



## For Toddlers

**Summer Theme:** CPR – God cares, God protects, and God rescues.

**Memory Verse:** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” -John 7:37.

**Bible Story Focus:** Introduction/John the Baptist Lesson-Matthew 3:1-12

**Early Childhood Essential:** I am a sinner who needs Jesus

### **Lesson Overview:**

In this lesson, children will be introduced to our “Beach Camp” theme. All summer we will be learning that **I am a sinner who needs Jesus**, by looking at our Beach Camp theme: God cares for us, protects us, and rescues us (CPR). In today’s lesson, kids will hear the story of John the Baptist preparing people’s thirsty hearts for Jesus, the only one that can quench their thirst. They will learn that John told the people to “get ready, Jesus is coming!”

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## For Preschoolers

**Big Idea:** CPR – God cares, God protects, and God rescues.

**Memory Verse:** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” – John 7:37.

**Bible Story Focus:** John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12).

**Early Childhood Essential:** I am a sinner who needs Jesus.

### **Lesson Overview:**

In this lesson, kids will continue to learn that our hearts thirst for God and that the Bible can help us to learn more about Him. Kids will hear the story of John the Baptist preparing people’s hearts for Jesus, the only one that can quench their thirst. They will learn that John told the people to “get ready, Jesus is coming!”

**Pre-Video Discussion:**

What would you need if you were getting ready for... a vacation? A camping trip? Dinner at a fancy restaurant?

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**I Wonder Questions (Post-Video):**

I wonder...

What was John the Baptist's special job from God?

\*John's special jobs was to prepare people for Jesus's coming!

What did John the Baptist tell people to do?

\*Get ready, Jesus is coming!

Is John the Baptist the same as Jesus?

\*No! Jesus is much greater! John was just supposed to prepare people for Jesus!

**Early Childhood Family Activity Idea: Mother May I**

Have one family member stand on one end of the room; they are "it." Have the other family members stand across the room, facing the person who is "it." Have the person who is "it" turn backwards, away from the group. When the person who is "it" says, "Get Ready" the others say, "Jesus is coming!" and start walking until the person who is "it" turns to face them. When "it" turns forward, all participants must freeze. Continue until someone reaches the person who is "it." Play as many times as you want. You can also play with different types of movement, like tiptoeing, crawling, crab walking, etc. Remind all participants that John the Baptist walked all around reminding people to "Get Ready!" because Jesus was coming.

**For Elementary****Topic:**

John the Baptist

**Lesson Overview:**

Today kids will be introduced to John the Baptist, the man who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. They'll see that God shows us that he is good and cares for us, letting the people in Jesus's day know that Jesus, the one who would satisfy their thirsty hearts forever, was on His way.

**Key Scripture:**

Matthew 3:1-12

**Elementary Essential:**

**God is good:** He cares for his people.

**Memory Verse:**

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” – John 7:37.

**Intro Video Link:** <https://vimeo.com/427151638>

**Bible Story Video Link:** Faith Kids-John the Baptist  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_ifyj2x8mQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_ifyj2x8mQ))

**Post-Video Discussion Questions: First, read Matthew 3:1-12**

- **Read Matthew 3:1-6 and ask, “What did God send John the Baptist to do?”** (*Prepare the way for Jesus*)
- **If you were alive back when John the Baptist lived and heard him tell people to “Prepare the way for the Lord”, what would you have done to prepare your own heart?**
- **How does God show that he is good and cares for his people in today’s Bible story?** (*He cared enough to help people prepare their hearts for Jesus, the one who would satisfy their thirsty hearts*)
- **How can we prepare our own hearts now as we wait for Jesus to come again?** (*Confess sin, get to know more about God by reading his Word, tell others about Jesus, focus on things the Bible teaches instead of trying to satisfy our hearts with the things of this world*)

**Follow-Up Activity: Saltine Cracker Challenge**

1. Gather 3 Saltine crackers and a cup of water.
2. See who can eat three Saltine crackers in one minute.
3. After realizing that it’s almost impossible to do, talk about what it was like to be thirsty and need water after eating the crackers. What is it like to have our hearts thirsty for God?

**Extended Study for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Answer the questions found in the post-video discussion guide. Afterward, read Matthew 3:11 and journal in response to this question, “What do you know about Jesus that makes him the one who is greater than John the Baptist?”