

The Nature of God

Main Events of Jesus Life

Jesus is Baptized

Before Jesus became well known, another man had everyone's attention. His name was John; we call him John the Baptist. There were no church denominations back then, so we do not call him by that name because he went to a Baptist church. We call him that because he **baptized so many people**. A better name for him would be John the Baptizer.

John was Jesus' **cousin**, and God sent him to prepare the way for His Son. John was an unusual man with a strong message that he was not afraid to tell anyone who came near. He spent his time in the wilderness, in the desert of Judea. He wore **rough camel hair clothing**. He did not care about having nice, comfortable clothes to wear. He did not care about having fancy meals to eat either. He ate mostly **locusts and wild honey**. Locusts were insects like big grasshoppers, often eaten by poor people. John found the wild honey in hollow trees.



Crowds of people came from nearby villages and cities to see John because they were **curious** about him. Was he a wild man? When they heard him preach, they realized he was not a wild man, but a **prophet** of God. His message was, "Repent of your sins now, for the Messiah, God's Son is coming soon."

Many people listened to him and did what he said. When they confessed their sins and believed, John baptized them in the **Jordan River**. Some people thought maybe John was the Messiah, but he assured them he was not. He told them that the one who was coming was so much **better than him**, he was not fit to even fasten His sandals!

Sometimes John's truthfulness made people uncomfortable or angry. When Jewish religious leaders came to hear him preach, he called them **poisonous snakes** and warned them that they needed to repent of their sins like everyone else. You can imagine how unpopular this made him with the religious leaders!

One day as John was preaching, Jesus came to be baptized by him. "Oh no," said John, "I can't baptize you. I need for You to baptize me!" John knew that Jesus had never sinned, so He did not need to repent and be baptized. But Jesus insisted, and John agreed to do what He asked.

"They walked into the river, and John baptized the Son of God like he had baptized many other people before Him. But this time, something very special happened! When the baptism was over, heaven opened, and John saw a **dove flying** down. It was the **Holy Spirit** in the form of a dove. The dove perched on Jesus and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I love. I am well pleased with Him." God had given His approval of Jesus, His Son.

Jesus was not baptized because He needed to be. He was baptized to begin His public ministry. And even though He had never sinned, Jesus wanted to set an example for people to be baptized.

Date: _____

1a. Was John the Baptist a name of a church? Write yes or no. [1] _____

1b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [2]

2. How was John and Jesus related? [1]

3. What are TWO things that John eats? [2]

4. Give ONE reason why crowds of people came to see John. [1]

5. Quote the sentence in paragraph THREE that John often said to the people. [2]

6. Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put the events in order as they happened in the passage. [4]

___ John call the religious rulers poisonous snakes.

___ John baptized people in the river

___ John baptized Jesus in the river.

___ John told them the one who is coming is better than him.

7. What kind of clothes did John wear? [2]

8. What do you think John meant when he said that he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals? [2]
