



Worship Illustration: Script
The Love Sub
Prophets & Promises: Advent of the Promised One
Unit 10, Lesson 50

Advent 3: John the Baptist

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

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Shiloh is Woodstock's nephew. He is very easygoing and easily amused. John the Baptist is played as a shabby, slightly quirky wilderness dweller. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

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: Shiloh wears 1960's clothes, sandals, a blonde wig, and sunglasses. John the Baptist wears a Bible times camel hair robe, sandals, belt, wig, and a beard.

Props: Bible, spray bottle, odd-looking sack or bag, can of crunchy snacks (locusts)

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Outro music suggestion: "For Unto Us" (Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song) or traditional Christmas hymn such as "Angels We Have Heard on High"
3. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
4. Promise fanfare
5. 3 dings: Microwave timer dings or bells
6. Submarine alarm sounds, bells
7. Voiceover: Time Travel Alert

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
3. Promise lights (flashing lights)
4. 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***
5. Fallback Slide: **No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!**

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

The Love Sub
Unit 10, Lesson 50
Advent 3: John the Baptist
Luke 1:41, 76-79; 3:4-6; John 1:23, 29-30

Video Intro: (available at ResourceWell.org)
(VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle—** (SFX: Record scratch) **Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man!** (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) **So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

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 Sub!" Dudes, I thought I knew all there was to know about Christmas, but I've been learning things I never knew. Like, did you know God's plan to save the world didn't begin the day Jesus was born? Nope! 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; they point to the truth. What are you pointing at? Oh, we're getting a visitor!** (SFX: Submarine alarm sounds, bells)

Voiceover
Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1!

Shiloh
What's up, dude? Let me guess. You're a prophet.

John
Nope! I'm a Baptist! (pulls out a spray bottle, 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 can of crunchy snacks)

Shiloh
Well, the water for one thing and also, you said, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" My friend, Isaiah, said 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 dings)
(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

We've got another one over here in the
Power Source! Here, I'll show you! (opens
stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX:
Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from
porthole)

John (looks at Power Source)

Wow, where can I get one of these?

Shiloh

Look, John, the Bible says you came to
point people to the promise! Hey kids, let's
search for that promise! (SFX: Promise
signal, VFX: Promise lights and slide) There it
is!

*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.*

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 moms' 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 from 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 Jesus was coming.

John

Not just me! If you think about it,
prophets had been telling 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 God was
calling me to point the world to cousin
Jesus. So, I left home, dressed up in camel
hair, and 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 came.

Shiloh

Then, what did you do?

John

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

Shiloh

And, did He come?

John

You're not going to believe this, but 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!" (VFX: Heavenly spotlight) **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, too. (SFX: 3 dings, Handsome points up.) **You too, Handsome? (Handsome gives a 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, VFX: Fallback slide)

**John (squirting children with spray bottle)
Stay dry!**

(exit)