

Kindergarten/Grade 1 Class – 5-6 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 1 - Work of John the Baptist, Preparing the Way

Introduction

WELCOME everyone! We are excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at lessons from the first few chapters of the gospel of John this week. Who wrote John? What do you know about John?

Just a few classroom “rules” to start ...

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

Background and Birth of John (Luke 1v1-23, 57-66)

- It's over 2,000 years ago ... not long before Jesus was born.
- Zacharias and Elisabeth were faithful people ... loved God. They were quite old, but sad ... had no children.
- Zacharias = priest ... took his turn working in the Temple. One day, his duty was to burn incense.
- Suddenly while everyone was outside praying, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias ... he was scared.
- The angel told Zacharias not to be afraid ... he gave him good news ... Elisabeth would have a son called John! He would have a very special job to do ... teach the people and prepare them for the coming of Jesus.
- Zacharias couldn't believe it ... after all these years of waiting for a son! He wondered if he had heard the angel correctly and wanted to know how it was all going to happen since he was now old!
- Gabriel told Zacharias that he was going to be dumb ... not able to speak ... until John was born!
- And that's exactly what happened ... Elisabeth became pregnant and had a little boy called John. After he was born, Zacharias could speak again! What a long time to be quiet for! Do you know the first thing he did? He praised God! He was so happy to have a son! He told everyone about John's special work.

John the Baptist – Preaching in the Wilderness (Matt 3v1-6, Luke 3v1-18)

- So John grew up and he lived in the wilderness of Judea. Anyone know what he wore? Garment of camel's hair tied with a leather belt.
- What did JTB eat? Locusts and wild honey! Would we complain about eating that?! JTB didn't – he was a simple man who was only concerned about the things of God.
- John preached near Jordan, saying, *“Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 3v2). John was fulfilling words written by Isaiah in Isaiah 40v3!
- This was JTB's special work ... to prepare and make the people ready for when Jesus came.
- Lots of people came to see JTB and listen to him. He was quite a strange site ... out in the wilderness, crying out to repent, wearing a camel's coat and was probably quite hairy!
- Some people believed and repented of their bad ways. What does REPENT mean? To change our way and go in the opposite direction. Some then got baptised and lived a new way of life.

Ways to Change (Luke 3v10-18)

- People wanted to know HOW they could change their ways. JTB said:
 - If you have two coats, give one to someone that doesn't have one.
 - If you have food to eat, share with others who don't have food.
 - Don't be selfish – share with others.
 - Tax gatherers ... don't take more tax than what they were supposed to.
 - Soldiers ... don't be rough and mean to people.

Preparing for Jesus

- Some thought JTB was the Messiah ... but he told them Jesus was mightier than he was, and he was to soon come! JTB told them all about the work of Jesus.
- Lots of people were excited for the coming of Jesus ... and they waited patiently for their Messiah!

Baptism of Jesus (Matt 3v13-17)

- One day while JTB was preaching near the River Jordan, Jesus came to him and asked him to be baptised! Imagine the Messiah coming to you to be baptised! John didn't feel he was worthy enough to baptise Jesus.
- Jesus wanted to show everyone that he was giving his life to God ... setting an example for others to change their ways.
- So John baptised Jesus ... put him completely under the water.
- When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened and the spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on Jesus. A voice from heaven said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*.
- Jesus was given God's Holy Spirit. What is the Holy Spirit? God's special power! What was Jesus able to do with God's power? Heal the sick, make blind people see, raise the dead, give food to 1,000s of people!

Main Lessons for Us

- God keeps His promises! A special promise was given to Zacharias that they would have a baby ... and God did exactly what He said He would do! What is the great promise He has given us that we're waiting for? Kingdom! We know it IS going to come ... because what God says, He always does!
- What did John ask the people to do? REPENT! Same for us ... we are patiently waiting for Jesus to return and we need to stop doing bad things (selfish, rude, disobedient, lying etc), and instead replace them with good (sharing, gentle, obedient, truth).
- When we grow up and learn more about God and His ways, what do we need to do, like Jesus did? Be baptised and follow a new way of life!

Lapbook items

- *John the Baptist with camel skin coat.*
- *"What did John the Baptist eat?" accordion flap.*
- *"John baptises Jesus" oval flap.*

Edible grasshopper craft 😊

Kindergarten/Grade 1 Class – 5-6 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 2 - The Wedding at Cana

Introduction & Review of Day 1

Let's review a few classroom rules -

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

Who were John's parents? Where did John live? What did he look like/eat? What were some of the things he told the people to do?

Background of Jesus and calling of the Disciples (John 1:35-50)

- Jesus was born a cousin of John – their mothers were from the same family and had their son six months apart.
- When Jesus grew up he chose 12 disciples to help him teach the people about the Kingdom of God.
- His disciples had never seen Jesus do a miracle before, but followed him as a teacher because of the words that he spoke.
- Have we ever seen Jesus perform a miracle? We follow Jesus because the words which he spoke too – just like his disciples.

