



john prepares the way

John fulfilled the prophecy by preparing the way for the Messiah. He preached a convicting message of repentance to the ordinary person as well as to the hypocritical Pharisees of his day. Crowds followed John and showed their true repentance through baptism and a change in how they lived their daily lives. Hearts were being prepared for the messages Jesus would soon be preaching.

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Welcome all the Children/Young people and discuss their week. What did they get up to at school? What do they remember from last week's lesson? What things have they been praying and asking God for? **Start with Prayer**



Luke 3:1-18

It's time to read the bible together. Maybe someone would like to volunteer to read it, or perhaps we could read it together?



Click here to [Watch](#) together AND USE THE STORY IN THIS PACK TO READ.



- **Who was John the Baptist related to?** (Jesus was his cousin)
- **What kind of food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?** (Wild honey and locusts)
- **What was the main message that John the Baptist preached?** (Repentance)
- **What does "repent" mean?** (It means being very sorry for the wrong things you have done, to stop doing wrong, and to start doing right)
- **Who was John the Baptist preparing the people to hear from?** (Jesus)
- **Why did the people need to have soft, repentant hearts?** (So they could hear and obey Jesus' message)
- **What did John invite people to do after hearing him talk about repentance?** (Be baptised)
- **What kind of person must repent?** (Everyone)
- **What question do you have for God about this story?**



1. Use some wooden pegs and the leaf cut outs provided. You can colour the peg in green
2. You will need cut out eyes and pipe cleaners or green bits of paper to make the bug. It's fine to use paper and glue or celotable them on
3. Attach the Locust to the leaf with the scripture verse on it. Children can use green paper or colour the leaf in themselves.



MEMORY VERSE

Create in me a pure heart, God. Make my spirit right again

Psalm 51:10

memory verse take home cu

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ways to introduce

Bring along a jar of honey, or small jars of honey. Perhaps with some of the comb still in it. Let them taste it on a spoon

Talk about how good the honey tastes.

Also, discuss how honey is made and how people used to find bee hives in trees and other places.

They could eat the honey from those natural hives.

“Today, we will learn about someone in the bible who used to eat honey.

We first heard about this man when he was just a baby.

His parents were very old, and they were so happy to have a baby.

Do you remember who that was? (John)

When John grew up, he went to live in the wilderness. While he was there, he ate wild honey and . . . locusts! How many of you wish you could eat some locusts?”

THE STORY

Since John was a baby, his parents knew he would be unique. Just the fact that he was born was a miracle. It was a miracle because his parents were very old when he was born – way too old to have a baby. Only God could make that happen.

Another unique thing about John was that he was Jesus' cousin. They were born about six months apart.

When he grew up, John lived in the desert.

There is not much food in the desert. John had to learn to eat all kinds of unusual things. He found some wild bees and could eat some honey from the honeycomb. He also ate something else that was unusual. John ate bugs! Sometimes, people back then would eat locusts. In some places today, people still eat locusts.

John also wore unusual clothes. He wore animal skins instead of regular clothing.

John was a good man. He obeyed God and always tried to do the right thing. God gave John a special job.

John's job was to get people ready for Jesus to start preaching. This was a job that God had planned many, many years before.

What do you think he needed to do to get the people ready?

John did not build a church building or hand out invitations to hear Jesus preach. John knew that Jesus would want people to have good hearts.

So, John taught people how to have soft hearts. Suppose a person has a "hard heart;" that means their heart will never change. If they have a "soft heart," they will let God change their heart into the kind of heart he wants. John knew that the people needed to have soft hearts so they would be ready to hear Jesus preach.

THE STORY pt 1

John did not preach at the temple or in a church building. John would go down to the Jordan River and preach by the water. Soon, crowds of people gathered around John and listened to his message.

When John talked about soft hearts, there was one word he used to say a lot. That word was "REPENT." John told all the people they needed to repent.

To repent means being very sorry for the wrong thing or things you have been doing. But repentance is more than saying you are sad.

To repent means to be sorry and stop doing the wrong thing.

But repentance does not just mean being sorry and then to stop doing the wrong thing.

Repentance also means to be sorry, stop doing the wrong thing, change your life and start doing good things instead.

To repent means to change both your heart AND your actions.

Many people came to hear John preach. Some wanted to change their hearts and actions, and others did not. Some asked John what they should do.

John told some that changing their hearts meant they must stop being selfish. They must repent and start sharing the way God wants them to. He told the tax collectors that they had to stop cheating people. They must repent and start being fair like God wants them to.

He told the soldiers to stop blaming people when things were not their fault. The soldiers must repent and stop complaining about people. Then John told the listening people they needed to be baptised in the Jordan River to show they meant what they said. The baptism would mean that they repented for the things they were doing wrong. It would show that their hearts were soft and good.

THE STORY pt 2

Many people were baptised when John preached. That is why he is called "John the Baptist."

