

I AM CALLED STUDY

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6; Luke 1:5-15

Intro. Activity:

Blindfold Senses test

Items needed: 2-3 blindfolds, items for senses test, a dirty cup, wipes to clean it,

Points to Emphasize

Overview: God has a plan and purpose for our lives.

Facts:

- John the Baptist was unique...definitely even weird!
- John was “set apart” before he was even born – a Nazarite
- We may mess up, but God doesn’t give up on us!
- God had a plan & purpose for John’s life & ours
- John the Baptist answered God’s call in his life

"I am Called" - Bible Lesson for Kids

Introductory Activity #1

Blindfold Senses Test:

Ask for three volunteers that will take a “senses” test.

Sight – choose something in the room and have them guess what you spy

Hear – blindfold them ... have everyone clap their hands & volunteers guess what the sound is; snap their fingers; rub their hands together; [click](#) their tongues

Taste – blindfolded, have each one taste one item on the tray & guess

Smell – have them smell one of the items each and guess

Touch – have them touch one of the items and guess

We use our senses to “know” the world around us.

Ask students...what is the strangest thing you have ever tasted? touched? smelled? heard? seen?

Point 1 - John the Baptist was different...even weird

Open your Bibles to the first book in [the New Testament](#) – the Gospel of Matthew. We’re going to “see” & “hear” someone today that may have looked very weird to the people of his day...He wore camel [hair](#) and ate locusts & honey...he probably didn’t smell to great either living out in a desert! Where did he bathe?!

See if anyone can guess who this is. (John the Baptist)

Have someone read Matthew 3:1-6

John the Baptist may have looked and sounded strange, but he was fearfully and wonderfully made by God and God had a very special plan and purpose for his life just like he does for our lives!

Turn back to our Psalm for the week – Psalm 139:13-16 – not only did God know & see us before we were even born, He had a plan & purpose for us!

First of all He wants us to know Him through His Son Jesus! He also wants us to point others to Jesus so they will have hope, purpose & eternal life too!

Point 2 - John the Baptist was set apart

Object Lesson Activity: A Cup



Show students the dirty cup; ask if anyone would like to drink water from it. (hopefully they will say no!; if someone does say yes, tell them okay, but it was dipped in a toilet! ;)

As you begin washing the cup say: The point is for this cup to be used as it should be, it needs to be washed (inside & out) and then it can be put (set apart) in a cabinet and ready to be used for the purpose it was created...to drink from it.

When we come to Christ, God cleans us up (forgives our sin) and sets us apart for His plan and purpose.

You may be thinking, but what if you've messed up after Jesus cleaned you up and right now you're not living your life to please God. Remember the cup...yes, it was dirty, but after it was washed it could be used again.

Have you ever heard of Samson? He really messed up, but in the end He turned back to God and God used Samson again to defeat their enemies. Even Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends and his disciple messed up; he denied he even knew Jesus when Jesus needed him the most! But Peter repented and Jesus forgave him; Peter became one of the greatest preachers of all time!

None of us are made perfect yet, but God never gives up on us! Anytime we turn back to Him, He will be there with open arms to receive us back and clean us up so we can be used for the plans & purpose He has for us!

Point 3 - God's Plan & Purpose for John the Baptist

God had a special plan & purpose for John's life way before He was even born! Isaiah was a prophet of God and God had him write about John the Baptist almost 700 years before John was born!

The really cool thing is that God also had Isaiah tell about Jesus! The whole Bible, both Old & New Testaments point to Jesus as God's Son & our Savior! Let's look at a few of the plans God had Isaiah write to point to Jesus.

Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Some people may ask, "Well how do we know Isaiah didn't just write about these things after they happened?"

Briefly share the story of Dead Sea Scrolls or in your own words:

["Writings Hidden in a Cave" by Phyllis Martens. (Herald Press [Bible School](#) Series, 1989).

One day a Bedouin shepherd boy was wandering through the bare hills near the Dead Sea, looking for a lost goat. The steep sides of the hills were full of caves. The boy threw a stone into a cave and heard something break. The shepherds found the stone had hit an earthen jar in which a scroll had been stored. In the caves, they found more writings in jars.

One book, Isaiah, was made of 17 leather sheets sewed together to make a roll 24 ft. / 7 m long. There were copies of every Old Testament book except Esther. These became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Until then, the oldest copies of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament books) available were made in the ninth century. The 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were made 1,000 years earlier! Yet scholars found very little difference

between the early and later copies. The scribes had been very careful all those hundreds of years.]

The discovery of the scrolls prove that what was written in the book of Isaiah was indeed written hundreds of years before John or Jesus were born showing that we can believe and trust the Bible to be God's Word and 100% accurate!

The Book of Isaiah is referred to as a miniature Bible. How many books does the Bible have? (66). Look at how many chapters Isaiah has. (66)

Isaiah wrote about that too; Isaiah wrote about God saying He would be with us and would be our Redeemer (Avenger);

The whole Bible, both Old & New Testaments, point to Jesus as our Redeemer.

David was right in Psalm 139...God knows everything! God knew about John the Baptist's life and He knows you and all about your life.

Let's turn back to Psalm 139 and read verse 16 –

“You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

God had a special plan & purpose for each of their lives.

God has an ‘incredible’ plan & purpose for you too!

Let's look at one more thing about John before we leave:

Point 4 - John the Baptist Answered God's Call

Isaiah said that John the Baptist would come to prepare the way for the Lord, for Jesus. He did that by preaching that people should repent (turn from their sinful ways and do an about face and turn to God). We know that John also baptized Jesus (not because He had sinned; Jesus NEVER sinned), but to set an example of obedience. It pleased God.

God called John the Baptist to be a witness and tell others about Jesus.

John 1:6-8 tells us “God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.”

We have all probably seen court scenes on TV where a witness is called up. What is the witness supposed to do? (tell about what he/she saw or heard)

We are called to tell what we have seen, what we have heard, what we have touched, what we have tasted and even smelled... yes, the Bible says, “Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.” in 2 Corinthians 2:14...all that we know...all that we are...we are to share Jesus!

It was not an easy thing for John the Baptist to do. Many thought he was strange. Many became angry with him. In fact, John the Baptist ended up being beheaded even before Jesus was crucified. John knew that by sharing Jesus, he was sharing life...Eternal Life!

God calls us to tell others about Jesus too.

After Jesus had risen from the dead and had appeared to many people (500 at one time! 1 Cor.15:6), the last words He spoke before ascending into Heaven are recorded in Acts 1:8...let's look at it.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Recap

We have learned that God created us to be “incredible”!

We learned that God has chosen us and made a way for us to choose life, to choose and accept what Jesus did for us as He paid for our sin on the cross.

We learned that Jesus came to redeem us and be with us all the way; we are not alone! It's not automatic though. We must humble ourselves and realize we are a sinner and we need Jesus. Then we say “Yes!” to Him and invite Him into our lives as LORD & Savior.

And today we learned that God has an incredible purpose and plan for our life too! When we have Jesus, we are made new; we are set apart to live an incredible life for God and to share the hope and love of Jesus with others!

Wow!!!! We have reason to celebrate!!

Thank you, Father, for making me to be incredible for You! Help me keep living for you even as I go home from camp. Help me to share Your love with others. Thank you, Jesus, that you are always with me and I am never alone. And thank you that I can do incredible things because You are in my life!