

John The Baptist/ the Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3:1-22

The Boy Jesus Visits the Temple / Luke 2:39-52

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 2:26

“You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

Introduction:

The Boy Jesus Visits the Temple / Luke 2:39-52

A few weeks ago, we learned that Joseph and Mary offered a sacrifice to the Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem and brought baby Jesus to the temple. At the temple, Simeon recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah, the light of the world. Anna the prophetess also gave thanks to God, bore witness of Jesus, and boldly proclaimed that the Messiah had come.

Luke 2:39-52 those verses we will see Jesus as a boy in the Temple. Jesus being fully God in the flesh was full of knowledge and wisdom, He will be discussing bible prophecies with the elder teachers of the Temple. He went with St. Mary and St. Joseph to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and stayed in the temple. During the way back St. Mary and St. Joseph discovered that Jesus was not with them; they searched for Him 3 days and finally found Him in the temple; they were astonished at His Wisdom and Knowledge and how He was able to have a big conversation with the elder teachers of the Temple; Yet because He is God, He is full of Wisdom. St. Mary told Jesus that they were searching for Him and He replied politely that He had to do the work of God; yet He was obedient and went back with them home. The Bible, likewise, tells us that we need to obey our parents, just as Jesus obeyed His. This meant a lot to His mother. She treasured all these things in her heart,

If your parents bring you to church and raise you in the ways of the Lord, you are very blessed. When our parents are obedient to the Lord, they train us to be obedient also.

LESSON TIME!

Remember when we learned that God blessed Zacharias and Elizabeth with a miraculous baby? Do you remember the baby's name? His name was John. God had a very special purpose for his life. John was to be the forerunner or herald for Jesus. What does a forerunner do? John was going before Jesus to announce His coming and prepare the way ahead of time.

John grew up into a man. He was the last of the prophets, and God gave him a special message. His message was, "**Repent!**" Who knows what "repent" means? Repentance is when we see our sin as God does, have sorrow for it, and turn away from it. **Sin** is rebellion against God; it is choosing my way over God's way, missing the mark, doing wrong instead of right. Romans 3:23 tells us that we are all sinners.

Let's take a look at the ministry of repentance that this final prophet spoke about just before Jesus began His ministry.

Luke 3:1-2

3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’

These verses have more in them for us than just a list of hard-to-pronounce names. God is revealing something important to us. All of these rulers thought they were masters of their world, but they were in truth just rebellious, immoral people who missed out on what God had for them. The Bible tells us that God passes all of

these "important" men by and that "the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias." The Word of God passed the emperor, the governor, the tetrarchs, and the priests and came instead to a simple man named John, living in the wilderness.

God's Word did not go to Rome or even Jerusalem. It came to the wilderness. **What is a "wilderness?" [it is like a desert; dry lands]** The "wilderness" symbolizes the world's spiritual and moral condition at that time. The world is spiritually dry and needs God's Word to refresh them. The people and leaders of that day needed to turn from their own ways to God's way. They needed to repent. The fact that God sent His word to John in the wilderness shows that He cared for even these rebellious people. Jesus came to save man from his sin and rebellion. What a loving and kind thing to do! John, left the wilderness to proclaim God's Word. He knew that **God's goodness leads us to repentance**. John was waking the people up to the fact that they were sinners. His ministry was to get the people to see their sin and repent so they would be ready to receive the salvation of Jesus Christ.

[Activity] Sleeping "Game"[to explain in a simple way; John's mission]

Pick one child in the class to "wake-up" the other children.

Have the rest of the class pretend to be asleep, in their chairs. Do not discourage those children that are harder to "wake-up"; it adds to the object lesson.

Explain to the class that this was John the Baptist's ministry. God sent him to wake the people up spiritually; some people were more willing to be awakened than others.

Luke 3:7-9

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

When John looked out at the crowd, he saw some of the religious leaders called Sadducees and Pharisees. John spoke very strongly to them because these men felt that they did not need to repent, that they were righteous without God. He called them the children of snakes. He knew that these men would try to stop others from repenting and preparing their hearts for Jesus.

