



WEEK 1 - March 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: John told people that Jesus is special.

John the Baptist • *Matthew 3:3-4, 11, 13-17*

Memory Verse: “Come and follow me,” Jesus said.” *Matthew 4:19, NIV*

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world.

-Large group time

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

LARGE GROUP SCRIPT:

Bible Story

What You Need: A Bible, a piece of fake fur, a jar or bottle of honey, a large heart cutout, and a box to hold these items

Optional Story Images can be found in the Large Group Images folder. (02_LG35_Stage_Images) They can be used in conjunction with this script.

STORYTELLER: “Today’s true story from the Bible begins with a man named John the Baptist.”

(Option: Story Image W1 01)

HOST: “Do I get to be John the Baptist?”

STORYTELLER: “Yes, that would be awesome. Everyone say, ‘Hey, John!’”

CHILDREN: “Hey, John!”

STORYTELLER: “John lived by himself in the desert. He made his clothes out of camel hair *(hand the piece of fur to Host to drape over his shoulders)* and John loved to eat honey *(hand Host the jar of honey)* and bugs called locusts.

(Storyteller rummages around in the box like he’s looking for bugs.)

(To Host) “Just kidding! I don’t have any locusts in here for you to eat. The best part about John the Baptist was that he LOVED God. *(Hand Host the heart.)*

(Option: Story Image W1 02)

John would always tell people *(stand behind Host, who will move his mouth as you say the following)*, ‘Get ready, everyone! God has said that a very special leader is coming! He is someone we should all follow!’

(Storyteller steps back out from behind Host.)

“One day, John was in the water baptizing people because they wanted to show they loved God. All of a sudden, can you guess who John saw?”

HOST: “Oh, oh! I know this. I’ve read this story. He saw Jesus!”

STORYTELLER: “Yes! John the Baptist was SO excited to see Jesus because he knew that Jesus was the special leader God had promised. Everyone, show me your excited face! *(Pause.)* Excellent! Then Jesus moved into the water where John was.”

HOST: “I know this part too! Jesus got in the water to be baptized to show that He loved God.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right. But John said, ‘No, I should be baptized by You! But because You are the most special leader, I will do what You say and baptize You.’

(Option: Story Image W1 03)

“John lowered Jesus down into the water and brought him right back up. And just then the most amazing thing happened! John heard God say, ‘This is my Son and I love Him very much.’”

(Option: Story Image W1 04)

HOST: “So cool!”

STORYTELLER: “Yes, very cool! Jesus is God’s Son. That makes him the BEST leader—the most important leader we should all follow. *(To Host)* Do you like the story? If so, let me see two thumbs up! *(Pause as Host gives a thumbs up and then look at the audience.)* What about you, friends? Did you like the story? Let me see two thumbs up! *(Pause as children give a thumbs up.)*

“Friends, when I say, ‘**Who can you follow?**’ you say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can follow Jesus.’ Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line] “I can follow Jesus.”**

STORYTELLER: “Yes, you can! Jesus is the BEST leader, and we can follow Him. Let’s pray!”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: “Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus. He is the BEST leader. We want to follow Him always. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

(Storyteller exits. Host sets the fur, jar of honey, and heart back in the box.)

CG: Bible Story Wrap-Up Video

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Engage kids' hearts through dynamic and interactive worship in a Large Group setting.

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's my favorite time—time to worship Jesus together! So everybody stand up on your feet and sing out loud. Jesus wants to be our friend forever, and we can follow Him! When I say, '**Who can you follow?**' You say, **[Bottom Line] 'I can follow Jesus.'** **Who can you follow?**

CHILDREN: **[Bottom Line] "I can follow Jesus."**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's sing this song about following him together!"

(Lead children in singing "Follow On," this month's worship song.)

"Jesus is the BEST, and He is the one I want to follow always. **[Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!** Our memory verse from the Bible this month says: "*Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me (march),*" Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*), Matthew 4:19. (*Open hands like a book.*) Can you say it with me?"

(Say the verse and do the motions several times together.)

Great job! There's NO one like Jesus! So let's sing 'Wow Oh Wow' together!

(Lead children in singing "Wow Oh Wow.")

"Jesus is big and strong. Let's follow Him. **Who can you follow?**"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: **[Bottom Line] "I can follow Jesus!"**

Dismiss children to small groups.