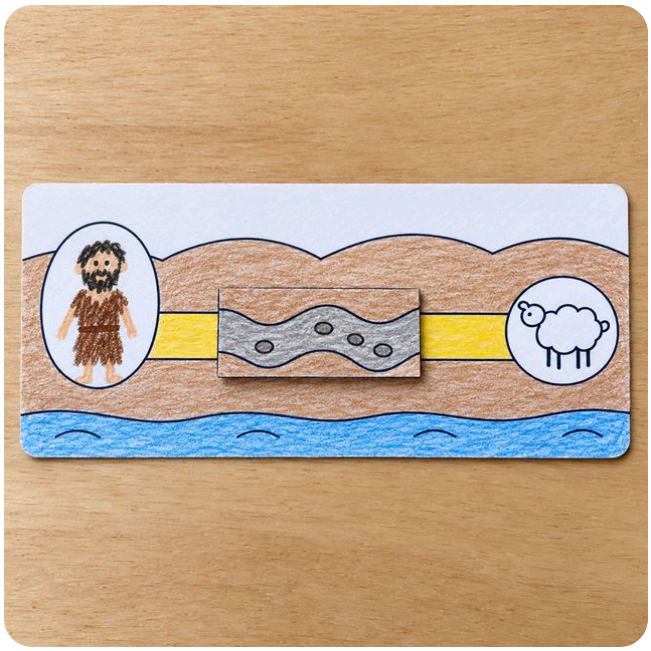
Preschool–Grade 5

John the Baptist Craft

The way of the Lord made straight · Matthew 3:3; Luke 3:5; John 1:29 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



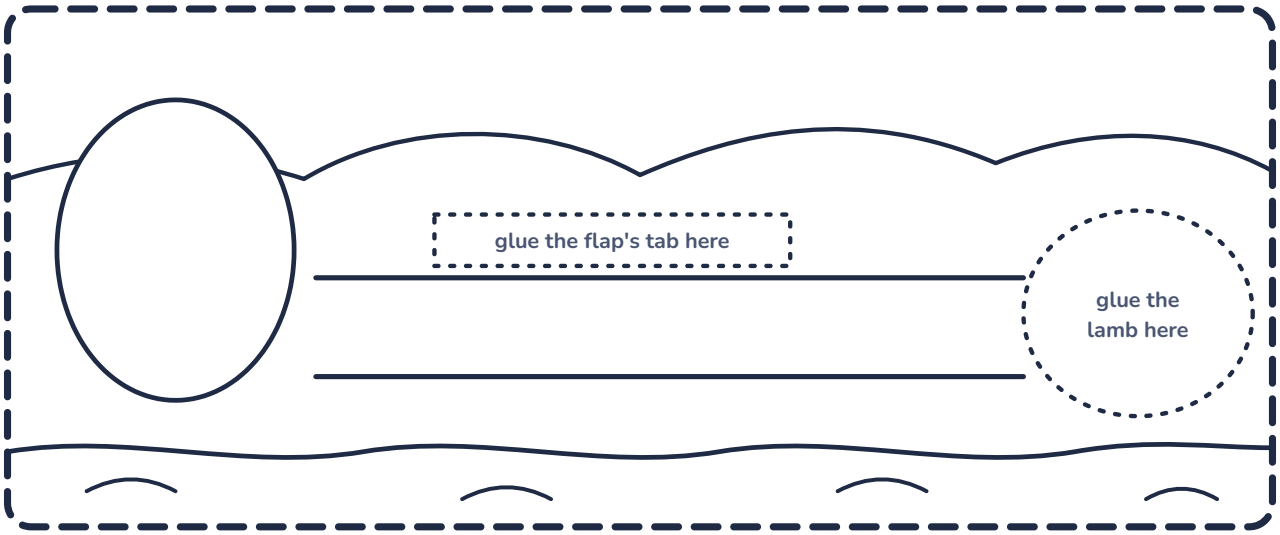
Harder

Both levels are a wilderness card with a yellow road and the Jordan River along the bottom. John the Baptist is drawn in the window at the start of the road, in his clothes of camel's hair (Matthew 3:4). A crooked road flap hangs over the middle of the road and lifts to show the way made straight (Matthew 3:3), and the road leads to a white lamb: "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). Medium (left): the card, the flap and the lamb. Harder (right): the same, with a brown hill standing across the road that folds down flat, because "every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5).

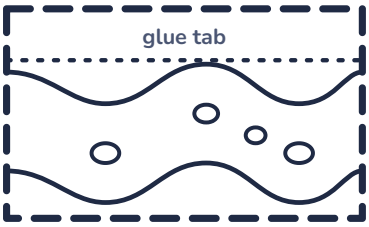
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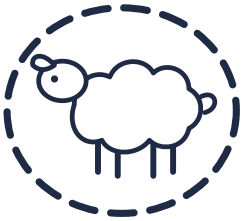
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: ground light brown, road yellow, Jordan River blue. Draw John in the window.



crooked road flap: light brown, road gray



lamb: leave it white

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith,
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
John 1:29 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the crooked road flap, the lamb and the verse strip.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Hill (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the dotted line.

glue tab
(fold back)



hill: color it brown

How to add the hill

1. Make the card with the flap and the lamb from page 2 first.
2. Color the hill brown. Cut it out on the dashed lines.
3. Fold the glue tab back on the dotted line, so the hill can stand up.
4. Put glue under the tab only. Glue the tab across the road between the crooked road flap and the lamb, so the hill stands up and blocks the road.
5. Tell it: Isaiah wrote, "every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5). Push the hill down flat. Then lift the crooked road flap: "the crooked shall be made straight." Now the way is ready, and the road leads to the Lamb of God (John 1:29).

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/john-the-baptist-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light brown, yellow, blue and gray crayons or markers, crayons for drawing John, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a brown crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the flap, the lamb and the verse strip ahead of time, and glue each flap's tab on the dotted box.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the flap on. Kids color the pieces and draw John in the window. Help them glue the lamb at the end of the road and the verse strip on the back. Then they lift the crooked road to find the straight way to the lamb.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw John, cut out the pieces and glue on the flap and the lamb themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level. Then add the hill from page 3, which stands up across the road and folds down flat (Luke 3:5). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the ground light brown, the road yellow and the Jordan River blue. Leave the sky and the oval window white. Color the crooked road flap light brown and the crooked road on it gray. Leave the lamb white.
2. **Draw:** in the window, draw John the Baptist in his clothes of camel's hair with a leather belt (Matthew 3:4).
3. **Cut:** cut out the card, the crooked road flap, the lamb and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Flap:** fold the flap on its dotted line. Put glue on the back of the glue tab only, and press the tab on the dotted box above the road, so the flap hangs down over the middle of the road and lifts up.
5. **Lamb:** glue the lamb on the dotted oval at the end of the road.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** with the flap down, the road is crooked. John said, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3). Lift the flap: the road is straight, and it leads to the lamb. Point to the lamb: "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to John's window. What did John wear? *(Raiment of camel's hair and a leather belt, Matthew 3:4)* What did he eat? *(Locusts and wild honey, 3:4)*
- Where did John preach? *(In the wilderness of Judaea, 3:1)* Where did he baptize people? *(In Jordan, 3:6)*
- What did John tell the people to do? *("Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," 3:2)*
- Lift the flap. What did John say to get ready for the Lord? *("Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight," 3:3)*
- When the people asked, "What shall we do then?", what did John say about coats? *(Whoever has two should give one to someone who has none, Luke 3:10–11)*
- Point to the lamb. What did John say when he saw Jesus coming? *("Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John 1:29)*
- What did John's two disciples do when they heard him? *(They followed Jesus, John 1:37)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: raiment** means clothes; a **leathern girdle** is a leather belt; **locusts** are a kind of grasshopper; to **repent** is to be sorry for sin and turn away from it; **at hand** means very near; **prepare** means get ready; **brought low** means made level; **seeth** means sees; **saith** means says; **behold** means look; **taketh away** means takes away.
- **What the Bible says:** "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3) and "the crooked shall be made straight" (Luke 3:5) are the prophet Isaiah's words that John preached. The road, the hill and the colors are the craft's simple picture of them; the Bible doesn't describe a real road here. Getting the way ready meant turning from sin (Matthew 3:2; Luke 3:10–14).
- **The lamb is a picture, not a drawing of Jesus:** John called Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29), so the lamb stands for that verse. No person is drawn on the template. Each child draws John in the window.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, glue the flaps on ahead of time, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child lift the flap and point to the lamb.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free John the Baptist lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/john-the-baptist.

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