The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

- Who has ever been to a wedding? They are very happy, special times where a man and a woman choose to become married for life.
- Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding just a few days after Jesus chose his disciples.
- During the wedding feast, while all the guests were enjoying themselves – the servers ran out of wine. How embarrassing for the couple that were getting married.
- Jesus' mother was helping at the wedding. She came to Jesus and asked him to help her. She knew she could trust Jesus to help her when she needed it. That is called being dependable – you are dependable when people can trust you to help them.
- Jesus told his mother to get the servants to fill 6 large stone pots with water. These stone pots were very large pots people would use to clean the dust off of their hands and feet. His mother must have confused on why Jesus wanted these pots filled with water, however she obeyed Jesus right away. Sometimes we might not understand why the Bible tells us to do/not do certain things but we must obey right away.
- Once the water pots were full of water Jesus asked the servants to pour some water into a cup and serve it to the Master of the feast. The servants obeyed right away and the Master was amazed at how delicious the wine was. None of the wedding guests knew that Jesus was the one that should be thanked for the good wine – only the servants and his disciples knew that Jesus had performed his very first miracle.
- This was Jesus' first miracle and his disciples believed that he was really the Son of God.

Main Lessons for Us

- Even though we can't see Jesus' miracles, we can read our Bibles and follow him like his disciples.
- We may be asked to obey Jesus and not know why we need to -but we must follow his instructions even when we don't understand.
- Jesus was able to wonderful things by God helping him.
- When we do good things to help people, we should not make sure other people know. We help people because it is the right thing to do –not so that people will think good things about us.

Water into wine Drink 😊

Lapbook items

- *Water into wine wheel*
- *Accordion flap – 6 pots. Write “Jesus turned water into wine at Cana” on pots.*

Decorate Pencil Cases with theme of John 1-5

Kindergarten/Grade 1 Class – 5-6 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 3 - Nicodemus: The Man Who Came to Jesus by Night

Introduction and Review of Day 2

- What was the first miracle that Jesus did? Where did it take place? How many stone pots were there?
- Today we are going to talk about Nicodemus. What do you know about Nicodemus?

A Visitor at Night (John 3v1-21)

- Jesus had been around the people for a while now, and some were starting to believe the Words he spoke. Many were amazed by his miracles as well. But the rulers of the Jews didn't mix with the ordinary people and most of them were not happy with what Jesus was doing!
- But ... there was one Pharisee who watched what Jesus did and carefully thought about what he said.
- Nicodemus knew that he would make a big fuss among the rulers of the Jews, if he was seen talking to Jesus. So he decided to visit Jesus at night time and learn more from him.
- He could see that Jesus was no ordinary man ... he knew that God was with him and he wanted to learn more!

"Born of Water"

- Jesus said something to Nicodemus that he just didn't understand! Jesus said to him, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
- Nicodemus was so confused ... how could he be born a baby again? That wasn't possible!
- Jesus explained that he wasn't talking about his natural birth when he was born a baby ... instead he was talking about being BORN OF WATER AND OF SPIRIT.
- This was a birth of new thoughts and a whole new way of life ... comes by reading the Bible carefully. When we really understand God's words, we start to see things the way God sees them. We realise that God is right in every way and we are the ones who need to change. Then we realise we need to be baptised!
- Baptism is what Jesus was talking about when he said that a person needed to be *"born of water"*.

Nicodemus Changes

- This was all new to Nicodemus. He had to think about what Jesus said because he didn't understand it all. He was one of the teachers in Israel and should have known this, but often they didn't read their Bibles carefully.
- Many of the Pharisees were proud people and didn't like it when Jesus said things about them. But Nicodemus was different ... he loved God and wanted to do what was right. He was prepared to listen to Jesus.
- We learn later that Nicodemus did eventually change and believed with all his heart! He even spoke up for Jesus when the rulers made fun of people who believed in him (John 7v48-52).
- Does anyone know what Nicodemus did to Jesus when he was crucified? He helped Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus' body down from the cross and buried him in a new tomb (John 19v39-42). He wasn't ashamed to show he was now a follower of Jesus!

Main Lessons for Us

- Nicodemus really wanted to learn more from Jesus. He came to listen carefully to what Jesus had to say, and when he didn't understand, he wasn't embarrassed to ask questions. We can learn a few important lessons from Nicodemus ... be excited to listen to God's word and do the readings, and ask questions if we don't understand.
- God worked in the life of Nicodemus and changed him. God can work in our life too and change us, if we let Him!
- Nicodemus wasn't too proud to change his ways ... like other Pharisees. He thought carefully about the things Jesus explained to him.
- *"Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."* Psalm 40v4

Lapbook items

- *Nicodemus pentagon flap.*
- *Nicodemus mini book.*
- *Colour quote on back of lapbook.*

Obstacle course ... Nicodemus finds Jesus

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Lesson 4 - Healing the Nobleman's Son

Introduction and Review of Day 3

- Who came to see Jesus at night? Why did he come at night?
- What did Jesus mean when he said you had to be “born again”?
- What was something the Nicodemus did later in his life to show he wasn't ashamed of Jesus anymore?

