

John The Witness

John 1:19-34

Big idea: John pointed people to Jesus. He is the one who'd take sin away. John knew that because God's Spirit came on Jesus.

* Preparation:

Download PDF with pictures for story. These could be shown on a laptop or iPad while reading the bible story.

You'll also need to print Pointing Hands PDF for construction task at the end

1. Story (read aloud using pictures)

Picture 1 title page

Picture 2 ... Scroll - promised King get ready

In the book of Isaiah God promised that one day he'd send his King.

But before God's King would come, someone would get the people ready.

Ready to meet God's King.

God's King who'd take away the sin of the world.

Picture 3 ... Meet John

In John chapter 1 we read about a man named John.

Picture 4 ... John the Baptist

Most people know him as John the Baptist, because he baptised people in the Jordan River.

Picture 5 ... Repent

He called on the people to repent.

To turn back to God and say sorry for their sins.

Picture 6

Then he would baptise them in the river.

John was getting them ready to meet God's King.

Picture 7

But John, the Baptist could easily be known as John, the Witness.

Because he was the one who'd point out to everyone who God's promised King was.

Some people thought that John was God's promised King.

Picture 8 ... priests come

Priests came from the Temple and asked,

Picture 9 ... priest's ???

"Are you the one God promised would come?"

John replied, "I am not. My job is to point out to everyone who he is."

Picture 10 ... John baptising a lady

The very next day John was baptising people in the river.

Picture 11

John looked up and saw Jesus walking towards him.

Picture 12

John said, "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world. He is the one I told you about. He is greater than me."

Picture 13

Then John baptised Jesus.

Picture 14

As soon as Jesus was baptised, heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus, looking like a dove.

Picture 15

From then on John told everyone. Jesus is the Son of God!
He is the King God promised would come.
He is the King who'd take away the sin of the world.
John the Witness had a special job to do.
He had to point out to everyone who God's King was.
As soon as heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus - John knew.
He knew that Jesus is God's Son.
Jesus is the one who'd take away the sin of the world.

2. Discussion

Icebreaker

Does anyone have a nickname? How did you get your nickname?

(Shares nicknames and how you got that nickname.)

Discuss

Sometimes people get nicknames because of what they do.

What was John's nickname? How did he get that nickname?

(John the Baptist, he baptised people, people said sorry to God and then he'd help them go under the water and came up again to show they were sorry for their sins)

Summarise

Most people call John, John the Baptist, because he baptised people.

That was the way he got people ready to meet the Lord.

But in the book of John, he could easily be called John the Witness.

Because he pointed out to everyone who the Lord was.

Priests came from Jerusalem to ask John who he was.

They'd heard that John might be the one God had promised would come.

What did John say to them?

(he said he came to get people ready to meet God's promised King and to point out who he is)

How did John know Jesus is God's promised King?

(when Jesus was baptised by John heaven opened up, God's Spirit came down)

Summarise

God opened up heaven and sent his Spirit down.

God wanted to make sure John knew.

God wanted to make sure you and I knew.

Jesus is the one God sent into this world.

Jesus came to take away your sin and my sin.

Application (select from options below):

Do you believe what John said, that Jesus is God's Son come to earth?

How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus had to die to take away your sin?

3. Prayer

Repeated prayer

Dear God – thank you for sending John – who saw who Jesus really is – and told everyone. – Help us to see that Jesus – is your Son – who came to take our sin away. – Amen

Prayer

Think of someone you can tell who Jesus is and pray that you can tell them this week.

4. Construction

Need:

Print the two Pointing hands with the words, John said, Jesus is the Son of God.

Set of coloured markers

Stapler

Instructions:

Decorate hands using coloured markers.

Encourage children to colour in the words so they stand out, not to colour over them.

Staple hands together to make a glove children can slip over their hand.

Remind them that John's job was to point people to Jesus.



John said

JESUS

IS THE

SON OF GOD



John said

JESUS
IS THE
SON OF GOD