



# John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming

Luke 3:7-18

First- and second-graders can understand right from wrong in a majority of situations. They're old enough to recognize that they do make choices that are sinful. So when they do things that are wrong, confession is a way they can participate with full understanding. Use this lesson to help children understand that Jesus came to forgive them of all the things they've done in the past and will do in the future. Help them understand the importance of confessing their sins to Jesus in the process of forgiveness.



### ► Bible Point

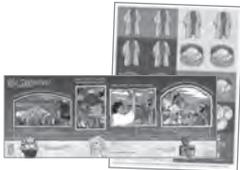
Repenting prepares us for Jesus.

### Key Verse

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will prepare their hearts for Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Christmas Preparations</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out family preparations for Christmas.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>What Should We Do?</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Actively illustrate John's message with cards to share.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Prepare for Jesus" cards, Bible Timeline 	Separate the "Prepare for Jesus" cards into 10 sets. Each set should have 2 identical, connected pictures. Fold along the perforated line between the cards in each set.

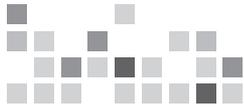
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Cleaning Out the Fridge</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover that repenting makes room for Jesus.	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, craft glue, self-adhesive magnets, cardboard, rectangle template (at the end of the lesson)	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Use the rectangle template to cut out the larger rectangle (which will contain both smaller rectangles). Mark a line on each child's rectangle to resemble the line in the middle of the template.
	<b>To Be Like Jesus</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> See how Jesus can replace sin in our hearts, and pray.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, several pairs of scissors, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack: CD</b>	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.**





## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Christmas Preparations

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Christmas is coming! And Christmastime is a busy time of year, isn't it? Let's play a fun game about getting ready for Christmas.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Then invite each child to stand up and act out something his or her family does to prepare for Christmas. Let the other children try to guess the action, and then let the performer share details about the activity as desired.

Say: **Christmas is special because it's a celebration for Jesus. God kept his promise to send Jesus to save his people from sin. That's why we celebrate Christmas.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think people sometimes forget the real meaning of Christmas?
- What do you do to remember Jesus at Christmas?

Say: **God had promised to send a Savior. His people were watching for Jesus to come. Just as you can hardly wait for Christmas, they could hardly wait for Jesus! Today we'll hear about a man who helped the people get ready for Jesus. He taught the people that ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS. Let's get started!**

### What Should We Do? Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "John the Baptist"  
(track 6)  
"Prepare for Jesus"  
cards  
Bible Timeline

### What Should We Do? Easy Prep

Separate the "Prepare for Jesus" cards into 10 sets. Each set should have 2 identical, connected pictures. Fold along the perforated line between the cards in each set.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# What Should We Do?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Luke 3:7-18, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear about a man called John the Baptist. He was Jesus' cousin, and he**





helped the people get ready for Jesus. In a minute, we'll listen to what John said. Show the Bible Timeline, and point out the "John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming" picture.

Have kids form pairs. Give each pair a set of cards from the "Prepare for Jesus" cards. Tell kids to keep their sets of cards attached for now.

Say: **Kind of like how John the Baptist told the people to get ready for Jesus, we have to get ready before we listen to what John said. To get ready, first we'll learn a rhyme. Here's how it goes:**

**"John, John, what should we do?"**

**"You only need one; you don't need two!"**

Lead the children in repeating the rhyme a couple of times. Then say: **As we learn about John, every time you hear the words "And the people said..." call out the rhyme.** Lead kids in saying the rhyme in response to the prompt a few more times.

Say: **The next thing we'll do to get ready has to do with the pictures on your cards. As you listen, you'll hear John mention the pictures on your cards. When he mentions your picture, separate your cards and give one of the cards to a pair who doesn't have that picture.** Check for understanding.

Have partners link arms. Play "John the Baptist" (track 6 on the CD), and lead kids in saying the rhyme every time you hear the prompt "And the people said..." After kids say the rhyme each time, there will be a prompt to pause the CD. At that time, different pairs will tear their cards apart and give one card to another pair. Be prepared to guide kids through this process.

### Talk With Kids

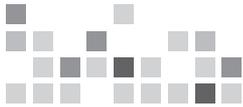
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you learn from John about getting ready for Jesus?
- What do you think it means to repent?
- Why do you think repenting prepares us for Jesus?

