

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus and John the Baptist

John 3:22-36

• **Sketch the story:** As you explain a wedding, draw a picture of a bride and groom. Draw a groom's friend smiling and standing next to the groom.

• **Listen for key words:** Assign half of the kids the name *John* and the other half the name *Jesus*. Pause briefly after each name. When a group hears its assigned name, kids should raise their hands.

Jesus and His disciples left Jerusalem, and they went out into the countryside. Jesus spent time with His disciples, and people came to them. Jesus taught the people, and the people were baptized.

Nearby, John the Baptist was baptizing people too. Some of the people who followed John got into an argument. They went to John to ask him a question.

“Teacher,” they said, “remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? He is baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him.”

John answered them, “A person can only receive what God gives him. You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I am the messenger who goes before Him to announce that He is coming.”

John tried to explain by talking about a wedding. When two people get married, the man who marries the bride is the groom. His friend stands with him at the wedding, and he is happy to be there and hear the groom's voice. This was how **John felt—like a groom's friend—because he was happy that Jesus, the Messiah, had come.**

John also knew that a wedding is the groom's special day; the groom's friend should not make it about himself. **John said, “Jesus must become greater, and I must become less.”**

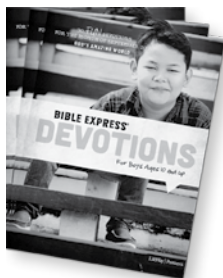
Then John explained why Jesus was more important than himself. John was from the earth, and he could only talk about things on earth. Jesus—the One who comes from heaven—talked about things in heaven because He had seen

them! Still, no one believed what Jesus said.

John said, “Whoever believes Jesus knows that God tells the truth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus speaks God’s words.”

John also said, “The Father loves the Son and has given Him power over everything. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life, but whoever refuses to believe in the Son will not have eternal life. He will never be able to get away from God’s judgment.”

Christ Connection: John the Baptist had told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John’s mission was complete. John the Baptist joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that John told his disciples that Jesus is the Messiah. Anyone who believes in Jesus—not John the Baptist—will receive eternal life. (John 3:16) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Great, Greater, Greatest!

For each row, number the items from 1 to 3. (3 = great, 2 = greater, 1 = greatest)

Then compare your answers with a partner. Do you agree on what is great, greater, and the greatest?



bowling



baseball



football



pizza



cookies



carrots



fall



summer



winter



John



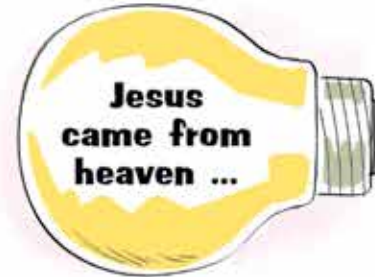
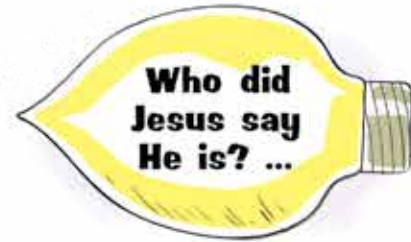
Jesus



lion

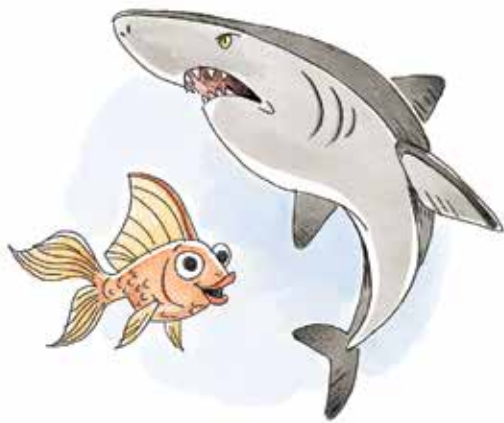
Lights On!

Draw a line to match the first part of each phrase or sentence with the second part.



Bigger and Better

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the item in each pair that is bigger or that you think is better.



DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Some of John the Baptist's disciples were confused when people followed Jesus instead of John.
- John explained that Jesus is more important. It was good for people to follow Him instead.
- Jesus came from heaven to earth.

