

The Rock, Sunday 21st June 2020

From Before Birth- John the Baptist

Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions
and sing our Rock song.

This video has the words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>

This video has the actions: <https://youtu.be/8dbOgbRxC1M>



Getting started

Ask the children to discuss what characteristics they share with family members, or with close friends. They should be able to come up with several things that are common to them and the rest of their family; for instance, physical things like eye colour or allergies, likes and dislikes, emotional traits and so on.

Discuss these questions:

- How similar are people to the rest of their families?
- Do people become like their friends?
- What makes us become like our families – is it what we inherit, or what we learn?
- Why do we become like the people that we spend most time with?
- When we become Christians, does this mean that we become more like Jesus?
- How can we become more like Jesus?

The Point: This activity looks at the fact that we become like the people we spend time with: if we spend more time with Christ we will become more Christ like

Story/ teaching time

Look at 3 parts of the story:

- Luke 1:5-25 (John's birth announced to Zechariah)
- Luke 1:39-45 (John leaps in Elizabeth's womb)
- Luke 1:57-66 (John born and named)

Try to create a short play based on each passage- or pick 1. (If you use a child friendly Bible they can read out the dialogue as written, they don't need to change it unless they want to.)

Discuss all the things that made John's birth special. Ask the children what they think John's job was going to be (they might know!) His job was to get people ready to meet Jesus.

Say that our job is also to get people ready to meet Jesus. We can't make people become Christians – only God can do that – but like John we can tell people about God and that he is near and wants to know them!



The Point: To find out about the circumstances of John the Baptist's birth and to see that even before birth he was turning people's hearts toward God.

Craft ideas

1 Equipment

Paper, pens, colours.

Ask the children to think about all the times they can remember angels appearing in the Bible, and what the angels have told people is going to happen.

Make a collage of pictures showing angelic appearances and the events predicted.

The children can draw or paint pictures, or you can provide doilies or gold and silver paper, wool and tissue paper so that the children can do sticking to make more interesting pictures.



Talk about the events in the collage – what sort of messages do angels bring? What miracles have happened after angels have paid visits?

Explain that John the Baptist had his birth foretold by an angel.

2. Equipment

The attachment below

https://sundayschoolzone.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/the_birth_of_john_the_baptist_word_search-1.pdf

Complete the word search

The Point: A story reminder.

3. Father's day craft



Equipment

Red paint, heavy paper, washing facilities, scissors, glue sticks, coloured paper, marker pens.

You can make a footprint heart by painting your left foot and printing it, then painting your right foot and positioning it so that the heel is directly over the first heel footprint and the toes are pointing more to the right - in a ten to two o'clock position.

Help the children to create footprint hearts. When they are dry (and the children are clean!), cut them out and stick them onto a piece of coloured paper. You can then add an appropriate sentiment: 'Happy Father's Day' or 'I love you from the top of my head to the tips of my toes' or something else. If you have children with absent dads, you could change the focus and write 'Thank you God that you are my heavenly dad'.

Prayer- discuss this verse, how John's birth was special, and use it in a prayer together.

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)

Now to him who is
able to do
immeasurably more
than all we ask or
imagine, according to
his power that is at
work within us,
to him be glory...

Ephesians 3:20,21

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