Preschool–Grade 6

John the Baptist

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: John told people, "Look! There is Jesus!" I can tell people about Jesus too.
Bible passage: John 1:29–37. Read Matthew 3:1–11 and John 1:19–37 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" *John 1:29 (KJV)*. The old word **behold** means look.
You need: a Bible, a big paper arrow, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: cut a big arrow out of paper. Put a bookmark in your Bible at John 1.

1. Opening game: Point to It (5 minutes)

Say: "Let's point!" Call out: "Point to the door!" "Point to the window!" "Point up high!" "Point to your shoes!" "Point to a friend!" Everyone points as fast as they can. Then hold up the paper arrow and say: "An arrow points too. It shows us where to go." Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man who pointed people to Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 1. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God sent a man named John (John 1:6). *(Wave hello.)*

John lived out in the wilderness, where it was dry (Matthew 3:1). *(Wipe your forehead.)*

His clothes were made of camel's hair (3:4). *(Rub your sleeves.)*

He ate locusts, like grasshoppers, and wild honey (3:4). *(Pretend to eat. Yum!)*

John told the people to get ready for the Lord (3:3). *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)*

Say it with me: "Get ready!"

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The story continues:
One day John saw Jesus coming (John 1:29). *(Shade your eyes and look.)*
John said, "Behold the Lamb of God" (1:29)! *(Point.)*
Behold means look! Jesus takes away sin (1:29). *(Sweep your hands away.)*
Say it with me: "Look! There is Jesus!"
Two men heard John, and they followed Jesus (1:37). *(Walk in place.)*
Say it with me: "I can tell people about Jesus!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did John eat? *(Locusts and wild honey, Matthew 3:4)*
2. Who did John point to? *(Jesus, John 1:29)*
3. What did the two men do? *(They followed Jesus, 1:37)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "John said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' Behold means look." Teach the motions: point out for "Behold," make little lamb ears with your hands on your head for "the Lamb of God," sweep your hands away for "which taketh away the sin," and make a big circle with your arms for "of the world." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy voice. Then say "John 1:29" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: John and the Lamb (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw John in brown clothes, pointing, and a white lamb. While they color, ask: "Who did John point to? Who can you tell about Jesus this week?" Kids who finish early can play Point to It again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Jesus.
Help me tell my friends about Jesus.
In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, play Point to It again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks if John ate bugs: say, Yes! The Bible says he ate locusts, a kind of grasshopper, and wild honey (Matthew 3:4).

If a child asks why Jesus is called a lamb: say, Long ago, people brought a lamb to God when they did wrong. Jesus came to take away our sin (Leviticus 4:32; John 1:29).

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