



John Preaches in the Desert

Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Jesus had a cousin named John. John lived in the desert all by himself. John wore clothes made of scratchy camel hair and he wore a leather belt. He ate food he found in the desert: insects like grasshoppers, and sweet honey.

God had a special job for John. God wanted John to tell people that Jesus is God's Son.

John stayed near the Jordan River. He told people to get ready for Jesus. John told people, "God will forgive you for doing wrong things. But stop doing wrong things. Do good things."

People wanted to know good things to do. They asked John, "What should we do?"

John answered, "If you have two coats, give one coat to a person who has no coat. If you have extra food, give some to hungry people."

John told some other people more ways to do what is right. "Don't take money that doesn't belong to you," he said. He told some soldiers, "Don't say someone did wrong when you know that person did NOT do anything wrong. Tell only what is true."

Many people listened to John. They stopped doing wrong things. They promised to do what is right. Then John baptized them. He used water to show that God forgives people for the wrong things they do. John helped many, many people learn to obey God and do good things.

Sandy Scenes

Collect

Bible, dry sand (or cornmeal or salt), shallow baking dishes, newspaper, glue, cotton swabs, dark-colored construction paper; optional—dry tempera paints.

Prepare

Pour sand into baking dishes. (Note: Prepare one setup for every three or four children.) (Optional: Mix sand and tempera together, each color in a separate baking dish.) Cover tables with newspaper.

Do

Children spread glue with cotton swabs to make designs on sheets of construction paper. Then children sprinkle sand over papers to cover glue. (Optional: Children sprinkle colored sand over glued paper.) When glue has been completely covered, assist children in carefully lifting papers and pouring sand back into baking dishes. Sand will adhere to glued areas.

Enrichment Ideas

1. Use glue to print the word "Jesus" on children's papers. Children sprinkle sand over glue.
2. Instead of making pictures on papers, children use fingers to draw designs in damp sand. Prepare a pie tin or flat-bottomed bowl with about a half inch of sand in the bottom for each child.

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I can learn to obey God
and do good things.

Talk About

- ☀ In today's Bible story, a man lived in the desert and told people to obey God and do good things. Deserts have a lot of sand. Let's make pictures with sand.
- ☀ Maribel, thank you for waiting for your turn to use the sand. You know how to do good things! What are some other good things you can do in our classroom?
- ☀ Andrew, thank you for doing a good thing by sharing your glue. We can learn to obey God and do good things. What is a good thing you can do at your home?





Draw lines to show where these faces are in the picture below.



Draw lines to show where these faces are in the picture below.



Bible Story Puzzle 19



John told people to do good. Jesus helps us do good. The Bible says, "Stop doing wrong and do good." (See Psalm 34:14.)



- Color a person who looks happy YELLOW.
- Color a person who looks angry RED.
- Color a person who looks sad BLUE.



You need:

1. colored paper
2. black construction paper
3. scissors
4. glue

By tearing stripes of different colors of paper, children create a sunset. Draw a big cactus on black paper and cut it out. Paste the cactus on the sunset sheet.

Write the verse on the craft!