



When they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Matt. 3:6

Bible Study:



This lesson tells the story of John the baptizer's ministry. John was the first prophet to arrive on the scene after a 400-year "dry spell" that began after Malachi prophesied to the Jews returning from exile. And Malachi predicted his coming as a messenger to prepare the way for God. (Malachi 3:1). Isaiah also prophesied his coming; that prophesy is included in the gospel accounts which can be found in each of the four gospels: Matthew 2; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1: 19-34

But even in His silence, God remained faithful to His people. He did not forget about them, and was now proving it by raising up a new prophet who would bring very good news to His people. John made it clear that he was not the Christ; he did not have the power to forgive sin (only God does). But He pointed to Jesus as being the Christ.

The gospel in the story:



The key gospel message in this lesson is **repentance**. In Luke 5:31, Jesus state that 31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick." Sin is a sickness that we all are born with, and can't get rid of without the cleansing work of Jesus' blood. Repentance is to recognize that sickness and seek God's healing by putting our faith in Jesus. We will see how the religious leaders of the day (Sadducees and Pharisees) were **blind** to their own sickness and therefore did not repent. As a result, they were leading people AWAY from God rather that TOWARD Him. Those who realized they were sick and confessed their sins, were the ones ready to receive the Good News of Jesus!

Application

Head: Q&A key points:

Q: Why did God send John? A: To be a voice announcing Jesus' arrival

Q: What message did John preach? A: Repentance

Heart: Memory Verse:

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Hands: How does this affect the way we live?

Discuss how repentance (Godly Sorrow) is a daily process of confessing sin, and asking for forgiveness

Home: How does this affect our household?

Parents: The Spiritual leaders were unrepentant, and therefore leading their people astray. Discuss with your children how as leaders of your household, you **don't** want to be like them. And **DO** want to model Godly repentance in front of them.

Heaven: How does this help us our faith?

Discuss how a humble attitude and dependence on Jesus is the **FIRST** step in encouraging others to "Make straight the way for the LORD".