

John the Baptist Announces Jesus

John 1:19-34

2

Lesson



Teacher Background

What Happens: Jesus is about to begin his ministry. God sends John the Baptist to announce that Jesus is coming and that Jesus is the Messiah. God came to be with us through Jesus! John loves sharing this amazing news.

Why It Matters: John wasn't the only one with good news to share. Help kids see how exciting this message is: God came to be with us! Help them look for God in their lives and share that good news with others.

Think About: When have you felt like God was with you? When have you felt that he was far away? How can you trust that God is with you even when he feels far away?

Pray that God will reveal his presence to each child in your ministry.



Point

God came to be with us.



Key Verse

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

QUICK TIP

God is highly relational. He's so relational that he became a human, Jesus, just to come and live among us! Since relationship is so important to God, it's important to ministry, too. The stronger your relationships are with your kids, the deeper their learning will be. They'll be more willing to share openly, ask honest questions, and listen to your own stories and thoughts. You are perfectly poised to get to know your kids! Find out who they are, pray for them throughout the week, and let them see how much you care.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	SUPPLIES
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Point and announce God Sightings.	John the Baptist pointed the way to Jesus—the Savior!	Bible
PLAY A GAME Try to guess who or what is being described.	Today we don't have to be confused about—or guess—who Jesus is.	
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Pair beginnings and endings of words.	God knows we belong with him—that's why he sent Jesus!	"John the Baptist Announces Jesus" Activity Page, 1/child pencils
PRAY TOGETHER A willing child leads prayer.	Prayer is a way to remember that God is with us.	



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God came to be with us.** He came to earth as a human—Jesus! That's amazing!

ASK: Who do you wish would come visit you today? Why? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: It's fun to have people we love visit us. God loves us so much that he came to be with us. Let's dig in to the Bible to find out what happened! The Bible isn't like other books; it's special. The Bible is one way God talks to us and shows he's with us.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God came to be with us.** Let's think about things we have with us.

Allow time for kids to do a brief show and tell of things in their purses or pockets—things they brought with them. Or they might show off a new dress or light-up shoes.

ASK: If you could bring *anything* to church, what would you bring with you? Why would you want that with you?

SAY: It would be really cool if we could have [name some of kids' answers] with us all the time. Jesus wanted to be with *us* that much—or even more! So Jesus came to earth. We don't know a whole lot about what Jesus did when he was a kid. But when he was grown up, he started his ministry. That means he went around preaching, loving, and healing.

POINT AND ANNOUNCE

SAY: If you've ever seen a high school, college, or NBA basketball game, maybe you've seen how they always start by announcing all the players. Like this!

Using an announcer voice, announce some of your kids. Say things like "In a purple dress, sitting right next to me, it's Avery!" After you've demonstrated, have kids announce each other.





Open your Bible to John 1, and show kids the words.

SAY: That's kind of like what happened for Jesus just before he started his ministry. A guy named John announced that Jesus was coming.



Read John 1:29.

SAY: Let's try being like John. Let's point to each other and point out the ways we see Jesus in each other. I'll start.

Point to a few kids and say things like "Look! I see Jesus in the way you show kindness!" or "Look! I see Jesus in your creativity!"

SAY: Now you try. If you're not sure what to say, you can simply point to people and say, "Look! I see Jesus in you!"

Allow time for kids to point to each other and announce how they see Jesus. Take the time to do this thoughtfully, recalling ways kids have shown Christ-like attributes.

SAY: John walked around, announcing that Jesus was coming and encouraging people to get ready. And when John saw Jesus, he pointed him out.

One time, John baptized Jesus. That's a special event where John dipped Jesus under water as a way to show he followed God. Let's read what John said about what happened when Jesus was baptized.



Read John 1:32.

SAY: John knew Jesus is God! He could tell because the Holy Spirit rested on him. ➡ **God came to be with us** through Jesus. And it's what John was announcing to everyone! He even became known as "John the Baptist" because he baptized people, including Jesus.

God is still with us, and we can look for ways he's around us every day! When Jesus was on earth, God was with us in a way John could point to and see. Today, we can't point to Jesus the same way I'd point to [point to a child and say his or her name]. But we can see Jesus in each other and in things around us! Let's keep pointing out ways we see Jesus.

Point at something in the room (or just up in the air) and announce a way you've seen Jesus—a God Sighting. This might be an answer to prayer, a beautiful sunset, or waking up feeling refreshed.

Have kids point to things in the room (or just up in the air if they're recalling something outside the room) and announce ways they've seen Jesus at work.

SAY: ➡ **God came to be with us.** Jesus wanted to be with us so much that he gave up heaven to live on earth. And he's still with us today, even if we can't see him.



