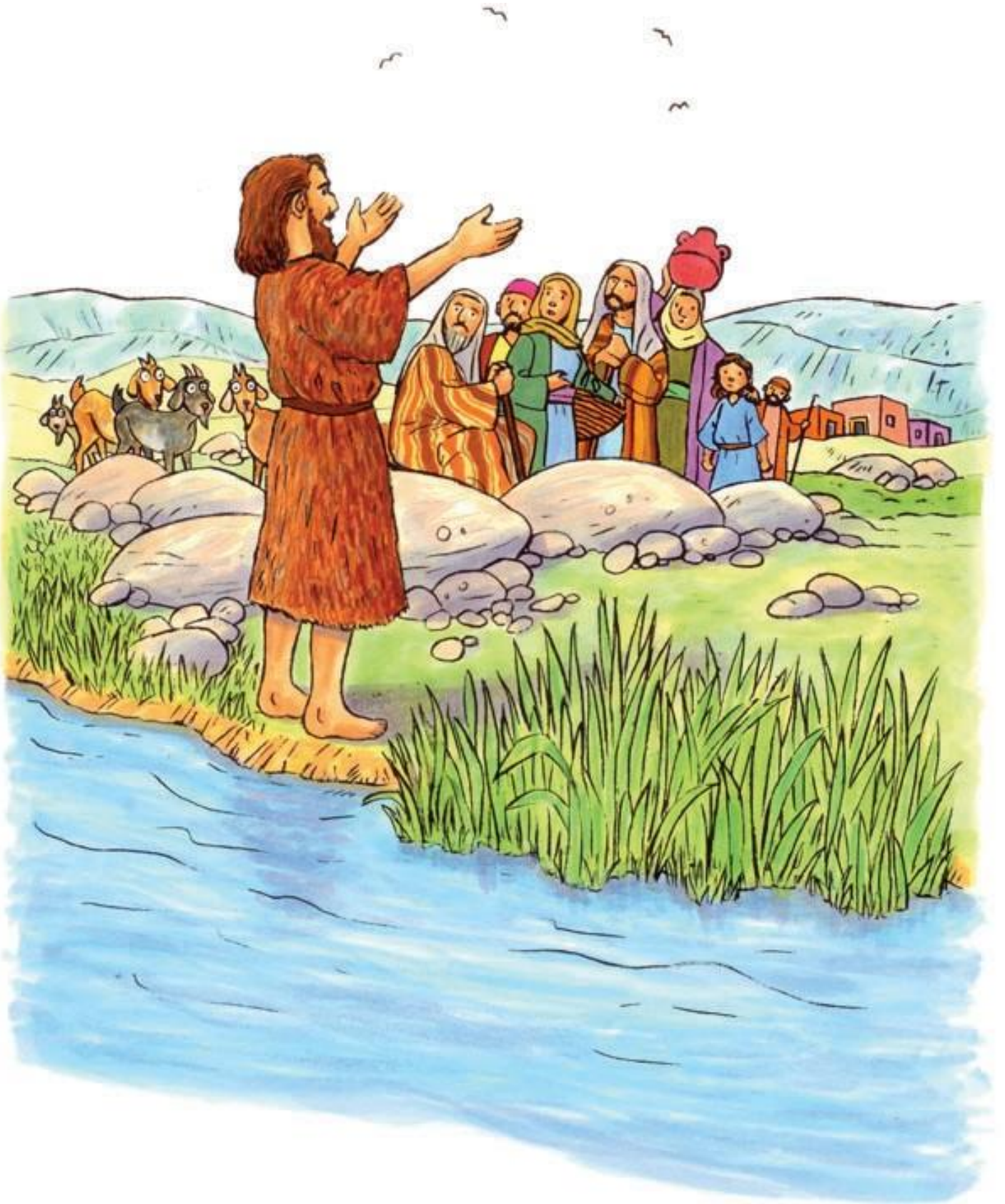


JOHN THE BAPTIST

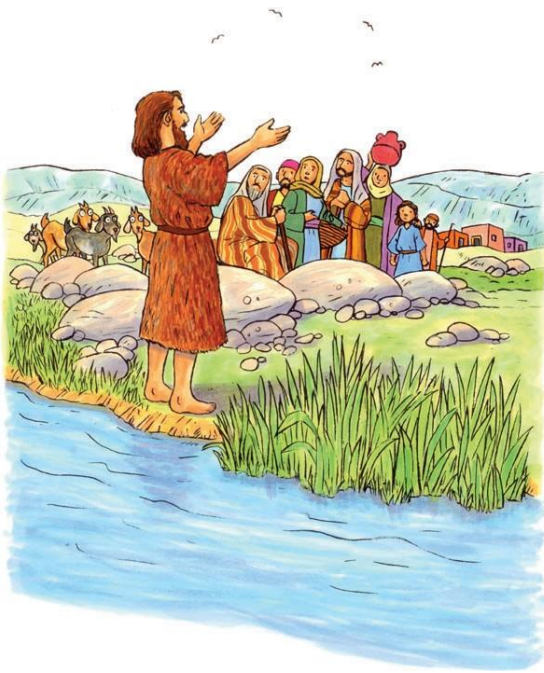
Matthew 3:1–12 and John 1:19–29



Contents

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|---------------------|--|
| Message | John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. |
| Learning Objectives | The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Who John was.■ What John said about Jesus. |
| Bible Text | Matthew 3:1–12 and John 1:19 –29 |

John the Baptist



Before Jesus became well known, John the Baptist preached in the wilderness of Judea, by the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made out of camel hair. He also ate locusts and wild honey.

Many people from Jerusalem, Judea and the surrounding area came to John to confess their sins and to be baptised. He warned, "Better your lives! God wishes to establish His kingdom. The Redeemer comes soon! We must be prepared! We must repent our sins!"

Many people listened to John and were baptised by him in the river.

They asked him, "Are you the Messiah?"

John replied, "No, I am not."

Then the people asked, "Who are you then?"

John replied, "I am the voice crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord." John made it clear he was preparing the people for the Redeemer.

John also said to them, "I may baptise you with water but there is someone else mightier than I who is coming. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

One day Jesus came to John. When John saw Him he said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away people's sins!" In this way, John made it clear to the people that Jesus was the expected Redeemer.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress, a bowl with water to baptize....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Where does John live? (John lives in the desert to prepare himself for his task.)
- What does he do at the river Jordan? (He preaches and baptizes with water.)
- What does he tell to the people? (He announces the coming of the Redeemer.)
- Can John also give the Holy Spirit to people? (No, only the Messiah can do this.)
- Who is this Messiah, the Redeemer? (Jesus the Son of God)

Have the children repeat...

- John was preparing the people for Jesus, the Redeemer.
- John said, "I may baptise you with water but Jesus will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Ask the children what information they would give in an announcement of Jesus.
- The Apostles prepare us for the coming of Jesus.

Repeat the Message
John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.