



## JOHN THE BAPTIST

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 3:1–12; Luke 3:1–18  
**FOCUS VERSES:** Philippians 2:9; Colossians 1:19–20;  
Matthew 6:33; John 3:30

**Summary:** Before Jesus was born, an angel told Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would have a son named John. John would prepare the people for the coming Messiah and fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. John grew up in the wilderness, preached repentance and baptized people in the Jordan River. He rebuked religious leaders for relying on tradition instead of true repentance. When people wondered if he was the Messiah, John said the true Messiah was coming, one mightier than him, who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.



### MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*

**(JOHN 20:31)**

### **BRITE** *Idea*

**Jesus is greater than  
any person.**

**HE**

**WHO IS JESUS?**  
Jesus is God's Son, the promised Messiah. Because Jesus is God, He is greater than any person who has ever lived or will ever live.

**WE**

**HOW CAN WE PUT JESUS FIRST?**  
We can be humble and recognize His way and His plan matter the most.

**ME**

**HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?**  
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.



## JOURNEY TO JESUS

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out.

During an interview, an athlete gave all the glory for performing well during the game to Jesus. You realize that most athletes don't do this.

**How could God be using this interview for His glory?**

You got an award at school for being a friend to all.

**How can you honor Jesus in this situation?**

Your parents have decided to spend a week of your summer vacation on a mission trip. You would rather stay home with your friends.

**How do you process this?**

Your friends at school all follow a favorite celebrity and spend a lot of time learning about them.

**How can we honor God with who we follow?**



# Express Praise

**Read:** Philippians 2:9: *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.*

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for sending us Jesus. He is Mighty, He is...

*Allow kids to popcorn prayer as they name characteristics of Jesus they are thankful for.*



## COMPASS POINT PRAYER

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

PAGE 2 OF 4

**PREP:** Print the printable pages and tape them around your space at kids' eye level.



# S Sorry

**Read:** Matthew 3:2: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Pray:** Dear God, we are sorry for making choices that are not pleasing to You. We are sorry for...please forgive us.

*Allow kids to popcorn prayer as they name characteristics of Jesus they are thankful for.*



## COMPASS POINT PRAYER

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

PAGE 3 OF 4

**PREP:** Print the printable pages and tape them around your space at kids' eye level.

# N



# Need

**Read:** John 3:30: *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

**Pray:** Dear God, we want to put You first in our lives. Help us to put You and Your plan above our own plans for our lives.



## COMPASS POINT PRAYER

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

PAGE 4 OF 4

**PREP:** Print the printable pages and tape them around your space at kids' eye level.

# W



# Wait

**Read:** Psalm 46:10: *Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

**Pray:** Dear God, help us to focus on You in these next few moments. Help us to listen to Your voice, so we can hear how You are asking us to put You first in our lives this week. Amen.



## TAKE-HOME

OLDER ELEMENTARY  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-18

### BRITE Idea

Jesus is greater than any person.



### MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(JOHN 20:31)

HE

#### WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is God's Son, the promised Messiah. Because Jesus is God, He is greater than any person who has ever lived or will ever live.

WE

#### HOW CAN WE PUT JESUS FIRST?

We can be humble and recognize His way and His plan matter the most.

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

### CHOOSE YOUR *Challenge*

- ☐ Memorize John 20:31 by making a verse poster.
- ☐ Play telephone and discuss why Jesus is the Messiah.
- ☐ Pray for courage to tell other people about Jesus.

SCAN ME!

FOR AT-HOME DISCIPLESHIP  
DISCUSSION



### NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Celebrities and fame can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here.

[Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)



## TAKE-HOME

OLDER ELEMENTARY  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

### COPY THE ILLUSTRATION



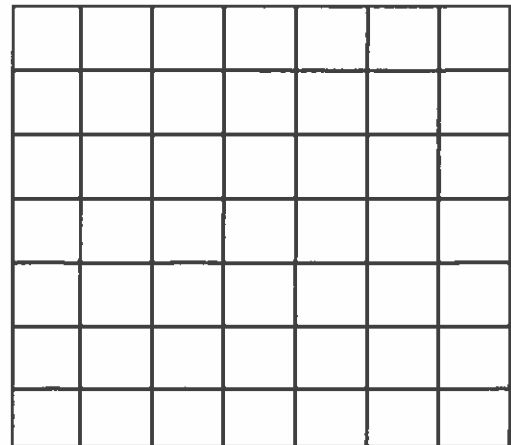
### WORD SEARCH

**WORD BANK:** JORDAN, ZECHARIAH, MESSIAH, PROPHECY, JOHN

Y	S	B	D	A	N	A	N	E	V	O	C
O	T	C	O	T	U	P	O	I	A	N	E
A	W	I	S	D	O	M	I	T	E	S	A
Y	S	E	H	P	O	R	P	T	S	O	R
H	U	J	O	A	R	L	P	E	R	L	E
M	E	B	A	V	I	E	A	C	E	H	P
O	J	P	E	J	O	R	D	A	N	A	S
C	A	O	T	I	V	I	A	Y	I	I	O
H	U	J	H	R	E	L	P	H	R	S	I
M	E	B	A	N	U	L	L	P	C	S	P
O	A	P	M	T	S	I	N	A	I	E	A
H	U	J	E	R	E	L	P	I	R	M	Z

### SOS

- With a partner, use different colors to take turns writing either an S or an O in a square.
- If you write "SOS" in order in any direction, draw a line through it with your color.
- The game ends when the grid is completely filled.
- Whoever has the most SOS's in their color, WINS!



# JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-12, Luke 3:1-18



# HEY, FAMILIES!

This month's theme is:

Here's what we're learning:



## Monthly Memory Verse

*But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:31)*



### JOHN THE BAPTIST (Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-18)

Week 1

**Brite Idea:** Jesus is greater than any person.

**He Question:** Who is Jesus?

*Jesus is God's Son, the promised Messiah. Because Jesus is God, He is greater than any person who has ever lived or will ever live.*

**We Question:** How can we put Jesus first?

*We can be humble and recognize His way and His plan matter the most.*

### JESUS' BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION (Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-17; John 1:29-34)

Week 2

**Brite Idea:** Jesus is God's Son.

**He Question:** How is Jesus different than other people?

*Jesus is the Son of God. He is holy, perfectly good and never sinned.*

**We Question:** How is Jesus like us?

*Because Jesus came to Earth as a man, He experienced the same things we do. We can trust that He understands us and what we go through.*

### THE DISCIPLES FOLLOW JESUS (John 1:35-51)

Week 3

**Brite Idea:** Jesus invites us to follow Him.

**He Question:** Why is Jesus worthy of being followed?

*Jesus is the Son of God and the perfect example of how God wants us to live. He loves us more than anyone else can and showed that by paying the price for our sin.*

**We Question:** What does it mean to follow Jesus?

*We follow Jesus by trusting in Him as our Savior, seeking to know Him more and more and following His example in how we live our lives.*

### JESUS DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER (Mark 4:35-5:20)

Week 4

**Brite Idea:** Jesus has power over everything.

**He Question:** How is Jesus so powerful?

*Jesus showed that He is God and has God's power. He is omnipotent, and His power has no limits!*

**We Question:** Is Jesus' power scary?

*Jesus is 100 percent good and loves us so much. We can respond with awe and wonder at His amazing power.*

# FAMILY CALENDAR

SUNDAY REMEMBER & RESPOND	MONDAY WONDER & DISCUSS	TUESDAY EXPLORE	WEDNESDAY REVIEW	THURSDAY PUT INTO PRACTICE	FRIDAY & SATURDAY PREPARE AHEAD
<b>WEEK 1</b> ..... Jesus is greater than any person. What does this mean for me?	<b>READ TOGETHER:</b> John 3:30 What could our lives look like if we don't "increase Jesus" and "decrease ourselves"?	Use sticks, footprints, sidewalk chalk or found objects to write "Jesus is > All" outside.	<b>JOHN 20:31</b> How does being the "Son of God" make Jesus greater than any person?	Write the name of the person(s) you admire most on a sticky note. Talk about how this person(s) points you to Jesus.	Play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" as a family. <b>READ TOGETHER:</b> Matthew 3:13-17 <b>DISCUSS:</b> What does this teach us about God?
<b>WEEK 2</b> ..... Jesus is God's Son. What does this mean for me?	<b>READ TOGETHER:</b> 1 John 5:11-12 How can we have life through Jesus?	Make a list of things that tempt you. Brainstorm activities that can replace these things and bring you closer to Jesus.	<b>JOHN 20:31</b> Why was Jesus baptized if He was the sinless Son of God?	Play charades as you act out ways Jesus is different than all other people.	Bake cookies or make pancakes together in the shape of the cross. <b>READ TOGETHER:</b> John 1:35-51 <b>DISCUSS:</b> What does this teach us about God?
<b>WEEK 3</b> ..... Jesus invites us to follow Him. What does this mean for me?	<b>READ TOGETHER:</b> John 8:12 How does Jesus bring light to the world?	Play "Follow the Leader."	<b>JOHN 20:31</b> How does following Jesus give us life?	Choose a service project to do together to point others to Jesus.	Create some invitations to your church to pass out to neighbors or friends. <b>READ TOGETHER:</b> Mark 4:35-5:20 <b>DISCUSS:</b> What does this teach us about God?
<b>WEEK 4</b> ..... Jesus has power over everything. What does this mean for me?	<b>READ TOGETHER:</b> Matthew 19:26 How does Jesus make all things possible?	Fill up the bathtub with water. Put plastic cups inside. Pretend they're boats in a scary storm.	<b>JOHN 20:31</b> How did performing miracles point people to believe Jesus was the Son of God?	Play "ABC Power." Take turns naming things that begin with each letter of the alphabet that Jesus has power over.	Try out some "illusions" together. <b>READ TOGETHER:</b> Matthew 12:1-14 <b>DISCUSS:</b> What does this teach us about God?

Help kids view tough topics through the lens of scripture! Check out [britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](http://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics).