to be birds. If you do not have costumes available to you, simple scarves attached to the wrist with rubber bands can serve as wings. Set up an area to be a nest, and let imagination take over! Where do we hear about a bird in today’s reading?

### *Water Play*

While this week’s story begins in the desert, it ends with water. Create a space for water play. Talk about the many ways that we use water. How is it used in the story today?

## *Into the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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### *A Voice Crying Out*

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Listen carefully to learn about love.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. Have the students sit in a circle and close their eyes. Have one volunteer leader go to a corner of the room. Inform the volunteer ahead of time that their message is “God is love.”
2. **Everyone keep your eyes closed, and listen carefully. When you hear a voice, keep your eyes shut and point to where you hear the voice coming from.** Have the leader in the corner share their message. After the students point to the direction, they should open their eyes and see if they were correct. Repeat this a number of times, each time having the person move around. If the students would like to be the voice, they can take turns as well.
3. **In today’s story, we hear a voice crying out from the wilderness with a message for God’s people. We never know where we will hear messages of God’s love, so it is good to listen carefully for it!**

# *Bible Nuts and Bolts (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

## *The Gospel Story*

We can learn a lot from books.

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Assorted well-known children's books

*Before class:*

1. Gather together some well-known children's books from your home library, your church library, or from student's families.

*During class:*

1. Hold up each of the children's books. Have students share whether or not the books are familiar to them, and what they think the books are supposed to teach them.
2. Then hold up the Bible. **This book also has lessons to teach us. The Bible is actually a collection of many different books, written by many different authors.**
3. **When we want to learn about Jesus, where in the Bible do we look?** [*The Gospels: Matthen, Mark, Luke, or John, found in the New Testament.*] **These four books of the Bible each share with us the good news of Jesus. These books give us a chance to learn about his life, and about how God spreads love in the world.**



## *Learning the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 10 minutes)*

### *Jesus and John*

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Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist.

*You will need:*

- † Children's Bibles
- † Simple costumes
- † Dove supplies from Story Centers

*Before class:*

1. If you do not have illustrated children's Bibles for each student, find illustrations for this story online or in a children's book.
2. Provide simple props and costumes. Use the dove props from the Story Center.

*During class:*

1. **Let's look up our story using our Bibles. It is in the Gospel of Luke, which is near the beginning of the New Testament...but that is found after the Old Testament.** Help students as needed.
2. **Look at the pictures as I read today's story. What do you see?** Allow students to share their answers as you read.
3. **Let's pretend we are in this story. Who would like to be Jesus? John? The dove?** Take volunteers and give them simple costumes. One student could also be the voice of God. **The rest of you will be the crowd this time.**
4. Read verses 21 and 22 again, emphasizing the students' actions.
5. If there is time, allow other students to take a role.

## *Living the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

### *Cleansing Water*

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Baptism is cleansing.

*You will need:*

- † Desert sensory table items
- † Bucket of water
- † Towels

*Before class:*

1. Place a bucket of water in a safe place in the classroom.

*During class:*

1. Invite children to the desert sensory table (see Story Centers). They can play at it for a moment, if there is time and interest.
2. **Sand, rocks, twigs: these are all things that we might have found in the desert wilderness where John the Baptist was preaching. He invited people to come to the Jordan River for baptism.**
3. **What happens if I put this dirty shovel in the water? *[It gets clean.]* John the Baptist told people that the water would help clean people, both inside and out. He baptized people with the water, forgiving them for their sins.**

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## *Singing the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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### *Wash Over Me*

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Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “Frere Jacques”

Baptism Water,  
Baptism Water;  
Wash over me,  
Wash over me.

I am God’s beloved,  
I am God’s beloved;  
Spirit, come,  
Spirit, come.

## *Additional Activities*

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### *Prophet, Prophet, He Is Here! (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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Prophets proclaim the good news, and then the Messiah comes.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. This is a simple variation on “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
2. Students use “prophet” for “duck,” and “He is here!” for “goose”.
3. **In this game, everyone listens carefully to what the leader has to say, waiting anxiously for what they are confident is coming. As people waited for the Messiah, they listened carefully and anxiously to the prophets, and were so excited to hear “He is here!”**

## *Locusts and Honey (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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Snack time reminds us of John the Baptist.

*You will need:*

- † Celery
- † Peanut butter (or alternative)
- † Pretzels
- † Raisins
- † Honey
- † Plates
- † Napkins
- † Knives
- † Spoons

*Before class:*

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
2. Wash and cut celery (into approximately 4-inch lengths).
3. Gather the rest of the food supplies, being certain to follow food allergy procedures.

