



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises:
Advent of the Promised One
Unit 10, Lesson 50

Advent 3: John the Baptist

Lesson Aim: To challenge children to point others to Jesus.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite sign that Christmas is coming?

GAME: Prepare a Path

THE WORSHIP THE GOD OF PEACE

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Prophets' Candle

Read Worship Scripture: John 1:6-9.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD JOHN POINTED OTHERS TO JESUS

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God promised Mary she would give birth to His Son Jesus.

Today, we will learn how Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, prepared the way for Jesus to come to the world. John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus from the time he was in his mother's belly and throughout his life. Point to The Birth of Jesus (Circa 1 A.D.). Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Luke 1:16-17, 41, 76-79; John 1:29. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Luke 1:76-77. Pray. Read.

THE WAY WE CAN POINT OTHERS TO JESUS

Why did God send John the Baptist ahead of Jesus? (To prepare the way.) **John told everyone to prepare for Jesus by repenting and being baptized. What does it mean to repent?** (To turn from wrongdoing and to do things God's way.) **What can you do to prepare your heart to grow closer to Jesus? How might that help point others to Jesus?**

Why was John called John the Baptist? (He baptized people in water.) **If someone wanted to repent, John took that person into the Jordan River. Going under the water was a sign he or she wanted to be washed clean from sin. Baptism is only a sign, because sins cannot be washed away by water. Who is the only One who can**

take away our sins? (Jesus.) **Today, when believers are baptized, it is a sign to the world that Jesus has washed their sins away.**

What did John the Baptist tell the people Jesus would do about their sins? (Save them from their sins, their sins would be forgiven.) **What were the two names John called Jesus?** (Son of God, Lamb of God.) **When he pointed to Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," what did the people do?** (Believed in and followed Jesus.) **Everyone sins, so everyone needs to be saved and forgiven by God. What can you tell your friends and family about Jesus?** Children share facts they know about Jesus, how they feel about their relationship with Jesus, and how Jesus has changed their lives. **Our words are just one way we can point others to Jesus. Does your life now show others something about Jesus? What can you do to help prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas? How might your preparation help point others to Jesus?**

CHRIST CONNECTION:

John told the people he was the voice calling in the desert who Isaiah had described in his prophecy 700 years earlier. Isaiah described how John would prepare people for Jesus. He compared making our hearts ready for Jesus to making a road through the wilderness. Reveal Isaiah 40:3-5. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

It is hard to make a path in the wilderness. What types of land does Isaiah describe in the wilderness? (Valleys, mountains, hills, rough ground, rugged places.) **Just as there are different types of land, our hearts are each different. Isaiah knew our hearts must be made ready so we can believe, love, and follow Jesus. John the Baptist helped get hearts ready by preaching about turning from sin and asking for God's forgiveness.**

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: "Ask Me About John the Baptist" sticker
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: John the Baptist baptizing people in the Jordan River
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Locusts and Honey

GAME: Point to Jesus

CRAFT: Peaceful Dove Ornament

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Appearing Angel, Toss-A-Verse

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW