



# John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Third- and fourth-graders have discovered that they can't please everyone all the time. And, as a result, some have decided that it's not worth trying to please anyone. Still, in their hearts, most children long to please others. You can use this lesson to help kids grasp that God sent Jesus to take the consequences of our sin, and they'll feel more comfortable trying to please God. Above all, help them understand that God loves each of us unconditionally.



► **Bible Point**  
God sent Jesus.

### Key Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will apply their belief in Jesus to their lives by growing closer to him and sharing their faith with others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>What's the Right Answer?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Fill balloons, and determine whether to believe the contents.	1 uninflated balloon per child, strips of paper, permanent markers, pens	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Sin, Repent, Believe</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Come up with definitions for <i>sin</i> , <i>repent</i> , and <i>believe</i> .	Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, tape, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Sin, Repent, Believe" poster 	Hang the "Sin, Repent, Believe" poster where kids can easily see it.  Tear the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>John Baptizes Jesus</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> "Visit" the Jordan River where John baptized Jesus.	Bible, pens, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline 	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>God's Gift</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and draw a cartoon to help them remember it.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, colored pencils, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Salvation Bracelets</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make bracelets that represent salvation.	scissors; red, white, and green yarn	Cut one 14-inch length of each color of yarn per child.
	<b>Why Can I Believe in Jesus?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write or draw pictures of what they believe about Jesus, and why.	Bible Truth Sleuth, markers	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	bracelets from the "Salvation Bracelets" activity	

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





### What's the Right Answer? Supplies

1 uninflated balloon per child  
strips of paper  
permanent markers  
pens

#### **BALLOON** **WARNING**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### What's the Right Answer?

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Distribute strips of paper and pens.

Say: **Write one statement about yourself on one strip of paper. You can decide whether to write something true or false.** Allow time.

After kids have written their statements, give each a child a balloon and have them each fold their paper and put it inside the balloon. Have kids blow up the balloons, helping as needed, and tie them closed. Then have kids use permanent markers to write their name on the balloon.

Say: **Toss the balloons into the air to mix them up, and then everyone can take one balloon.** Allow time. **Now that you have a new balloon, read the name on it. Determine whether you think the statement inside the balloon is going to be true or false. If you think it's true, pop the balloon and read the strip of paper. Decide if you still think it's a true statement. If you think it's false, return the balloon to its owner.** Continue this until all the balloons have been opened or returned.

Say: **Sometimes it's easy to know what's true about someone and what's false. Other times we don't know what to believe. Sometimes we believe certain things but we don't know why we believe them.**

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide whether to pop or return the balloon?
- After you popped or returned the balloon, did you have a reason to think you made the wrong choice? Explain.
- How can you tell if what someone says about him- or herself is true?

Say: **We decided whether to believe certain facts about our friends in this game. But when it comes to facts about Jesus, we can trust that if the Bible says it, it's true. One thing the Bible says is that ► GOD SENT JESUS. Let's explore some things about Jesus to see why we can believe that ► GOD SENT JESUS.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Sin, Repent, Believe

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play "River Sounds" (track 10 on the CD) while a willing child reads aloud Mark 1:4-8.

Say: **John left his home to preach in the desert. He told people to repent of their sins because he wanted the people to experience forgiveness. Let's find out what John meant when he talked about sinning, repenting, and believing.**

Have kids look at the poster and think about the words. Allow time.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Say: **Find the "Sin, Repent, Believe" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and write a definition—what you think the word means—for each word.** Allow time. **After you've finished, find a partner and share your answers.** Allow time.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think *sin* means?
- What kinds of sins do kids do?
- What do you think *repent* means?
- What can someone do to show they want to repent?
- What do you think it means to believe?

Say: **We all sin and disobey God. But he has made a way for us to repent and believe. ► GOD SENT JESUS to forgive those who believe in him. John the Baptist believed in Jesus and he tried to help others believe, too. Let's find out more about believing in Jesus and having a relationship with him.**

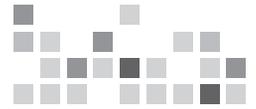
# John Baptizes Jesus

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Now let's read the rest of the Bible passage to find out what happened when John baptized Jesus.** Show kids the Bible Timeline, and point to the "John Baptizes Jesus" picture.

Invite a willing child to read Mark 1:9-11.

Say: **It must have been incredible to be at the Jordan River that day! To see Jesus**



## Sin, Repent, Believe Supplies

- .....
- Bible
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- CD player
- tape
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "River Sounds" (track 10)
- "Sin, Repent, Believe" poster

## Sin, Repent, Believe Easy Prep

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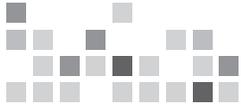
Hang the "Sin, Repent, Believe" poster where kids can easily see it.

Tear the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

## John Baptizes Jesus Supplies

- .....
- Bible
- pens
- paper
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





baptized by John and to hear God's voice say, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Let's pretend we were there for this exciting encounter. I'm going to read the passage again. I want you to imagine you were standing on the banks of the Jordan watching Jesus being baptized, seeing the heavens torn open and God's Spirit coming down like a dove, and hearing God's voice speaking to Jesus. Close your eyes as I read the passage again, and picture the scene.