*During class:*

1. **In the Bible, we are told that John the Baptist eats honey and locusts in the wilderness. Does anyone know what a locust is?** *[It is a kind of insect, which looks a bit like a grasshopper.]*
2. **Unfortunately, I do not have real locusts for you to try. So, we are going to make our own.**
3. Demonstrate how to make a locust:
  - Put peanut butter (or other spread) on the celery.
  - Use pretzels for the legs.
  - Use raisins for the eyes.
4. Give students the supplies for the locusts on plates. Have them make their own, and then give them a spoonful of honey to eat with the locusts.

## *Coffee Filter Dove (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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Make a simple dove craft.

*You will need:*

- † White coffee filters
- † Clothes pins
- † Black markers

*During class:*

1. Today we are going to make a dove to help us remember the part of our story where the Holy Spirit came down to Jesus and looked like a dove.
2. Give each student a coffee filter and a clothespin. Students will fold the filter in an accordion fashion, back and forth, and then secure the filter with the clothespin. Use the black marker to make the dove's eyes on the clothespin.
3. What did God say when the dove appeared? "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

## *Bible Book (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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Optional ongoing activity.

*You will need:*

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Three-hole punch
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

*Before class:*

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

*During class:*

1. Pass out Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

## *Sending the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

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Students will gather in a circle. Go around the circle and insert their name in the following:  
[Name], **named and claimed, you are a beloved child of God!**

### *Prayer*

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Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray.

**God, help us to remember that we are each beloved. Help us to remember that you are revealed through our love. Thank you for this community that helps us to grow in your love. Amen.**



# *Jesus and John the Baptist*

**Luke 3:1-22**

## *The Point:*

**Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God.**





# *The Story @ Home*

PK-2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

**Lesson #3-17**

Luke 3:1-22

### *Last Week*

When he was only eight days old, Jesus was brought to the temple and two prophets proclaimed him as the Messiah. Twelve years later, Jesus stays behind in the temple to talk with the teachers there (Luke 2:21-38; Luke 2:41-52).

### *This Week*

Jesus encounters his cousin, John the Baptist, and Jesus' public ministry begins (Luke 3:1-22).

### *Story Summary*

The message of John the Baptist is one of redemption and forgiveness. He calls people to baptism by water to forgive their sins and to prepare for the imminent coming of the Messiah, who will baptize by the Spirit. Jesus comes to John and asks to be baptized. As he is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends on him and a voice is heard; "You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased!" (Luke 3:22). In this way, Jesus is revealed.

### *Bible Nuts & Bolts*

#### **Gospel**

The Bible Nuts & Bolts for this lesson is "Gospel" as a genre in the Bible. For this lesson's Scripture, as well as throughout the unit, we will be studying the Gospel of Luke. The Gospels are those books that tell us the good news of Jesus' life. They reveal to the reader how the life and ministry of Jesus proves that he is the good news, or the Messiah, that they have been waiting for.

### *The Point*

**Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God.**

### *Practice: Worship*

This week, we come together around the central focus of baptism. Jesus' baptism by John begins his public ministry. When someone is baptized in the church, they begin their journey as members of the church family, and a member of the great cloud of witnesses that have come before them and are yet to be. We gather together in worship to bear witness and to welcome the new family member. Create a way that you can welcome each other to your worship time this week. You may choose to hug one another or make the sign of the cross on each other's forehead or hand and welcome them with the words, "God loves you and so do I."

### *Next Week*

Even though he is rejected in Nazareth, Jesus brings good news for those in need (Luke 4:14-30).

### Family Discussions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them—and to us?

- ✝ Jesus and John the Baptist were cousins. How have your family members been a part of your faith journey?
- ✝ Where have you seen the Holy Spirit being active in your life?
- ✝ Share a time that was a wilderness experience for you. How did God help you through that time?

### Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions: Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together. Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today? Read aloud from the Daily Readings below. Discuss the questions following each. End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time. (Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with YOUR household's context and patterns. What works best for you?)

#### Sunday—Read Luke 3:1-22

John the Baptist baptizes those who come to hear his message, which includes the declaration that the time of the Messiah is near. John's message is for all people. Look in today's news and find the story about the group of people that lives farthest from your family. Say a special prayer for them.

#### Monday—Read Malachi 3:1-4

The messenger is coming and will purify and refine people. Find items in your house that are gold or silver or otherwise valuable and talk about why they are considered precious.

#### Tuesday—Read Acts 19:1-7

Paul shared the power of the Holy Spirit with followers. Spend time outside, attempting to feel or hear the wind.

#### Wednesday—Read Ephesians 4:1-7

As followers of Christ, we are part of one body, worshipping one God. At a meal, talk about your favorite team of any kind, fictional or real. How does that team work together?

#### Thursday—Read Luke 3:23-38

The Scripture takes us through the ancestry of Jesus, all the way back to Adam. Work together as a family to create a family tree.

#### Friday—Read Luke 4:1-4

Jesus is tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. What would it be like to not eat for 40 days? Talk about what food you would miss the most.

#### Saturday—Read Luke 4:5-13

Jesus is tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Each person name one thing that is tempting and pray together for each other to make the right choices each day.