



John

The Witness

John 1:19-34

Big Idea: John pointed people to Jesus. He is the one who'd take sin away. John knew that because God's Spirit came on Jesus.

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Instructions

Download the Kidswise file titled, John The Witness Pictures.

The conclusion of this story needs to be memorised.

Requirements

- Narrator
- Pictures (see Instructions)
- Data projector
- Screen

Script

In the book of Isaiah God promised that one day he'd send his King.

But before God's King would come, someone would get the people ready.

Ready to meet God's King.

God's King who'd take away the sin of the world.

In John chapter 1 we read about a man named John.

Picture

Picture 1: title

Picture 2

Picture 3

Most people know him as John the Baptist, because he baptised people in the Jordan River.	Picture 4
He called on the people to repent.	Picture 5
To turn back to God and say sorry for their sins.	
Then he would baptise them in the river.	Picture 6
John was getting them ready to meet God's King.	
But John, the Baptist could easily be known as John, the Witness.	Picture 7
Because he was the one who'd point out to everyone who God's promised King was.	
Some people thought that John was God's promised King.	Picture 8
Priests came from the Temple and asked, "Are you the one God promised would come?"	Picture 9
John replied, "I am not. My job is to point out to everyone who he is."	
The very next day John was baptising people in the river.	Picture 10
John looked up and saw Jesus walking towards him.	Picture 11
John said, "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world. He is the one I told you about. He is greater than me."	Picture 12
Then John baptised Jesus.	Picture 13
As soon as Jesus was baptised, heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus, looking like a dove.	Picture 14
From then on John told everyone.	
Jesus is the Son is God!	
He is the King God promised would come.	Picture 15
He is the King who'd take away the sin of the world.	

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

John the Witness had a special job to do.

He had to point out to everyone who God's King was.

As soon as heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus - John knew.

He knew that Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus is the one who'd take away the sin of the world.

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3. John

The Witness

John 1:19-34

Big Idea: John pointed people to Jesus. He is the one who'd take sin away. John knew that because God's Spirit came on Jesus.

Game: Run, Stop, Clap, Jump

Need:

- Clear open space
- Cones (to define the area)

Instructions:

- Use the cones to define the space the game is to be played in.
- Demonstrate the following four actions:

RUN = move safely within defined space

STOP = stop moving, freeze

CLAP = teach a specific short clap, aim to do it in unison

JUMP = one high jump on the spot, aim to do it in unison

- Children are to listen and do what the leader says.
- If they fail to do what he/she says (i.e. do the wrong action), or fail to do it immediately (i.e. are last to do the action), then they are out.

Conclusion:

- To stay in the game all you had to do was follow the instructions.

- You had to listen and do what I said.
- If you listened and did what I said you stayed in the game.
- John the Baptist had to point everyone to God's promised King.
- The only thing was John didn't know who God's King was.
- Until the day heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus.
- That's the day he knew... Jesus is God's promised King.
- From that day on John told everyone to follow Jesus.
- And everyone who listens to John and does what John says has their sin taken away.
- Because only by coming to Jesus can our sins be taken away.

Game: Finger Spinner

Need:

- Clear open space
- Cones (to define the area)
- Find the pointing hands. (John 1-4 Resource Pack - Ages 8-11) Copy on A4 cardboard, laminate and cut, one per group of fifteen children. Punch a hole in the laminated hand. Using a split pin attach the hand to an A3 sheet of paper (that has also been laminated). Make sure the split pin is loose so that hand spins easily.
- Alternatively: you can use spinning arrows from games such as Twister (ignore the colour the arrow points to and just focus on who the arrow points to)
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Children sit in a circle (no more than fifteen per circle).
- Place the spinner in the centre of the circle.
- A child is chosen to go into the centre of the circle.
- Child spins the pointer.
- When it stops spinning the child it points to has to stand, run around the circle and get back to his/her place without being tipped.
- If the child in the centre tips the child running before arriving back, they swap and the child tipped is now in.
- **Note:** both children have to run the same way around the circle.

Conclusion:

- The spinner pointed to the one you were to follow.
- Your aim was to catch them.
- John's job was to point everyone to Jesus.
- He was to point everyone to the one God had sent.
- Because it's only when people run to Jesus that their sins can be taken away.

Singing

See page 5 for song suggestions. Sing 2/3 songs about John the Baptist, who pointed people to Jesus God's Son, who'd come to take away the sin of the world.

Memory Verse

John 8:12 (see page 12 for instructions on how to teach it)

Mini Movie: John The Baptist

Need:

- Download the mini movie called, Kids Bible Story - John The Baptist, produced by Crossroads Kids' Club (see link below) <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/kid-bible-stories-john-the-baptist/>
- Screen
- Data projector

Instructions:

- Play the mini movie.

Conclusion:

- John is often called John the Baptist because he got people ready to meet God's promised King.
- But no one knew who God's promised King was.
- Until the day Jesus came to John.
- When Jesus was baptised, John knew.
- Because heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down.
- John knew Jesus was the one God promised would come.
- And so from then on John told everyone who Jesus is.

Small Group Time

Need:

- Copy of the booklet from last week titled, Who Is Jesus? One booklet per child. **Note:** do not send this booklet home until the end of this unit.
- Set of coloured markers or pencils
- Set of International Children's Bibles (ICB)

Icebreaker:

- Does anyone have a nickname? How did you get your nickname?

Discuss:

- In John chapter 1 verse 4 it says that God's light has come into the world. Who is the 'John' in verse 6?
(John the Baptist)

Read John 1:8

- What was John's job?
(he had to point out who was the light God had promised would come into this dark world)

Conclusion:

- Most people call John, John the Baptist, because he baptised people.
- That was the way he got people ready to meet the Lord.
- But in the book of John, he could easily be called John the Witness.
- Because he pointed out to everyone who the Lord was.

Read John 1:22-23

- Priests were sent from Jerusalem to ask John who he was. They'd heard that John might be the one God had promised would come. What answer did John give them?
(he quoted Isaiah the prophet, he said that he was the one in the desert calling out 'get ready', he'd make what was crooked straight - in other words he'd get people ready to meet God)

Read John 1:29-34

- What sign had God told John to look out for in verse 33?
(look for God's Spirit coming down and resting on him)

Activity:

- Open up booklets to the page with the pointing hand.
- Around the pointing hand, write/draw all the things John says about Jesus and the day he was baptised.

(Lamb of God, takes away sin, greater than John, baptises with the Holy Spirit, heaven opened up, God's Spirit came down, is the Son of God)

Revision Activity:

- Look at the brainstorming activity on the titles of Jesus (last page of booklets).
- Was 'lamb of God' one of the titles you recorded for Jesus?
- If not, add it to your list.

Think It Through:

- John called out, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Why does John call Jesus a lamb?
(lambs were killed in payment for sin, death is the only payment God will accept for sin)
- How would Jesus take away the sin of the world?
(he'd pay for sin, by dying in our place, and so take the punishment of our sin away from us)

Application (select from below options):

- John pointed everyone to Jesus. Jesus paid for sin. So what's left for you to do?
- Do you believe what John said, that Jesus is God's Son come to earth?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus was born into the world he'd made so that he could die for our sin?

Prayer Time

Thank Jesus for willingly dying to take our sin away.

Or, ask Jesus to take your sin away.