

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #54

DATE:

SUBJECT: John the Baptist Tells the People That the Lord Jesus Is the Lamb of God – He Introduces or Announces That the Lord Has Come

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-12, 13-15; John 1:29-37; Luke 3:22

AIM: To tell the children that the Lord Jesus is God's Son, who came into the world to take away their sins.

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:29 "... Behold the Lamb of the God Who takes away the sin of the world!" OR Matthew 3:17 "... This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

Content:

John urges people to repent (Matthew 3:1-12)

By the time Baby Jesus had grown up and become your age, most people thought of Him as the oldest Child in Mary and Joseph's home. We also know that Mary and Joseph had other children (based on Matthew 12:46, 13:55-56). Since Jesus was the oldest Child, He probably helped with the younger children in the family, just as some of you do, and worked with Joseph in the carpenter shop.

But when Jesus was about 30 years old, He knew His special work must begin. He knew He should spend His days teaching people about His Father God. Jesus was going to leave His family and His work in the carpenter's shop, and became a traveling teacher. But would people know that Jesus is the Son of God? Here's how: God had already planned for a special announcer to tell people that Jesus was coming.

Who was this announcer? *Show Bible Picture 5a.* He was John, Zacharias and Elizabeth's son. Do you remember the angel said that John would have special work to do? This was his special work – he was announcing to people that Jesus was coming. John looked different from other people. He was large and strong, and because he lived out in the wilderness, he was suntanned. His clothes were made from rough camel's hair. His coat was tied around his waist with a leather belt. When John started preaching, he gave a message people had not heard before: "Give up doing wrong! Get ready, for the Lord is coming."

Many people heard John's words, and some really listened to him. They wanted to get ready for the Lord, and they felt sad about the wrong things they had done. John told them, "God will forgive you if you are truly sorry for your sins." John baptized those people in the Jordan River.

Jesus asks John to baptized Him (Matthew 3:13-15)

One day Jesus joined the crowd listening to John. When John started baptizing people, Jesus asked John to baptize Him too. Now we know that Jesus had never sinned. He was not being baptized

because He was sorry for sin. Instead, Jesus was giving people an example so they could be right before God.

God “announces” Jesus’ identity (Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:29-37)

But then something special happened – something that had *never* happened to anyone before. When Jesus was baptized, God sent His Spirit from heaven. Show Bible Picture 5b. The Spirit looked like a dove. The dove flew down and rested on Jesus. Then a voice came right out of the heavens – it was the voice of God Himself! God said, “This is My Son, whom I love very much. I am well-pleased with everything He does.” (based on Luke 3:22)

A day later John was talking with men who had believed his preaching. He said: “I saw the Spirit, looking like a dove, come down from heaven and lightning on Jesus. Then, I heard God tell us that Jesus is His Son. Now I can tell you that I have seen and heard that Jesus is God’s Son.” Then John saw Jesus walking along. John said, “See Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the World.” (based on John 1:29)

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