

WORSHIP ILLUSTRATION:

Lesson 50, Unit 10

THE LOVE SHUTTLE

John the Baptist

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

**Bible Story: Luke 1:41, 76-79;
3:4-6 and John 1:23, 29-30**

Set: The set for Prophets and Promises Unit 7-10 is "The Love Shuttle," an old rusted out space freighter that has been spruced up with psychedelic 1960's design. A playground slide or curved tube leads into the room; this is the time tube. From the upper level (A Deck) a fireman's pole takes us down to B deck. There is a lit up power panel called the Power Source that conceals the Bible. For added interest, build windows, entrances and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters:

Shiloh is Dr. Woodstock's nephew from 1973. He is very laid back and a bit innocent, if not clueless.

John the Baptist is a quirky prophet who dresses in camel hair and points us to the Savior.

Plot:

John the Baptist visits Shiloh and explains that from the time he was in his mother's womb, God called him to spend his life pointing the world to Jesus, the Savior.

Costumes:

Long wigs, tie-dyed shirt, bell-bottom pants, vest, headband, colored glasses. Bible times camel colored robe, wig, beard

Props:

Bible in Power Source, Handsome's Bible, spray bottle, odd-looking snack or bag

Sound effects: (SFX)

1. Intro music suggestion: "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News
2. Voiceover: Time Travel Alert countdown (Song: "Up, Up and Away" by The 5th Dimension)
3. Power Source suggestion: "We've Got the Power" by Snap.
4. Three bell rings: Handsome's entrance
5. Trumpet fanfare
6. Outro music suggestion: "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News or "For Unto Us" (Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song located at childrensministrywarehouse.net, or traditional Christmas hymn such as "Angels We Have Heard On High."

Visual effects: (VFX)

1. Video Intro: features space ships and rockets (available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)
2. Power Source holds the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light (L.E.D.) shines out and theme music plays. (Song: "We've Got the Power" by Snap.)
3. The Promise slide: **"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins."**
Luke 1:76-77
4. Closing Slide:
"No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!"

SFX/VFX Signals:

Promise signal: fanfare, flashing lights

THE LOVE SHUTTLE: Lesson 50
John the Baptist Prepares the Way
Luke 1:41, 76-79; 3:4-6;
John 1:23, 29-30

(VFX: Love Shuttle Video intro)

Shiloh (enters on upper level)

Yo, what's happenin', Lil' Dudes!
I'm coming right down! (slides down fire pole) **Welcome back to "The Love Shuttle!" Dudes, I thought I knew all there was to know about Christmas but I've been learning things I never knew before. Like, did you know that God's plan to save the world didn't begin the day Jesus was born? No, the prophets had been pointing the way for years and years and years!** (SFX: 3 dings, Handsome points up) **Oh hey, Handsome! That's right, all of the prophets were pointing to Jesus. That's what prophets do, point to the truth. What are you pointing at? Oh, were getting a visitor!** (SFX: alarms, LGTS: Red beacons)

Voiceover

Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1! (SFX: Up, Up and Away)

Shiloh

What's up, Dude! Let me guess. You're a prophet.

John

Nope! I'm a Baptist! (pulls out a spray bottle and squirts Shiloh and children)
Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Time for you all to get baptized!

Shiloh

I get it! I get it! You're John the Baptist!

John

That's me, John the Baptist! What gave me away? (pulls out a container of a snacks)

Shiloh

Well, the water for one thing and also, you said, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" My friend, Isaiah said that you are the voice of one calling in the desert.

John

Hey, you really know your prophets! What's your name?

Shiloh

Shiloh.

John (offers him a snack)

You want one, Shiloh?

Shiloh

Sure! Thanks. (tastes it then spits it out) **Yuck! Those are disgusting! What are they?**

John

Locusts.

Shiloh

Locusts! Like the bugs, locusts?

John

Yup, delicious, aren't they?

Shiloh

No, they're gross! You eat those?

John

Yup, we don't have a whole lot of restaurants in the desert.
(SFX: 3 rings, Handsome holds Bible)

Shiloh

Hey Handsome, this is John the Baptist! John, this is my friend Handsome.

John

Well, well, well, it's good to see you keep God's Word on "hand!"

Shiloh (opening Power Source)

We've got another one over here in the Power Source! Here, I'll show you! ((SFX: "We Got the Power", LGTS: LED shine from Power Source)

John (looks at Power Source)

Wow, where can I get one of these?

Shiloh

Look John, look what the Bible says about you! "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins." Luke 1:76-77

(SFX/VFX: Promise Signal, Promise Slide)

John

You know what? That's what I've been doing my whole life, pointing people to my cousin Jesus! We're second cousins, you know.

Shiloh

You and Jesus are related?

John

Oh yeah, my mom, Elizabeth and His mom, Mary were cousins. They got together one time when Jesus and I were both inside our mom's bellies!

Shiloh

Cool, you guys knew each other before you were even born.

John

Yup. When Mary walked into our house I jumped around like crazy!

Shiloh

So...you were pointing to Jesus in your mama's belly?

John

Yeah, I was all like, "Wake up! Savior in the house! Whoop, whoop!"

Shiloh

Groovy! God called you to be the one to tell the world that Jesus was coming.

John

Not just me! If you think about it, all of the prophets had been telling the people through the ages that God would save His people!

Shiloh

That's true! Joel, Elijah, Isaiah... they all promised us a Savior!

John

Oh, I studied all those prophets, too! I especially like what Isaiah had to say.

Shiloh

Me, too! I love that part about the voice of one calling in the desert "Make straight the way for the Lord!"

John

That's me!

Shiloh

That's you?

John

Yeah! I read that and I realized that God was calling me to point the world to cousin, Jesus. So, I left home, dressed up in camel hair went to live in the desert.

Shiloh

How did you survive out there?

John

I lived on locusts and honey.

Shiloh

I still don't see how anybody can eat bugs.

John

You gotta use a lot of honey.

Shiloh

So, what happened in the desert?

John

I started calling out, telling people to prepare their hearts for the Savior and people started coming.

Shiloh

Then what did you do?

John

I started baptizing them. You know, baptism back then was sort of our way of asking God to wash our sins away—to show God that we'd turn to Him. I thought this way they'd be cleaned up and ready when the Savior comes.

Shiloh

And did He come?

John

You're not going to believe this: Jesus showed up to get baptized!

Shiloh

No way! What did you do?

John

What would you do? I baptized Him! I told everyone, "This is the one I've been talking about, the Lamb of God who comes to take

away the sins of the world!" Then the heavens opened up and a dove descended from Heaven and landed on Him.

Shiloh

The Holy Spirit!

John

Bingo! And then we heard a voice from Heaven say, "You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased!"

Shiloh

So, even as a grown up, God was still using you to point people to Jesus?

John

All my life. That's what God called me to do.

Shiloh

You know what, Dude? I think that's what God is calling me to do. (SFX: 3 rings, Handsome points up) You too, Handsome? (Handsome gives thumbs up)

John

It's a great way to spend your life. There's not a lot of money in it but you make a good prophet!

Shiloh

Ah! That's a good one, Dude! Okay kids, we gotta go. Keep pointing to Jesus and until next time remember, "No matter where you are in time." Say it with us, "God is Good all the Time!" (SFX: Outro music "The Power of Love")

John (squirting children with spray bottle) Stay dry!