Say: **John told the people to repent. He told them to tell God they were sorry for doing bad things and to stop doing those bad things. John also told the people to share, to tell the truth, and to be thankful for what they have. ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS. It allows God to take away the sin from our lives. I'll show you what I mean.**





### Cleaning Out the Fridge Supplies

My Bible Fun  
several pairs of scissors  
craft glue  
self-adhesive magnets  
cardboard  
rectangle template (at the end of the lesson)

**! MAGNET WARNING**  
Harmful if swallowed.

### Cleaning Out the Fridge Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Use the rectangle template to cut out the larger rectangle (which will contain both smaller rectangles). Mark a line on each child's rectangle to resemble the line in the middle of the template.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Cleaning Out the Fridge

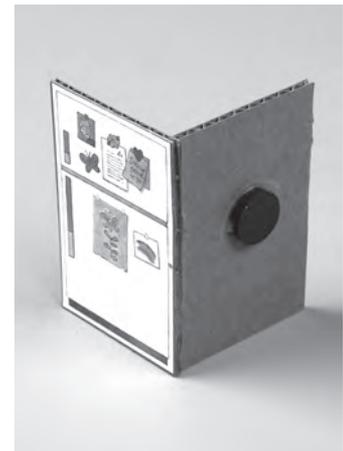
### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **John the Baptist encouraged the people to repent. He wanted them to understand why it's important to get ready for Jesus. Let's do an activity to help us think about repenting. Raise your hand if you've ever seen your parents clean out your refrigerator.** Invite children to talk about what might've been taken out and why they'd want to clean it.

Say: **Sometimes the food in our refrigerators gets old or goes bad. If we left the yucky, old food in our refrigerators, we wouldn't have room for new, healthy food. The yucky food could also make any good food in the refrigerator go bad. Soon we wouldn't have any good food to eat—and that would be bad!**

Give each child a Lesson 3 My Bible Fun page. Point out the clean refrigerator at the bottom of the page.

Say: **Think of your heart as a refrigerator. When we repent, God cleans the sin out of our lives, just like your parents clean the yucky food out of the refrigerator. Once God cleans—or purifies—our lives, Jesus can come in to help us live right. Let's make refrigerator magnets to remind us that God will clean our hearts when we repent.**



Distribute scissors, and have kids cut out both the refrigerator and refrigerator door rectangles on their My Bible Fun pages. Have kids glue each picture to a same-sized cardboard rectangle. Finally, have them glue their own cardboard pieces together to look like a refrigerator with an open door. To complete the project, show kids how to attach magnets to the back of the craft.



Have kids set their magnets aside until it's time to leave.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kinds of things do you think you'd want God to clean from your heart?
- Why do you want God to clean your heart?

Say: **It's so wonderful to know that when we repent, God will clean our hearts so we can make room for him. Take your refrigerators home with you, and put them on your real refrigerator. Every time you open your refrigerator, remember that ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS and makes us clean.**

## To Be Like Jesus

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS.** Have kids look at the "To Be Like Jesus" activity on their My Bible Fun pages. Have the children cut off the strip that has "SIN" on it at the bottom of the page. Help them cut along the dotted lines inside the heart to make slits.

Say: **Repenting makes room for Jesus. Let me show you how.**

Show the children how to thread the strip through the slits in the heart, starting from the back. Help the children pull the strip through to show the word *sin* inside the heart.

Say: **Sin in our lives takes up a lot of space in our hearts. With sin in our lives, there's no room for Jesus.** Open your Bible to 1 John 1:9, and show kids the words. **Our Key Verse tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).**

**If we confess our sins, or repent, God takes the sin out of our hearts, which makes room for Jesus.** Show the children how to pull the strip to show Jesus' face inside the heart. Then tell kids to pull the strips back to show the word *sin*. Have the children repeat 1 John 1:9 with you several times.

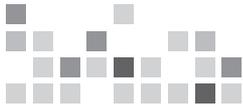
Hand out the lyrics page. Say: **Let's sing a song to help us remember that when we confess our sins, Jesus forgives us.** Play "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 7). Lead children in singing.