A Visit to Samaria (John 4:45-54)

- After Jesus left Jerusalem he went back to his home in the north of Israel in the area called Galilee.
- On his way he passed through a part of Israel called Samaria. Many of the Jews living in Israel did not like the Samaritans because they thought they were better than them and served God more faithfully. Jesus took the time to talk with some of the people who lived in Samaria and it made him very happy that they believed his words without any miracles.
- In the town that Jesus grew up the people came to see him because of all the wonderful miracles they heard he could do. It made Jesus sad that people only wanted to come see him to see a miracle and not hear about God's kingdom.

Healing the Nobleman's Son

- While Jesus was returning home – a nobleman came hurrying to find him.
- Jesus returned to Cana in Galilee - a nobleman came hurrying to him from Capernaum.
- His son was very sick and about to die - he wanted Jesus to help.
- Jesus said the people needed to see signs and wonders to believe.
- Jesus told the man to go back home and his son would live.
- He believed Jesus words even though he hadn't seen a sign and went home!
- It was at the very time Jesus said he would get better, that his servants noticed a dramatic recovery!
- The nobleman's family and servants believe in Jesus!

Main Lessons for Us

- Do not think poorly of other people even if you think they are not serving God properly. Take the time like Jesus did to talk with them and try to help them.
- Have faith and believe God can do anything!
- Share your belief in God with all your family.

Lapbook items

- *“Jesus can heal....sick” bandaid flap*
- *Puzzle of the nobleman and his son (put the puzzle together for the activity)*

Design 'Shrinky Dinks' – own design or trace the templates we created.

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Lesson 5 - Healing the Impotent Man at the Pool of Bethesda

Introduction and Review of Day 4

- What story did we talk about yesterday? Who was healed? How was Jesus able to heal the Nobleman's son?
- Today we are going to talk about someone else who was made better!

The Pool of Bethesda (John 5v1-18)

- Jesus had come to Jerusalem, to a pool called Bethesda (means "house of mercy / kindness").
- Around the pool were 5 porches and in these porches lay all kinds of sick people.
- They believed that the first person to get in the water after it rippled would be cured of their sickness. But who was the only one who had power to heal? God!

A Crippled Man is Healed

- There was a man at the pool who had been sick for 38 years! He couldn't walk. "Impotent" = weak.
- Jesus came up to the man and asked him if he wanted to be healed! Of course he did! But he thought he had to be the first to get in the water after it rippled, and he didn't have anyone to carry him ... so someone always beat him to the water!
- But Jesus had the power to heal the man right now! He didn't need to wait for the water to ripple. What power did Jesus have? God's Holy Spirit.
- Jesus said to the man, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk!" The man was healed straight away! He rolled up his bed and walked for the first time EVER! Imagine that ... he was so excited!
- You would think everyone would be happy to see this poor sick man well and healthy again.
- But ... not everyone was excited. Some of the Jews were not happy at all because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath day. Under the Law of Moses, the Sabbath was supposed to be a day of rest.
- The Jews thought this man was doing a bad thing by carrying his own bed on the Sabbath! So silly!
- This poor man had been laying on his bed for 38 years, and now he could finally fold up his bed and walk ... it wasn't work to him after all these years of laying there!
- The man was also doing what Jesus had told him to do ... and if it was wrong to carry a bed on the Sabbath, then Jesus wouldn't have told him to do it!
- Jesus had power to heal someone of a disease, so he wouldn't tell him to do something against God's laws.
- So the Jews questioned the man and asked him who had healed him. But the man who had been healed, didn't know because Jesus had gone away after he did the miracle.

The Jews Want to Kill Jesus

- Later, Jesus went to the Temple and found the man he had healed. Perhaps he went to the Temple to thank God for healing him. Jesus encouraged him to obey God.

- When the man found out it was Jesus who had healed him, he went and told the Jews.
- The Jews were VERY angry when they found out it was Jesus who did the miracle on the Sabbath day.
- But Jesus told them that he was doing the work of his Father in heaven ... God never stops working, not even on the Sabbath day!
- This made the Jews even angrier ... because Jesus said that God was his Father. They wanted to kill Jesus from this point ... because he had healed on the Sabbath AND because he said God was his Father.

Main Lessons for Us

- God can do the impossible ... He made someone walk who had been unable to for 38 years!
- The man who was healed obeyed what Jesus said, and was made better! Obedience is very important ... but can be hard sometimes ... especially if our parents ask us to do something that we don't want to do.
- But we need to learn to obey our parents, and also obey God and the things He tells us to do in the Bible.
- One last lesson ... remember to say THANK YOU to God when we do have health and strength. Not all children in the world have good health, so it's something to be very thankful for!

Lapbook items

- *Sequence activity*
- *Make pipe cleaner man and bed.*
- *John 3v16 flap.*

Shrink 'Shrinky Dinks', put key ring on and attach to pencil case