

John the Baptist: Lesson 1

SuperTruth: I can point others to Christ.

SuperVerse: “Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.” Matthew 3:2b (CEV)

Bible Story: Matthew 3,11; Mark 1,6; Luke 1,3,7; John 1,3

Game Materials Needed:

- Two large boxes, open at the top
- Four “pointers” that children can safely throw, such as pool noodles, empty cardboard paper towel rolls, or homemade paper pointers. All four should be the same size and shape. To make paper pointers, see diagram and follow instructions
- Important: do not allow children to throw anything sharp, heavy or dangerous
- Marker
- Tape or stapler
- Optional: masking tape
- Helpers, such as fifth or sixth graders, to return “pointers” from the boxes to the teams

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Fruit of the Spirit Pattern
- Scissors for children
- Three older children, grades 5–6 if possible, to read Bible passages
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers or chalkboard and chalk
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Today we have a new Superbook video about John the Baptist. He was called “John the Baptist” or “John the Baptizer” because he baptized people—including Jesus!

- ***Note:** Be sure to preview this video. Should you feel that some scenes in Video 3: Bible Story and Resolution are too intense for the younger children in your class, you may play Video 4: Condensed Bible Story, and Video 8: Chris and Joy’s Resolution together instead.
- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to meet John the Baptist, who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. John preaches a message of repentance to the crowds and fearlessly confronts King Herod about his sin. The wicked queen plots revenge by having her daughter dance to entice the king and ask for John’s head as her reward. John faithfully chooses to follow God, and the children learn they can point others to Christ.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Point to Jesus (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to point to Jesus.

- John the Baptist knew his role in God’s plan. He was to point people to Jesus and not call attention to himself. In this game, you will be challenged to point to Jesus, too!

Game Instructions:

- Teams alternate turns, with one player throwing both of the team’s pointers, one at a time, toward the Jesus box. One point is scored for each pointer thrown into the “Jesus” box. The team loses a point for each pointer that lands in the “Me” box. Pointers that miss both boxes score no points.

Teaching: I Can Point Others to Jesus (15 minutes)

Objective: Discuss what it means to point the way to Jesus.

- John didn’t want anyone to confuse him with the Messiah, so he was very careful to point people to Jesus! Some people haven’t heard about Jesus and how to have a relationship with God! We can point people to Jesus by our words and by the way we live with our choices and actions.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)

- As Christ’s followers, God gives us His Spirit to produce good fruit in our lives, helping us become more like Him. The Discipleship Challenge is to learn about the first three—love, joy and peace.

SuperVerse: Superbook Spin (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- John prepared the way for Jesus. His message was clear: people should turn away from their sins and be ready to receive the words of life Jesus would preach about the kingdom of heaven.
- Children form a circle and take turns being a human game spinner. Whoever the spinner points to should say one word of the SuperVerse.

Prayer: Pointed Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- John the Baptist pointed others to Jesus. John lived a life of truth, and he also boldly spoke the truth about sin and the need to repent of sin. To repent means to admit your sin to God, to turn away from that sin, and turn to God.
- Children will fold hands and close eyes and repent for anything untruthful we have thought, said or done—anything that would not be pleasing to God. Allow time for children to pray silently.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

SuperVerse Game: Play a game to reinforce the SuperVerse. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Skit: Interview John the Baptist about preparing the way for Jesus. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Object Lesson: Discuss being a light that points to Jesus. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Study: Discuss others in the Bible who pointed to Christ. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min