



LESSON 48

3rd and 4th Grade

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

Bible Character(s): Jesus, John the Baptist

Scripture Reference: John 1, Luke 1



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Luke 1 and John 1. We will

introduce two separate truths addressed in John 1. The first doctrine explains Jesus as a part of the Trinity. We will present the concept that Jesus has and will always exist. He was born as man while being fully God. Keep in mind that this is hard for everyone to grasp. All of us struggle to understand the Trinity. It is important for the campers to know and believe that Jesus is God and that He created everything. We will also discuss John the Baptist's birth and his purpose to prepare the way for Jesus and spread the gospel. Spend time praying for your campers as we begin to study the New Testament and lay out the events that lead to Christ's death and resurrection.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Jesus Is Our Light Worksheet

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Jesus is Our Light" side (1 per camper)

Have campers complete the worksheet.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears,

minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will begin our study of the New Testament by looking at Jesus, how He is Creator of the world, and how He has always existed. We will review the Trinity so that we can connect Jesus' life on earth and His eternal existence. We will also introduce and discuss John the Baptist's role to prepare others for Jesus.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? (We learned that we will be moving into the New Testament of the Bible and begin studying about Jesus and John the Baptist.) **What did you learn about John the Baptist?** (He was born about six months before Jesus and spent his life preparing others to know Jesus.) **What purpose did God have for John the Baptist?** (To tell others about Jesus who would save people from their sin.) **What did you learn about Jesus?** (He existed before the world was created. He is God. He became a baby so he could come to earth to save people from their sin.)

Last week, we finished our study of the Old Testament. **Who did we study about?** (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. He is God.

God is three parts – God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. All three of these are God. There is one God, yet He has three parts: 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, 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:

Pictures of types of light (1 per bin)

Picture of sunshine (1 per bin)

Picture of dead plant (1 per bin)

Flashlight (1 per bin)

Review different types of light. Ask the campers 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 the campers 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 room on and off). His light shines and gives us life. His light 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."

God used a man named John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus by telling the people that Jesus was coming to bring light and life. John the Baptist was born in a special way. His parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, both followed God and faithfully obeyed God's commands. They were old and did not have any children because Elizabeth could not have any. Zechariah was a priest in God's temple. One day while he was at the temple, an angel appeared to him.

Let's read the Bible to see what the angel said 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 responded? What do you think went through his mind when he heard this? (Allow responses.) He was told that not only would he have a son, but his son John would be "great in the eyes of the Lord" and "filled with the Holy Spirit." His purpose was to "prepare the people for the coming of the Lord." That is an amazing future for Zechariah's unborn son!

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Zechariah responds.

Luke 1:18-20

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years."

19 Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! 20 But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

The angel, Gabriel, told Zechariah that it was God who sent him to bring this good news. Since Zechariah did not believe the angel, he was made silent until his son would be born. He returned home, and Elizabeth became pregnant.

Let's read about John the Baptist's birth from the Bible.

Luke 1:57-66

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.

59 When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. 60 But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John!"

61 "What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name." 62 So they used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him. 63 He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." 64 Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

65 Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. 66 Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

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

Let's see exactly how God would use John the Baptist by reading the Bible from John 1.

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 was sent by God to tell about the light, Jesus, who was 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 prepared the way for Jesus by telling everyone that Jesus is the Son of God.

John the Baptist Coloring Sheet



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

Supplies:

Worksheet – John the Baptist coloring side (1 per camper)

Have the kids 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.

This is what Zechariah said about his son, John the Baptist.

*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 used 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.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. 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.



2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615 Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222