

MATTHEW 3

JOHN THE BAPTIST



Scripture: Matthew 3:1-10

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Paper grocery bag, grass clippings, gummy worms, honey, glue (spray is best)
Age: Elementary

Activity:

Today we're going to talk about a special person today, so we need to go outside. First, I need a volunteer. While outside, cut out the paper bag to look like a vest. Spray the vest with glue and have the kids sprinkle the grass clippings in it (to represent camel hair). Have the volunteer dress in the bag and then offer him/her the gummy worms and honey. Ask if anyone knows who special person the volunteer is (John the Baptist).

Ask:

What can you tell me about John the Baptist? (Allow for answers)

Read: Matthew 3:1-10, asking questions and acting as you go

Ask:

1. What was John's message? (Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is near)
2. What does repentance mean? (To turn from going one way and go the other. In this sense, to turn from their old life and live according to God's laws)
3. Why do you think the writer mentions his clothes and diet? (Allow for answers)
4. What does it mean to confess sin? (Admitting when you've done something wrong)
5. Who can tell me who the Pharisees were? (Religious leaders. They believed that the law should be kept at the expense of the people. They cared more about rules than about the people they were teaching them to)
6. What do you think it means to have an ax at the tree? Is John saying nice things to the Pharisees? (It's nice because he is warning them. But he's telling them that they aren't doing right, which sometimes feels mean)

Game:

Like Mother May I, but instead you will list different sins and they each have to take a step. (Example, you stole 6 cookies- then the kids take 6 steps. You told 3 lies, 3 steps and so on)

Have a tempter in the middle, ready to catch the kids. At a random time, shout "Repent!" The kids have to turn and run the opposite way. The tempter will run after them. If the tempter catches them, they stay with the tempter.

Explain:

We are more than overcomers and that we can stand firm and resist temptation, it was just a fun game to represent turning from sin and running to Jesus.

Craft:

Back inside, reread verses 8-10 and ask what it means to bear fruit in keeping with repentance? (People should be able to see our repentance in our lives)

Have the kids cut and create construction paper fruit. On that fruit, have them write something that is fruit in keeping with repentance. Talk about these things and have them take them home and try to bear that fruit this coming week.

Memorize: Matthew 5:13



This is a smaller version made with a manila folder, but you get the idea!