CELEBRATE SMALL

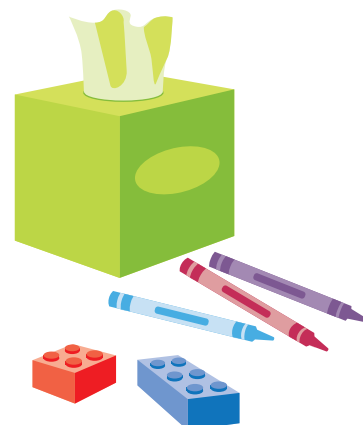
With a small group of kids, everyone can have fun hamming it up and announcing each other. If you have one or two kids, announce your pastor or other people in your church family!



DESCRIBE THINGS

SAY: Let's play a game to see if you can tell what I'm describing.

- Secretly identify a classroom item you'll describe.
- Begin to give clues about what you're describing, such as color, side of the room the item is on, shape, or size.
- After each clue, one person can call out a guess.
- When someone guesses correctly, he or she can become the "Describer." If a preschooler is the Describer, you can help as needed.
- Play several rounds.



CELEBRATE JESUS

ASK: What made it hard to guess what was being described?

ASK: What clues helped you figure it out?

SAY: It may have been confusing trying to guess what I was talking about. That happened in the Bible, too! When John started teaching, people wondered who he was. They asked, "Are you Elijah? Are you a prophet? Are you the Messiah?"

But it didn't matter if they were confused about who John was. John was just there to make sure no one would be confused about who *Jesus* was!

He gave all the clues so everyone would know Jesus was coming and that Jesus was the Messiah—God's Son who everyone had been waiting for. Jesus would be God...with us! ➡ **God came to be with us.**

We don't have to be confused about who Jesus is. Celebrate with me as I describe Jesus. Each time I describe or say a name of Jesus, cheer, "Jesus!"

Cheer the following statements and let kids call out "Jesus" after each word or phrase.

- The Way, the Truth, and the Life! (Jesus!)
- The Living Water! (Jesus!)
- Lord! (Jesus!)
- The Good Shepherd! (Jesus!)
- The Bread that gives life! (Jesus!)

SAY: ➡ **God came to be with us.** That's why he sent Jesus—to show God's love, power, and forgiveness. There's no confusion!



QUICK TIP

This game is designed to work for just a few kids by having you describe classroom items. But if you have five or more kids, you could describe *kids* instead of classroom items!

ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “John the Baptist Announces Jesus” Activity Page (1 per child)
- “John the Baptist Announces Jesus” Coloring Page (1 per child)
- pencils
- crayons

QUICK TIP

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.

SAY: God sent Jesus so he could be with us. And he sent John the Baptist to announce that Jesus was coming so everyone would know ➡ **God came to be with us.**

Our activity page today will help you decide what goes with what.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will match beginnings and endings of words.

ASK: How did you know which parts of the words went with the other parts?

ASK: Why do you think God wants to be with you?

SAY: The parts of the words just belonged together. And God knows we belong with him! So he sent Jesus to make sure we can be together. ➡ **God came to be with us.**

ANSWER KEY: WILDERNESS, BAPTIZE, MESSIAH, PROPHET, SPIRIT, CHOSEN, MINISTRY, HEAVEN



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: I’m so glad ➡ **God came to be with us.** We remember that God is with us every time we pray.

Sometimes we talk with God by ourselves. Other times we pray all together as a group! Often, one person prays aloud, and everyone else listens. As we listen, our minds think the prayer and our hearts agree with the words.

For example, I may pray aloud, “Dear God, thank you for this day.” As you listen, your minds think about your day so far, and your hearts thank God, too!

Sometimes you can be the person who prays aloud! That’s so cool! When you pray, you don’t need to worry about saying fancy words or putting on a show. You just talk with God like you’re talking with a good friend. You might PRAY like this.

Give kids these easy-to-follow examples:

- Praise God for being awesome.
- Remember something cool God has done.
- Ask God to help certain people or situations.
- Tell God, “Yes! We want to follow you!”

Ask a willing child to lead your group in prayer. If no one volunteers, after a few seconds, offer to lead the prayer yourself.

ASK: Tell about a time you prayed out loud with people listening. What was that like?

SAY: ➡ **God came to be with us.** Praying together helps us remember that God is here!

John the Baptist Announces Jesus

Activity Page

Match the first half of the word and the second half that goes with it. All these words are found in John 1:19-34.

WIL

SIAH

BAP

SEN

MES

RIT

PRO

DERNESS

SPI

STRY

CHO

PHET

MINI

VEN

HEA

TIZE

John the Baptist Announces Jesus

Coloring Page



John 1:19-34: John the Baptist wasn't your average guy. He dressed funny, and he walked around shouting out messages. But his message was very important! He was announcing that Jesus was coming! Jesus is the way *God came to be with us*.