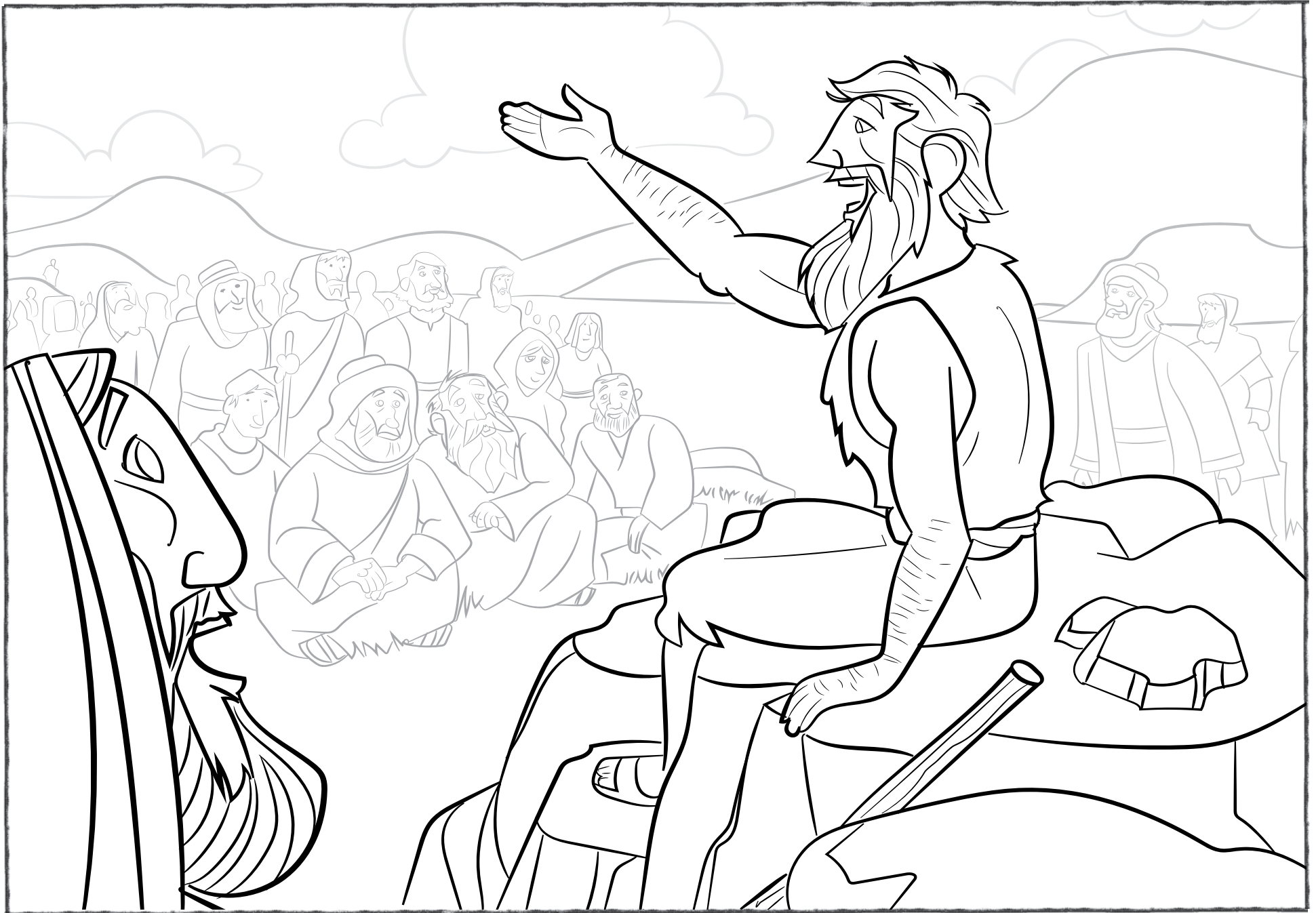
FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why is it hard to see someone else in the spotlight?
- Why did Jesus deserve the spotlight instead of John?
- How can we show that Jesus is most important in our lives?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Hold a family talent show. Give each member of your family an opportunity in the spotlight and a chance to step aside to let someone else take over. Talk about what it means to let Jesus "take over" our lives.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 21, Session 2



Who Did It?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line connecting the picture to the person the picture is about, John or Jesus.



JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.



PROPHETS SAID JESUS WOULD
BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM.



JOHN WAS BORN
WHEN HIS PARENTS
WERE VERY OLD.



JOHN THE BAPTIST



JESUS



GOD SAID JESUS IS
HIS BELOVED SON.



JOHN GOT PEOPLE
READY FOR JESUS.



JOHN SAID HE WAS
NOT THE MESSIAH.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

- John's followers asked John about Jesus.
- John said he was not the Messiah.
- Jesus came from heaven to earth.
- Jesus had come, and John's job was finished.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did John's followers ask John about Jesus?
- What are some ways you can point people to Jesus instead of yourself?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Show children your wedding album. Point out the best man. Explain how Jesus is like the groom and John was like the best man.
- Brainstorm ways your family can announce Jesus' return to people in your sphere of influence. Choose at least one action to complete this week.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 21, Session 2

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.