

The Rock, Sunday 28th June 2020

Words Matter - 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

Using the list below and your own ideas, write each name or person on a separate piece of paper. Ask the children to rank the names/people in terms of who is the most important and who is the least. Suggested names/people:

- The Queen
- The Prime Minister
- The President of America
- A presenter on CBBC
- J.K. Rowling (or another author they will know)
- Simon Cowell
- Scooby Doo
- Headteacher
- The vicar
- A policeman
- A current music artist/pop star
- A bin man
- The postman
- A couple of names of the children's friends
- A well known footballer (Wayne Rooney?)

When they have finished, say that sometimes people's roles or jobs give them special importance but really no human is more important than any other. Bring out a final slip of paper bearing the name 'Jesus'. Ask where he would go in the list. He really would go at the top!

Say that today we're going to think about someone who was quite well known in his time and what was said about him.

The Point: For fun and to open up today's theme.

Story/ teaching time

Watch these two clips and think about what happened to Zechariah and what he said about his son once he had been born- why did his words matter?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vl9v7d2eFTE>

What was the name of the angel that visited Zechariah?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aL0MthsHuLM>

Why couldn't Zechariah speak?

What did they name their baby?

Now read Zechariah's song from Luke chapter 1 together:

Zechariah's Song

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a horn^[c] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—

72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,

73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear

75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Discuss all the things that made John's birth special. What did his father say about him and what his son would do? 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.

The Point: To find out about the circumstances of John the Baptist's birth and how his Dad, Zechariah, praised God for his son.

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Craft ideas

1 Equipment

https://sermons4kids.com/birth_of_john_the_baptist_crossword.htm

Complete the crossword

2. Equipment

Paper and colouring pens/ pencils

Word art. Children draw/ write their name in the middle of a piece of paper and add layers of colour round their names- see the examples.

The Point: A story reminder.

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3.



Equipment

Pebbles or stones, paint or felt tips/
marker pens

Children to paint or draw words on
their pebble- words of praise or things
that matter to them.

Song

Enjoy this praise song together

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Tr5eUBTClw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr5eUBTClw)

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