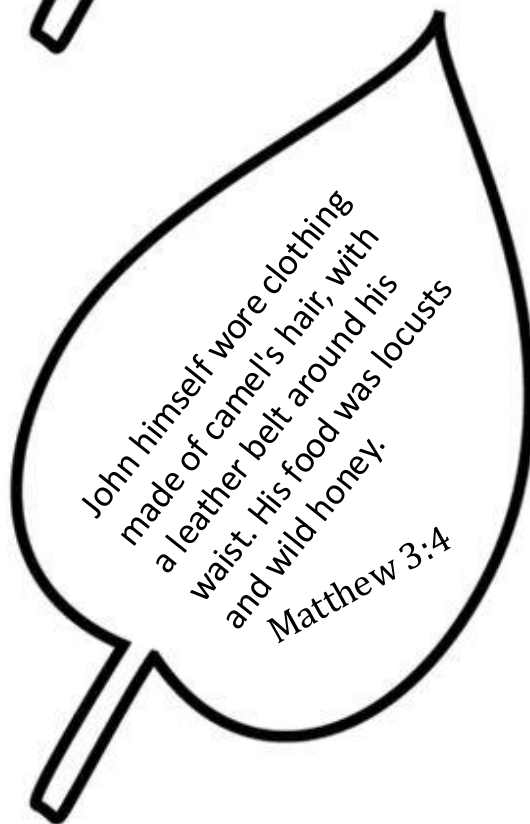
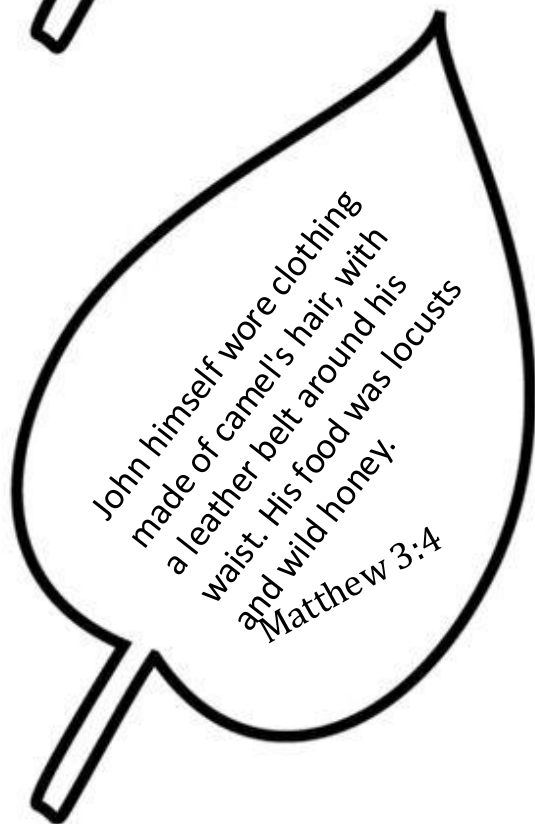
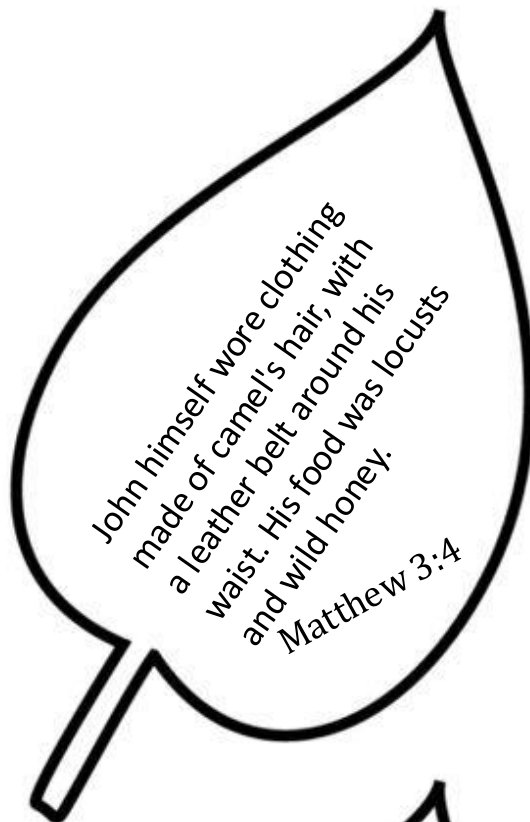
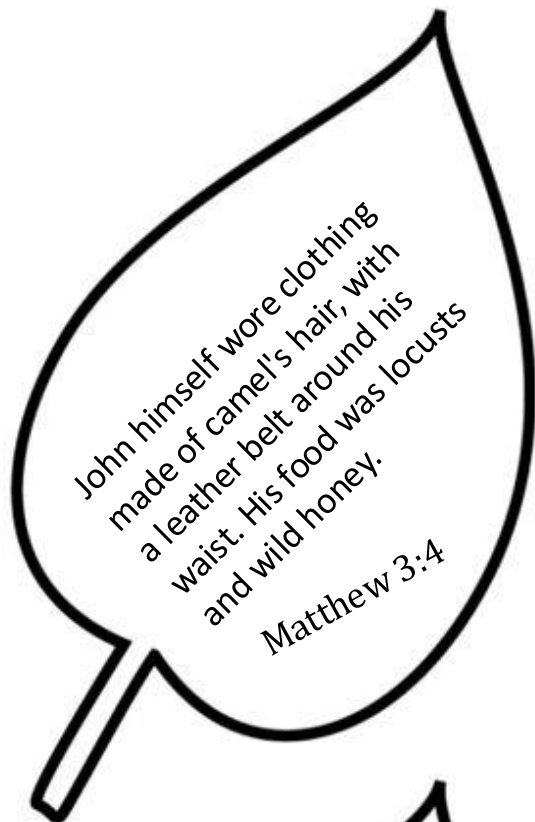
All Jewish people knew a Messiah would come someday to save the people. John the Baptist was a great preacher. Was John the Baptist the Messiah?

No! John the Baptist was just the one who was getting everyone ready to listen to the Messiah.

JESUS was coming.

JESUS was the Messiah who would save His people.

cut outs



colouring in



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JOHN THE BAPTIST



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