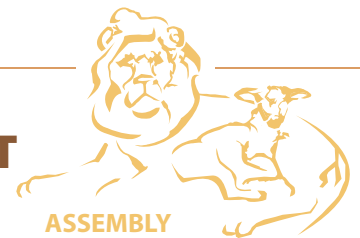


THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 3:1-12



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

CATCH A GRASSHOPPER

Supplies

- grasshopper
- honey
- crackers

If you happen to teach the class in the late summer or early fall you might be able to catch a grasshopper in a field and bring it along in a jar.

Since you are teaching young children, any object of interest to help the story come alive can aid the children in remembering what they were taught.

Give the children a taste of the honey on a cracker. And then ask them, what is the most important thing we should remember about John's life? Of course you are looking for them to say he prepared the way for the Lord.

A GUEST APPEARANCE BY JOHN THE BAPTIST

Have one of the male teachers come prepared with a costume to be John the Baptist. He could memorize a few lines and bring his message to the class. After he leaves you could discuss what was important about his message. (See the comments from "Where is the Gospel?" below.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

John was very clear to indicate that men were sinful, in need of a savior. In the Gospel of Luke we learn that John quoted a larger portion of Isaiah than is indicated in Matthew. In Luke 3:6 the passage quoted from Isaiah reads "and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." John was not merely introducing a great prophet; John was introducing the Lord Himself who would bring salvation to all people.