

JESUS THE STORY



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3
Mark 1:1-8
John 1:6-8



LESSON AIM

God wants us to be
messengers, too.



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

Relationship (15 minutes before and after start time)

As children enter the room, immediately engage them in an activity (table games, coloring, maze ball, etc.). Ask questions about their week. Learn every child's name and include them in group discussions.

Experience (10 minutes)

Charades

What you need: Important Message cards

What you do:

1. Ask for volunteers to come up, read a card, and then act out that message to the crowd without words or lip-syncing. [If kids are younger, teachers should act out the messages to kids.]
2. Children in the crowd should try to audibly guess what the correct message is by the actions of the child [or adult] in front.
3. You may assist kids with clues, such as: # of words, saying "This is a question" or "This might be something you'd ask when you're in the car," etc.
4. Give volunteers 3 minutes to successfully share their message.
5. Play until cards run out or interest fades.

Say: You all did a great job trying to understand today's important messages. In a little bit, we're going to learn about the important message God gave to John the Baptist to share, but first, let's worship.

Worship (10 minutes)

Follow along with today's worship on the video or choose 2-3 songs of your own.

Bible Lesson (20 minutes)

Ask: Does anyone remember what happened in the story last week? *Jesus stayed behind to learn all He could about God in the temple. He sat. He listened. And he asked questions.*

Say: Today we're going to learn more about Jesus, but from his cousin, John the Baptist. Do you remember him?

Let's watch and learn. (Show today's video: John the Baptist)

Large Group Discussion (5 minutes)

Ask: What happened in today's story?

Say: Did you remember that John was the baby boy promised to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age? Elizabeth, his mom, was a cousin to Mary, who was Jesus' mom. God sent an angel to Zechariah and Elizabeth and told them that John would have a special job to do.

Say: Read John 3:1-3

Ask: What was John's job? *He preached and baptized people. He told them to turn from their sins. He said that Jesus was here and could do more than he could do. He baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. He was a messenger for God who pointed people toward Jesus.*

Say: God wanted everyone to know that Jesus, the Savior, had come and so he sent John ahead to prepare the way. John preached and baptized before Jesus began preaching and baptizing and performing miracles. John was the messenger, sent by God, to prepare the way for Jesus.

[Divide children into groups for Small Group Discussion & Today's Challenge Activity.]



SMALL GROUPS



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3
Mark 1:1-8
John 1:6-8



LESSON AIM

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MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

1. **Ask:** Why do you think God sent John ahead to prepare the way for Jesus? **Accept all answers.**
2. **Ask:** Why would God send us today to tell others about Jesus? **Accept all answers.**
3. **Ask:** Who would you go tell? **Accept all answers.**
4. **Ask:** What would you say? **Accept all answers.**

Say: Before we go tell others about Jesus, we probably should think about what we might say. Afterall, we have a very important message to share. See if you can answer these questions.

Who is Jesus? God's Son.

Why did God send Jesus to earth? To teach us how to live; to teach us about God; to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have eternal life and a personal relationship with God.

Why is this message so important? Jesus is the one who shows us how much God loves us. He's also the one who has taught us what sin is and how it hurts us and our relationships with others. Without Jesus, we wouldn't know how to live and do what's right. We wouldn't know how to love God and others.

Say: God wants us to share what we know about Jesus with others. He wants to get the message about His Son spread all over the world so that everyone may know Him, ask for forgiveness of their sins and learn how to live and love others.

Ask: Who can you talk to about Jesus this week and what will you say?

Pray.

Prayer Time (10 minutes)

Using the Prayer Time sheet provided, ask each child if they have a prayer request or praise. Include anything they may have shared during today's lesson. Write each request down and pray for it today. Take this sheet home so that you can pray for kids during the week.

Close in prayer. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the message of Jesus with others.

Challenge (5 minutes)

Say: This week, I challenge you to think about one person in your life who needs to know what you know about Jesus. Then pray for an opportunity to talk to them. You don't have to have a speech prepared or dress in wild clothing and eat honey, like John the Baptist did. You just need to be yourself and let them know that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to teach us all how to live.

Challenge Activity (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge

What you need: Challenge page

What you do:

1. Hand each child a challenge page.
2. Allow time for kids to fill in their answers and/or draw pictures.
3. Ask kids to share their answers with the group.
4. Encourage kids to put this page in their Bible so they can see it and remember to talk to the person they wrote down.
5. Explain that God may have someone different in mind for them to talk to about Jesus. Their job is to be ready with an answer.

Pray. Ask God for boldness and love as we share the message of Jesus with others.



I have to go to the
bathroom.

important messages

I 'm thirsty.

important messages

Who let the dog out?

important messages

Where's your little
brother?

important messages

I don't feel very good.

important messages

Are we there yet?

important messages

I'm hungry.

important messages

I'm not tired

important messages

Is it over yet?

important messages

Can I go play?

important messages

PRAYER TIME

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

PRAYER REQUEST _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____





Are you ready for today's **CHALLENGE?**

Matthew 28:19-20 says... "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

What do these verses say we must do? (Circle all that apply)

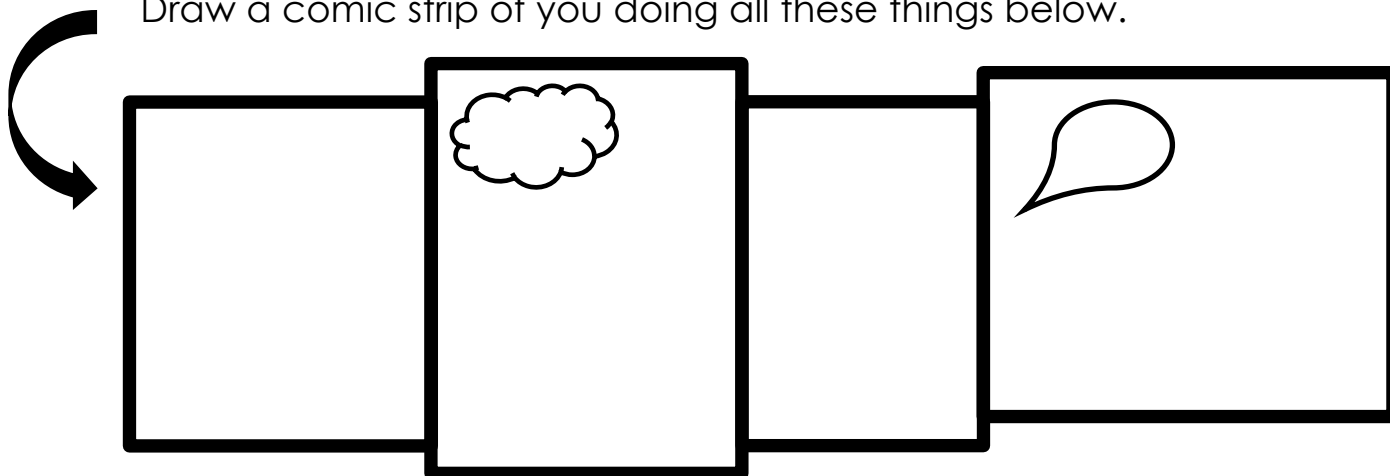
Go
Build houses
Swim
Learn

Stay
Write stories
Baptize
Preach

Sit
Make disciples
Pray
Text

Play
Design games
Teach
Email

Draw a comic strip of you doing all these things below.



What is God's promise us in the verse above? eH lilw waysla eb thiw su.

Who should
you share the
message of
Jesus with this
week?

How does
Jesus help
you?

What's your
favorite thing
about Jesus?

Why is Jesus
important to
you?