### To Be Like Jesus Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - My Bible Fun
  - CD player
  - several pairs of scissors
  - 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 7)





 If we confess, if we confess our sins,  
He's faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
And purify us from all unrighteousness.  
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

God says he will set us free if we confess our sins.  
God says he will set us free if we confess our sins.

If we confess, if we confess our sins,  
He's faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
And purify us from all unrighteousness.

If we confess, if we confess our sins.  
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

"If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have the children position their strips so "Sin" is showing on the heart. Say: **Think of one sin you can repent of this week. Maybe you'll try to stop yelling at your brother. Or maybe you'll stop whining when it's time to go to bed. Just think of one wrong thing you'd like to ask God to help you stop doing.** Give kids a moment to think. **As we go around the circle, we'll pray to ask God to help us repent. When it's your turn, say, "Please help me repent."** Then pull your paper strip so Jesus' face shows.

Pray: **God, thank you that we can confess our sin to you, knowing that you'll forgive us and purify our hearts to make room for Jesus. Please hear us as we repent.** Go around the circle, letting each child speak. Then close the prayer: **Thank you, God, for your awesome love. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Think of a way you disobeyed this week, and ask God to forgive you.**
- **Tell a friend about Jesus' forgiveness, and ask if he or she would like to pray with you.**

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun  
pens



- **Lead your family in singing a song of praise to Jesus for his forgiveness when we repent.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Today we learned that John the Baptist prepared the people for Jesus. He told the people to repent. This week, let’s remember that ► REPENTING PREPARES US FOR JESUS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

## **Weaving Faith at Home**

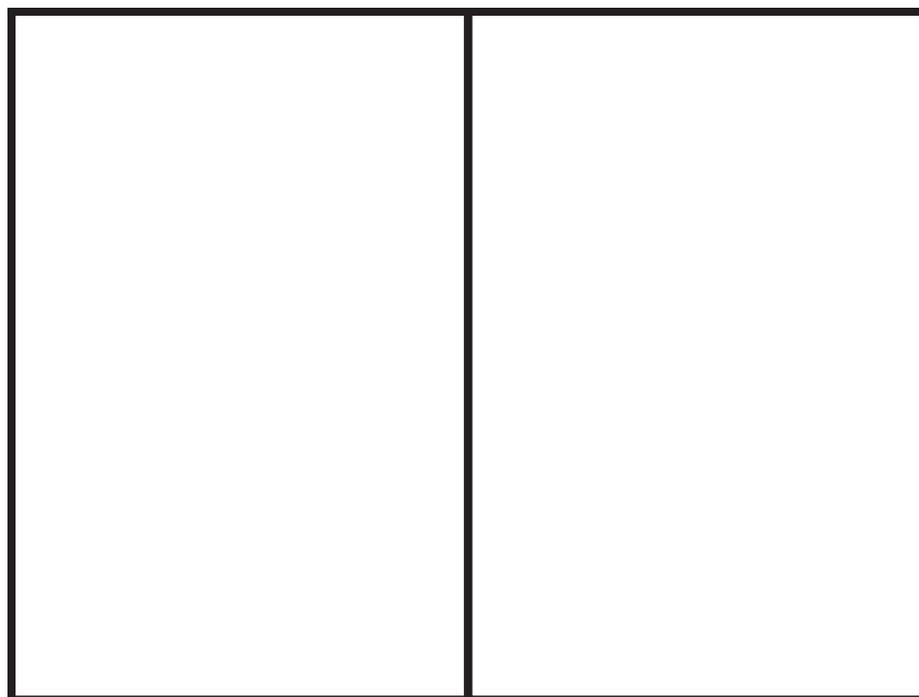
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we prepare our hearts for Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he cleans our hearts when we ask for forgiveness. Pray: **God, thank you that you clean our hearts when we repent. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



# Rectangle Template



**!** OK  
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Lyrics ■■■■

## If We Confess (1 John 1:9)

If we confess, if we confess our sins,  
He's faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
And purify us from all unrighteousness.  
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

God says he will set us free if we confess our sins.  
God says he will set us free if we confess our sins.

If we confess, if we confess our sins,  
He's faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
And purify us from all unrighteousness.

If we confess, if we confess our sins.  
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

"If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**OK**  
**TO COPY**