Read aloud Mark 1:9-11 again, pausing between verses. Give kids time to imagine the scene. As they do, have them think about what God's power might have looked and sounded like.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like imagining that you were there? What kinds of things did you imagine?
- What events have you experienced that have taught you something about who Jesus is?
- What are other things that help you know that God sent Jesus?

Say: For many people, seeing God's Spirit come down from heaven there at the Jordan River was probably the first time they believed that ► **GOD SENT JESUS**. They believed because they saw God's Spirit and heard God's voice. It's easier to believe in things we can see or hear. Let's dig into reasons we can believe ► **GOD SENT JESUS** even if we never see or hear something like what happened in the Jordan River when John baptized Jesus.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### God's Gift

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids open their Bibles to the Key Verse, John 3:16, and invite a willing child to read it: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Say: **Find a partner, and repeat the Key Verse together: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** Allow time, and then distribute colored pencils and have kids complete the "God's Gift" activity.

Play "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 11 on the CD) once or twice as kids work.

#### God's Gift Supplies

Bibles

Bible Truth Sleuth

CD player

colored pencils

tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 11)





When kids have finished, invite willing children to share their cartoon strips with everyone.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What amazes you about God loving you so much that he was willing to give up his own Son, Jesus?
- What does “eternal life” mean to you?
- What do you imagine it will be like to spend forever with God?

Say: **John the Baptist knew that ► GOD SENT JESUS for a very special purpose. And God himself announced who Jesus was. God loves us and wants us to live with him forever. Our Key Verse tells us that when we believe in Jesus, we can have that friendship with him for eternity—forever!**

## Salvation Bracelets

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Sometimes it’s hard to explain why we believe in Jesus. So today we’ll make something to help us remember why God sent Jesus.**

Give a set of three colors of yarn to each child. Show kids how to knot the three strands together about 3 inches from one end. Then show kids how to braid the long strands together, stopping about 3 inches from the end and making another knot. Have kids work on their braids as you explain what each color of yarn represents.

Say: **The colors of yarn you’re braiding have different meanings: Red represents the blood of Jesus as he died on the cross for our sins so that when we repent, we’re forgiven. White represents being clean and pure before God because we believe in Jesus. Green means new life and growth as a Christian.**

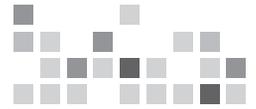
Allow kids time to finish braiding their bracelets. Say: **Find a partner to help tie the salvation bracelet on your wrist. As you help each other, tell about what each color stands for. Make sure you don’t tie the bracelets too tight. You should be able to fit at least a finger between your wrist and the bracelet.** Allow time.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell which color means the most to you, and why.
- What can wearing this bracelet do to help you remember why ► GOD SENT JESUS?
- When you show others your bracelet, what will you tell them about why you’re wearing it?



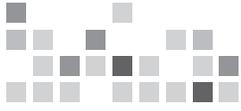
### Salvation Bracelets Supplies

scissors  
red, white, and green yarn

### Salvation Bracelets Easy Prep

Cut one 14-inch length of each color of yarn per child.





Why Can I Believe in Jesus?  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth markers

Say: Our bracelets are important reminders of the truths we've learned today. The truth that God announced about Jesus at his baptism— ► **GOD SENT JESUS**. The truth that Jesus saves us from our sins and when we ask for forgiveness, God will forgive us. And the truth that we can have a relationship with Jesus and continue to grow closer to him. Let's explore a little more why we can believe these truths about Jesus and God.

## Why Can I Believe in Jesus?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we've talked about why we believe certain things and how we know the difference between things that are true and things that are false. We've discovered that God sent Jesus for us to believe in so we could have eternal life with him in heaven. Distribute markers, and have kids find the "Why I Believe in Jesus" activity on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: Write or draw graffiti that shows the reasons you believe in Jesus. You can write or draw whatever things you want that show why you believe.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some true things you know about Jesus?
- Why do you know those things are true?
- Why can you believe in Jesus?
- What can we do to learn more about Jesus?

Say: All the truths we've learned about Jesus today we've learned from the Bible—God's Word. God never lies and his word is always true, so we can trust what we read in the Bible. We can believe that God's Spirit did come down from heaven when John baptized Jesus and that ► **GOD SENT JESUS** to save us from sin. That's amazing news that'll change our lives when we decide to begin a relationship with Jesus.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think this week about how we can apply to our lives the truth that ► **GOD SENT JESUS**.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Use your bracelet to tell a friend what it means to believe in Jesus and have a relationship with him.**
- **Spend time talking to Jesus to grow closer to him this week.**
- **If you have some questions about who Jesus is, ask a trusted Christian adult to help you find answers to those questions.**

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 kids 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: **At Jesus’ baptism, God made it clear that Jesus was his Son. Let’s celebrate and be happy that ► GOD SENT JESUS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

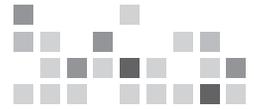
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God sending Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

To close, have kids use their bracelets as you guide a prayer about believing in Jesus and why God sent him.

Say: **Look at your bracelet again. Touch the red yarn and silently pray to thank God for sending Jesus to save us all from sin. Pause. Touch the white yarn and thank God for forgiving us and sending his Son, Jesus, to make God’s forgiveness possible. Pause. Touch the green yarn and ask Jesus to help you grow closer to him. Pause.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent your Son to forgive us. Help us to weave our faith in you into our lives this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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bracelets from the “Salvation Bracelets” activity



