

Family Lesson 48

Principle: Jesus has always existed. John the Baptist prepared the way.

Bible Character(s): Jesus, John the Baptist

Scripture Reference: John 1, Luke 1

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Last week, we finished our study of the Old Testament. Who did we study? (Jonah.) What did Jonah do? (Jonah did not obey God's commands and instead tried to run away from God.) How did God respond? (God disciplined Jonah to change his heart and then saved him from death. Jonah realized his sin, repented, and recognized God's mercy and grace. Then he obeyed God's commands to go to Nineveh.) What did God do to Nineveh? (God showed compassion to the people of Nineveh. God used the situation to teach Jonah that his love is for everyone.)

Today we are going to begin our study of the New Testament. We are going to read from John 1 and Luke 1 about Jesus and John the Baptist.

Let's begin by reading the Bible from John 1 [NLT].

John 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,

and nothing was created except through him.

In this passage, Jesus is called "the Word." Jesus has always existed. Jesus is God. He created the heavens and the earth; everything was created through him. Let's read the Bible in Genesis where we see that God created everything.

Genesis 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

All of us have a beginning. We are all born and grow up. Jesus does not have a beginning or an end. He has always been and will always continue to be. He created everything and he is God.

Bracelet Tie In

The purpose is to present the Trinity and emphasize that Jesus is fully God.

Supplies:

Spools of yarn – three different colors

Scissors

Give each child three strands of yarn—each strand a different color (about six inches long). The children should tie the three strands together at one end (tape it to the table) and then braid the strands and tie the opposite end. They will make a bracelet/anklet out of the yarn. Help the campers become familiar with the basic concept of the Trinity: three people, yet one God. The concept of the Trinity is not something even we, as adults, can fully grasp. The campers will never fully understand this, but they can believe that God is

three in one. Here is a short three-minute [video](#) for parents that is helpful.

Tie It Together

God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit each are fully God, and yet there is only one God. Look at the bracelet you just made. You see one bracelet, not three bracelets. There is one God, yet he is three people: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is hard for us to understand about God; even adults find it tough to understand. We accept it by faith because the Bible says it is true. Jesus is God. As God, he chose to become a baby and grow up as a boy and into a man in order to save us from our sin. But during his time on earth, he was still God and never sinned.

Let's continue to read the Bible in John to see why Jesus came to us.

John 1:4-5

⁴ Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not understood it.

This verse says that Jesus is our light. What do you think it means that Jesus is our light? (Allow responses.) **Let's look a little closer at what this means.**

Light and Darkness

The purpose is to explain that Jesus is the light and our sin is the darkness.

Supplies:

(Picture set found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Pictures of types of light

Picture of sunshine

Picture of dead plant

Flashlight

Review different types of light. Ask your child what each light does. (Example: **When you walk into your room at night, what does the light bulb do? When you strike a match, what happens?**) Tell your child to look out the window (if you have one) to observe the sunshine, the flowers, and

the plants that are alive. Show them the picture of sunshine. How does the sunshine help the flowers grow? What happens if a flower does not get any sunshine? Show them the dead flower and talk about the effect of no sunshine on the flower.

Tie It Together

Jesus is our Light. Sin is darkness. We have darkness, or sin, in our hearts. Jesus came to get rid of the sin in our hearts. He came to bring light, just as the light bulb in your room gets rid of the darkness (demonstrate by turning light in the room on and off). **His light shines, gives us life, and helps us to grow, just like the sunshine helps the plants grow. Without Jesus' light, we would die from our sin just like a plant dies without sunlight. 2 Corinthians 4:6 tells us, "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."**

In the Dark

The purpose is to help your child understand living in darkness vs. living in the light.

Supplies:

Jar

Ping-Pong ball

Bandana

Put the jar on the ground and ask your child or sibling to be blindfolded. Have the blindfolded child try to put the ball in the jar. Then remove the blindfold and ask him or her to try again. Allow other siblings or family members to take a turn.

Tie It Together

Was it hard to put the ball in the jar with the blindfold on? Why or why not? (Allow responses.) **It was hard because when the blindfold was on, you couldn't see. You were surrounded by darkness, and it made things really difficult. What happened when you tried without the blindfold?** (Allow responses.) **You were able to put the ball in the jar. You were not blinded by darkness, but instead your eyes could see. This is kind**

of like what Jesus does for us. He removes the darkness from our hearts and allows us to see more clearly. Without Jesus, we cannot know God. Jesus' light shines in our heart so that we can know God.

God uses a man named John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus by telling the people that Jesus is coming to bring light and life. John the Baptist was born in a special way, and today we are going to hear the story of his birth.

John the Baptist's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, both follow God and faithfully obey his commands. They are old and don't have any children because Elizabeth cannot have any. Zechariah is a priest in God's temple. One day, while he is at the temple, an angel appears to him.

Let's read the Bible to see what the angel says to Zechariah.

Luke 1:13-17

¹³ But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. ¹⁶ And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

How do you think Zechariah responds? What do you think goes through his mind when he hears this? (Allow responses.) He is told that not only will he have a son, but his son John will be "great in the eyes of the Lord" and "filled with the Holy Spirit." His purpose is to "prepare the people for the coming of the Lord." That is an amazing future for Zechariah's unborn son!

Let's read the Bible to learn about John the Baptist's birth.

Luke 1:57-58

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

This is a pretty amazing story. Elizabeth could not get pregnant, but God changes that and gives her and Zechariah a son. All of Elizabeth and Zechariah's neighbors and relatives know that this baby is special. They do not know the path God has chosen for John, but they know that God's hand is on this family.

Let's read from John 1 to see exactly how God will use John the Baptist.

John 1:6-9

⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Who is the light in these verses? How long has the light existed? (Allow responses.) John the Baptist is sent by God to tell about the light, Jesus, who is coming into the world. Remember how we talked about Jesus being the Light to the darkness of our sinful hearts? Jesus loves us very much. He was born to save us from our sin. John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by telling everyone that Jesus is the Son of God.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for sending Jesus down to earth to die for our sins. Ask God to help us be like John the Baptist by telling others about Jesus.

Activity

John the Baptist Coloring Sheet

The purpose is to see that John prepared the way for Jesus.

Supplies: Worksheet found on the [Kids Resource Page](#)

Have your child color the worksheet as you read through the Tie It Together below.

Tie It Together

The things we have learned in the Old Testament have prepared us to learn about Jesus. Now the New Testament begins with John preparing the way for Jesus. John 1:4 says, “Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone.” Jesus is the Light who saves us from our sin.

- ⁷⁶ “And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
because you will prepare the way for the
Lord.
- ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.
- ⁷⁸ Because of God’s tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven is about to
break upon us,
- ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace.”
- ⁸⁰ John grew up and became strong in spirit.
And he lived in the wilderness until he
began his public ministry to Israel.

God uses John the Baptist in an exciting way to let everyone know about Jesus. God wants to use you to tell others about Jesus. You can share that Jesus is our creator. He is the light that can save us from our sin. We are freed from the darkness of sin if we choose to believe and trust in him as our Lord and Savior.

Activity

Jesus Is Our Light Worksheet

The purpose is to see that John prepared the way for Jesus.

Supplies: Worksheet – “Jesus is Our Light” side found on the [Kids Resource Page](#)