God loved even these hard-hearted men, but until they repented, they could not have true fellowship with God. It was not enough for the religious leaders to say they repented; they had to mean it in their hearts. If they truly repented, their lives would bear good fruit. We, also, need to make sure we are repenting in our heart-- only then can we truly follow Jesus and bear good fruit. These men thought they were in fellowship with God because they were related to Abraham. John told them that God doesn't accept people because of who they are related to; He accepts those who have repented and turned to Jesus.

Luke 3:10-14

10 So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" 11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." 12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." 14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

The other people listening to John asked him, "**What shall we do then?**" He gave all of them the same answer. No matter what they were doing, they needed to be doing it with unselfish love. John was telling them to give to others. He was telling them Jesus' message of love.

In other words, when we truly repent and have a relationship with Jesus there will be certain things evident in our lives. We will become different people than we were before. This fruit is the evidence of our repentance. We cannot say that we have repented and turned away from sin unless we have really stopped doing that sin and have begun doing what the Lord would have us to do.

Luke 3:15-18

15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to

loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

When people heard John talk, they started to think that he might be the Messiah. John set them straight. He stated very clearly that he was just the **forerunner**. He let them know that he had a message from God about repentance. He also let them know that he only baptized with water, which is a symbol of a changed mind.

He told them, however, that the Christ was coming and He would baptize with fire. In other words, Jesus would not just bring a change of mind, but a change of nature.

In other words:

John told the people who came to be baptized that he only baptized with water, which was a symbol of washing, but "He," meaning Jesus, would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This baptism would be more than a symbol; it would be actual transformation and regeneration of a life. John's water baptism was just the preparation of hearts for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which would accomplish all that the repentant heart needed.

The “ Metamorphosis” example

Tell the children about the life cycle of a butterfly. Explain that a butterfly starts out as a tiny egg that hatches a caterpillar. The caterpillar eventually spins a cocoon and comes out a beautiful butterfly.

Explain that Jesus transforms us completely. He makes us a new creature, just like the caterpillar turns into a butterfly. He does not just change our mind; He changes our nature! Only God can do that!

Luke 3:19-20

19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

Herod put John in prison because John was bold enough and loving enough to tell Herod the truth about his sins. Herod did not want to be told to repent. He put John away so he did not have to listen to him anymore. When God's Holy Spirit lovingly points out our sin and calls us to repentance, do we listen and choose to change our mind and ask God for His cleansing and forgiveness? Or do we want to do what Herod did and shut out the voice of the Lord from our ears? Remember God loves you enough to tell you the truth about sin, and **God’s goodness leads us to repentance.**

Luke 3:21-22 [Jesus’s Baptism]

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And

the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

Why Jesus was baptized? According to Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

- 1- To fulfill every righteousness
- 2- To institute for us the sacrament of baptism
- 3- It was a humble work of Him to partake of what we have to as His sons and daughters.
- 4- It was a symbol to his death, burial and resurrection.

The church celebrates this event [The Theophany] which means the Divine Appearance with the Father’s Voice from the heavens saying “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

And the son; in the water being baptized. And the Holy Spirit appearing as a Dove

Ask the Kids to describe the Dove? Color is while, it is a calm bird.

The Holy Spirit, in all of His holiness, came down from Heaven upon the Lord Jesus. In the Bible the dove is a symbol of the Holy spirit and the Peace. Jesus was praying [To teach us to always pray].

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer to ask for wisdom just as Jesus was when He was Young; and to Thank Him for the baptism where we are anointed to be his Sons and daughters.

Videos:

Boy Jesus at the Temple

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UWVXfzDtGk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lg5yHuk0wQ>

Jesus’s baptism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMzIB185JSc>

Email to parents:

Dear Parents,

In the lesson this week, we learned about John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-22). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. John the Baptist had a very special ministry. His purpose was to announce the arrival of the Messiah, our Lord and Savior—Jesus! John the Baptist is a very interesting man. We can learn a lot from his life and his service to the Lord. His greatest message was “repent” as he prepared the people for Jesus’ coming. To repent means to turn away from sin and to turn to God. The people needed to do some turning to prepare their hearts to meet Jesus. Today, as back then, all who would come to Jesus need to repent, to turn away from their sin and self-centeredness and to turn toward Jesus, receiving Him into their lives.