



KIDTOWN GUIDE

for Kindergarten-5th grades

DATE: 3/29/20 - 4/4/20

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1*

LESSON: *Jesus' Baptism*

INTRO

Parents read this to your kids at the beginning.

Well, it's been another week of being out of school, and we just found out that we're going to be out of school for even longer--at least another month or so! What has been your favorite part of this past week?

Even though lots of things are different and changing, it is good to remember the good things that have come out of being at home, like spending time together and having fun together as a family!

And so we're going to take some time to do Kidtown together at home! Just like we would do if we were all gathered together on a Sunday. We're going to play, sing, learn from the Bible and talk about how Jesus wants to grow us as His followers. At the end we'll pray for our family and for others! Y'all ready to go?

BIBLE VERSE

Read and memorize the Bible Verse together. "He must increase, I must decrease." John 3:30.

Say the key passage multiple times using the hand motions to help kids remember the passage. You may use the suggested motions below.

- He [Point up towards heaven.]
- must increase [Move hands apart.]
- I [Point to yourself with both thumbs.]
- must decrease [Move hands together.]

SAY • This key passage is short, but very important. John the Baptist spoke these words about Jesus when many people who were following John began to follow Jesus instead. John knew that his job was to point people to Jesus, not to take glory for himself. That's our job too! John the Baptist was showing us that Jesus is worthy of all of our heart and attention.



SING

Kids love singing and it's a great way to start to direct their energy in a Godward direction before the lesson. To make it easy, you can have the kids sing along to the lyric videos linked below.

- [A Future and a Hope](#)
- [Jesus Strong and Kind](#)

LESSON

One of the most important ways we get to disciple kids is by helping teach the truth of God's Word and how it points towards Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 3, you can even point out that this story is also found in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1. Show the Bible story video [Jesus' Baptism](#).

What a cool story about Jesus getting baptised! Let's break it down starting with...

Story Point #1! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #1!) John the Baptist was very different. (kids repeat) In general it's not very nice to call people weird... but John was pretty weird! He lived out in the desert and ate honey and bugs. How weird is that? Do you think you could do that?! (*Allow responses from kids*). And while Jesus probably won't ask us to eat honey on grasshoppers to follow Him, there are ways that He calls us to be different. So why do you think John the Baptist lived in such a weird, different way? Well, that brings us to....

Story Point #2! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #2!) John lived differently to draw attention to Jesus (kids repeat) John knew that the purpose of His life was to point people to Jesus. Isaiah (remember him?) prophesied that a man would come calling in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord. John was that man! He wanted to do anything he could to point people to Jesus! He told people to repent - which means to turn away from their sin and towards God. He baptized people as a picture that they needed to be washed of their sin to get ready for the Messiah who was coming. When Jesus showed up, John knew Jesus was the Messiah that he had been talking about! John knew that Jesus was way more important than he was, and everything he did was to help other people know that too... But this story isn't really about John. It's really about Jesus! Which leads us to...

Story Point #3! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #3!) Jesus' baptism was very different. (kids repeat) John was completely shocked when Jesus wanted to get baptized. Everyone else John had baptized needed to repent of sin, but Jesus didn't have any sin! Jesus didn't need to repent! Jesus didn't need to be washed. John just didn't understand. But Jesus knew baptism was part of God's plan. Jesus was obeying God by being baptized.

Another difference about Jesus' baptism is what happened during it. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. God announced out loud from heaven that Jesus was His Son! Just like John wanted to draw everyone's attention to Jesus, God used Jesus' baptism to draw everyone's attention to Him. Clearly Jesus' baptism was very special!

And there was one more big reason that Jesus' baptism was super different...



Christ Connection! (Kids repeat, “Christ Connection!) Jesus’ baptism was different because it pointed to His death and resurrection. (kids repeat) Jesus never sinned, but His baptism pointed forward to what He would do to pay for our sins. When Jesus went under the water, it’s a picture of Him dying and being buried with all of our sin on Him. When He rose from the water, it’s a picture of how He would later resurrect, conquering sin and death! Now when new Christians get baptized, they are saying they needed Jesus to die and resurrect to pay for their sins! That’s what Jesus’ very different baptism is about.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

The goal of this time is to discuss and apply what we learned from the Bible. In Kidtown we use snacks as simple reward/incentive for focus during discussion time. Feel free to grab a snack and begin the discussion questions..

Discussion

What stood out to you from this story?

- *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--but encourage them to interact with Scripture.*

Who was John the Baptist?

- *The one Isaiah prophesied about, the voice crying out in the wilderness; Matt. 3:3*

How did John respond at first to Jesus’ request for baptism?

- *John tried to stop Jesus at first, Matt. 3:14*

What happened after Jesus was baptized?

- *God spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove; Matt. 3:16-17*

Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?

- *Allow time for questions and if you don’t know the answers, that’s okay.*
- *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at hdisbrow@midtowncolumbia.com*

Main Application: Jesus calls us to be different as followers of Him.

- Adults first then kids - In what ways does Jesus call us to live differently?
- **Teach:** One specific way Jesus’ followers are called to live differently is by getting baptized. When Christians get baptized, they are saying that Jesus’ death and resurrection is their only hope for right relationship with God. When Christians get baptized, they are saying they are turning from sin and living a new life with Jesus.
- Adults - Tell your kids about how you became a Christian and when you got baptized.

Parents, if you or your kids have questions about baptism, you can...

- Watch [this video of our Kids’ Baptism Class](#).
- Utilize [this chart](#) as a resource for thinking through your child’s readiness for baptism.
- Email us at hdisbrow@midtowncolumbia.com



LESSON ACTIVITY

The Lesson Activities are designed to help reinforce what the kids learned in the lesson. You can choose one or more activities to do based on your child's interest and time available.

Special handshakes

Invite each kid to make a personalized special handshake with you. Suggest kids incorporate high-fives, fist bumps, hand-clapping, and other moves. Practice each handshake a few times. Then lead kids to line up and demonstrate their handshake with you.

SAY • People all over the world shake hands as a greeting. It's a sign to say, "Hello, nice to meet you." What other actions do we do that communicate messages without using words? (waving, bowing, hugging, saluting, crossing your arms) What do they mean? In the Bible story we heard today, we learned about baptism—a symbol that shows what it means to follow Jesus.

Draw someone strong and powerful

Give each child a piece of paper and crayons or markers. Encourage him to draw someone strong and powerful.

SAY • The Jewish people knew that God had promised to send a Messiah, or Savior. They thought God would send someone strong and powerful. They had been waiting for many years for this Messiah to come. They were probably very excited when they heard John say that his job was to get people ready for the Messiah. John said Someone greater than him was coming. Listen to hear what happened as John was teaching and baptizing.

PRAYER TIME

From an early age, we want to teach our kids that prayer is the fuel for our lives as Christians. We depend on God for everything and prayer helps us remember that. Especially in these uncertain times, prayer is one of our most important disciplines as God's people.

Pray For Each Other:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

Pray: Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

Pray For Jesus' Mission:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?



Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!