



Kids of Destiny®  
Reaching the Next Generation

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

### LUKE 3, JOHN 1

Long ago there were two women who were cousins. One woman was named Mary. The other woman was named Elizabeth. You might remember how an angel came to Mary and told her she would have a baby and that the baby would be God's Son. An angel also spoke to Zacharias, who was Elizabeth's husband. The angel told Zacharias that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a baby. Their baby was to be named "John."

John would have a special job from God. He would be the man who would prepare God's people for the arrival of God's Son, Jesus. John would be the one to baptize people who wanted to turn from their sins. He would lower their bodies into the water and bring their bodies up again. This would symbolize turning from their sins and starting a new life. It was like being born again.

John lived in the wilderness. He didn't have a house to live in. He ate locust beans and honey for his food. Many people wanted to listen to him speak and hear him teach them how to live. He taught them to share with others, whether it be their clothing or their food. John also taught the tax collectors to be honest and not take more money than they should when they collected taxes from the people to pay the government. He also taught the soldiers to be happy with what they were paid.

The people asked John if he was the Christ. John told them that he was not the Christ that they were all waiting for. He said, "I baptize people with water showing that they want to stop doing bad things and begin following God. But Jesus, who is the Christ, will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter from God. He will be with you all the time." Many people that day were baptized in the water and turned from their sins. Jesus would be the One who would make a way for their sins to be forgiven.

The next day, Jesus came walking toward John. John was very excited. He said, "Look! Here is the one from God we have been waiting for! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the One I was talking about."

John baptized Jesus. After this, John saw the sky open up. He saw the Holy Spirit—Who looked like a dove—coming down on Jesus. Then, he heard God's voice saying to Jesus, "You are My beloved Son. You bring Me great joy."

The next day, John was walking with two of his friends. They all saw Jesus. John told his friends, "Look! There is the salvation of God." One of his friends was named Andrew. Andrew became a follower of Jesus.

All these things happened in the life of John the Baptist! He did the job God asked him to do.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST - TEACHER'S GUIDE

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) An angel spoke to Mary about having God's Son, Who would be named Jesus. An angel spoke to Zacharias, telling him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son who would be named John.
- 2) John had a special job. He was to prepare people for the time Jesus would come to them.
- 3) John spoke to the people about the way they should live. He told them he would baptize them. This would show they were sorry for what they had done wrong and turn away from their sins.
- 4) The people asked John if he was the Christ. He said he was not. John would baptize them with water, but Jesus, the Christ, would baptize them with the Holy Spirit, so they could be close to God.
- 5) John also baptized Jesus. He saw the Holy Spirit coming down upon Him, looking like a dove. He heard God's voice say, "This is my Beloved Son. You bring Me great joy."

### QUESTIONS:

- 1) What was the name of Zacharias and Elizabeth's son?
- 2) What was John's special job?
- 3) Why did John baptize the people?
- 4) Was John the Christ?
- 5) What happened after John baptized Jesus?

### ANSWERS:

- 1) Zacharias and Elizabeth's son was named John.
- 2) John had the special job of preparing the people for when Jesus would come to them.
- 3) John baptized people so they would turn away from their sins.
- 4) John was not the Christ. Jesus was the Christ.
- 5) After John baptized Jesus, he saw the Holy Spirit come down upon Him, looking like a dove. He also heard God's voice speaking to Jesus, saying, "This is My Beloved Son. You bring Me great joy."

