

# Life of Christ

## John Came to Tell About Jesus

John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Younger Verse

John came to tell about the light. John 1:8

### Older Verse

John wasn't that light. He came only to tell about the light. John 1:8

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

The last couple of weeks we have talked about Jesus being with God from the very beginning and coming from heaven to be born in a manger. We know this because God had a man named John write it down for us. It is the book he wrote, JOHN, that we are studying from the Bible. John, the writer, told us about another John, a man called John the Baptist. We know from doctor Luke, also a writer, that John and Jesus were cousins.\* John was born six months before Jesus.

The Bible tells us that God sent John. Well, we learned last week how God sent Jesus from heaven. But how could God send John. The Bible tells us (Luke 1) that God answered a prayer and gave John to two parents who were very old and had never been able to have children.

The Bible even tells us why God sent John. John 1:7 tells us that John came for a witness, to testify of the light, that all might believe through him. There are some big words in that verse, so let's look at them a little more closely. Who knows what a "witness" is? Have you ever seen people in court, talking to a judge? Well, a witness is simply someone who has seen something or who knows something and who is asked to share that information with others. But, there is another big word, "testify." To testify means that a witness tells what he knows or shares with others what he has seen and heard. This verse also says something about "the light." Does anyone remember from our first two lessons in John, what or who the light is? It's Jesus, the true Light, that comes to the world to let us know about God. So let's look at John 1:7 again. John came for a witness. John knew something that others needed to know. He came to testify of the light. That means that John came to tell the truth. He came to tell others that Jesus was the Light of the World, sent from God.

\*See Luke 1:36: Elizabeth is said to be Mary's cousin in the King James Version, making John and Jesus second cousins. The NIV as well as NASB list Elizabeth and Mary only as relatives.

### Lesson Goals

To understand that God sent John.

To understand that John's job was to tell everyone about Jesus.

Many people asked John if he were the One who would save them. Even leaders from the church came to John to ask if he were the One God was sending to them. You see, the people of God had been waiting for God to send His Special One, His Son. They had been waiting a long time and God was ready to let the whole world know that He had sent His Son, His one and only Son. John knew this and told them that he was not the One, but had been sent to tell the people about Jesus, God's Son, to get them ready to accept Him.

And if we look back at John 1:7, we see that it says John came as a witness, to testify about the Light *so that* everyone could believe through him. What an amazing opportunity. Other people would believe because John was sent to get them ready to accept Jesus. What would they believe? That Jesus is God's Son, the One they had been waiting for. Who does it say John would come to tell? The Bible tells us that John came so ALL could believe. That means each one of you, and it means me, too. It also means that God wants your moms and dads to believe, as well as your friends. It even includes your school crossing guards and your teachers, your next door neighbor and that friend you play with only when you go to visit your grandparents. When God says He wants ALL to believe, He means everybody. No one gets left out!

So, now you know that Jesus has been with God from the beginning. And you know that Jesus came from heaven to be born as a baby and to grow up, giving us an example of how we should live and please God. And you know that God wants everyone to believe that He sent His one and only Son and to choose to follow Jesus' example. Have you ever done that? Would you like to today? Let's talk . . .

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

Provide strips of colored paper to your students. Help them write their verses on the strips. Leave space for the following: Illustrate the verse drawing a stick figure to represent "John" and a light bulb or sun to illustrate the word "light." Review the verse often, checking progress by asking for volunteers to say their verse.

**Prayer Time**

Pray, thanking God for sending John and asking Him to give each of you a chance to share with others that God sent His only Son.

**Clean Up and  
Snack Time**

As you distribute snack to each of your students today, remind them that God wants each of them to believe and accept His Son, Jesus. As you prompt your students to clean up, and as they leave, urge them to share Jesus with someone they know this week.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 4  
John Baptizes Jesus  
John 1:29-34

# Preschool Lesson

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## Jesus has a Cousin

So far in the book of John, we have talked about Jesus and how He created things in the beginning with God. And last week we talked about Jesus being born!

When Jesus was born, He had no other brothers or sisters. He was born first, but He did have a cousin. Jesus' cousin was named John. (Explain that this is not the same John who wrote the book we are studying.) They were almost the same age - only six months difference and John was the oldest. How many of you have cousins? How many do you have?

The Bible tells us that John was sent to tell everyone about his cousin Jesus. What could John tell others about his cousin? Is there anything especially different about your cousins or are they mostly like you? Well Jesus was different from John. Jesus was in the beginning with God. He came to show us what God is like. John had an amazing job! His job was to obey God and tell all people that God had sent His one and only son, Jesus.

Do you know what? Even though we aren't Jesus' cousins, the way John was, we can tell people about Jesus, too. Jesus is God's Son. In the beginning, Jesus created the world with God.

Pray: Thank you God for sending Jesus. And thank you for sending John to tell everyone about Jesus.

# Activities

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- .Set up your classroom as a courtroom. Choose someone to be a judge as well as someone to be John. Have the judge ask if John will tell “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” The judge then asks John the following questions.
  - Do you know Jesus?
  - Are you related to Him?
  - Who sent you here?
  - Why did you come?, etc.
- Provide a word search or crossword puzzle, possibly within the shape of a light bulb or the sun.
- Remembering that John came to tell everyone about Jesus, give your students an opportunity to draw or write how they will tell someone they know about Jesus. They may also write or illustrate what they will say.