



Rotation Model Sunday School Lesson Plans

“John the Baptist”

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Learning Center Overview:

Holy Word Cinema: This video workshop includes a discussion of the Nest video, “John the Baptist”

Cooking: The students will learn that baptized people of God are deeply loved by God the Father. The students will make a dove cut-out sugar cookie with “a stained glass heart cut-out” of clear red candy in the center.

Science and Computers: Experience the baptism of Jesus with iLumina Bible software and the Holy Spirit with a dry ice demonstration.

Bible Games: Students will review the story of John the Baptist by playing a Jeopardy Game.

Holy Word Cinema | John the Baptist

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

1. Watch the Nest DVD “John the Baptist”
 2. Use the Adventure Quiz in the Special Features section to have kids answer questions about the movie/Bible Story. Even if kids know the answer, refer to the Scripture option, to have kids pull the right answer from the Scripture verses projected for that question.
 3. Share this month’s memory verse.
 4. Close with prayer.
-

Cooking | John the Baptist

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Summary of Lesson Activities:

The focus will be on God’s message at the time of Jesus’ baptism, proclaiming that Jesus was His own Son, and God loved Him. The students will also learn that Jesus is God’s gift of love to all people. We, the baptized people of God are deeply loved by God the Father. The students will make a dove cut-out sugar cookie with “a stained glass heart” of clear red candy in the center.



Supplies List:

Napkins,
cookie sheets,
parchment paper or aluminum foil,
hot pad holders,
oven,
cooling racks,
tubes of purchased sugar cookie dough (or use recipe attached),
cookie cutters, mallets,
hard red candies,

a knife to slice the rolls of dough (or a small bowl of sugar and a glass if using a homemade recipe.)

A picture of Jesus' Baptism,
a candle and matches,
Children's Bibles,
student journals,
colored pencils or markers.

Teacher Preparation:

Read and become familiar with the accounts of Jesus' baptism in the four gospels.

Purchase prepared sugar cookie dough in a tube for slicing; or prepare sugar cookie dough that the students can roll into balls and flatten with a glass dipped in sugar.

Set out red candy, mallets, cookie dough, and cookie cutters on a clean working surface (such as white butcher paper or waxed paper).

Review the attached "Heart in Hand" cookie recipe. Following the directions carefully is essential.

Make sure that an assistant is available to help bake the cookies!

Presentation

Opening-Welcome and Lesson Introduction:

Welcome the students warmly. Invite them to thoroughly wash their hands in the kitchen with soap and warm water.

Say: Good morning everyone! We're starting off the New Year by learning about the wonderful things that took place on the day of Jesus' own Baptism. But first we're going to make sugar cookies. The heart-shaped "stained glass" center is to remind us of God's love for His Son Jesus and for us too! Let's get started:

Dig-Main Content and Reflection:

Baking Time:

Slice sugar cookie slices off for each student. (Or pass out a ball of dough to each student—demonstrate how to roll it into a smooth ball; then flatten it with a glass dipped in sugar.)

Place each cookie on a foil or parchment paper lined cookie sheet.

Label each student's cookie.

Demonstrate how to coarsely crush the red candies with a mallet; assist students as needed.

Use a miniature cookie cutter to cut a heart shape in the center of each cookie.

Fill the cut out area just up to top of cookie with crushed red candy.

Bake at 375 degrees for 7-9 minutes, until cookies just barely begin to brown.

Allow the cookies to cool completely before removing them from the foil.

Bible Story: The Baptism of Jesus:

Read aloud the story of Jesus' Baptism from a Children's Bible or a Children's Bible story book. Mark 1:1-11 is a good account for young children.

Say: Jesus' baptism is written about in all four of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The story starts out with the work of Jesus' cousin, whom we call John the Baptist, or John the Baptizer. John's job was to tell people that someone great, Jesus the Christ, God's Son, was coming. Let's read the story. (1-2 minutes)

Show: a picture or illustration of Jesus' Baptism.

Ask: Did you hear what God spoke from the clouds high above when Jesus was baptized? It's the memory verse for this month. Let's all say it together. (Practice several times.)

"Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Journal Time – Apply the Lesson:

Say: This story did not end with Jesus' Baptism. At the end of Jesus' life on earth He said to His followers "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all. Whoever believes and is baptized is saved." Mark 16:15-16a The Message.

Say: The followers of Jesus did just what Jesus told them to do. Two thousand years later, people still believe God's message of love and are baptized. You and I are the baptized people of God! When we were baptized God's love was everywhere, all around us, and His love is still with us today.

Read: Water Come Down! The Day You Were Baptized by Walter Wangerin, Jr. - (4-5 minutes) or substitute another children's story about baptism.

Pass out paper and markers or colored pencils. Invite the students to draw a picture of Jesus' baptism, their own baptism, or the baptism of someone they know.

Snack Time:

Carefully remove the cooled cookies from the lined cookie sheets.
Distribute napkins and cookies to the students.

Table Prayer: Dear God, thank you for speaking from the clouds at Jesus' baptism, telling us that Jesus is your Son; telling us that you love Him very much. Thank you for making us your sons and daughters too, because of the great gift of your Son Jesus. While we enjoy this morning snack together we ask together

"Come Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen!"

Clean-up and Dismiss.

Resources:

Water Come Down! The Day You Were Baptized by Walter Wangerin, Jr. ISBN 0-8066-3711-0

The cookie recipe idea was adapted from Spatulatta.com: Heart-in-Hand Cookies
[web.archive.org/web/20070626193306/http://www.spatulatta.com/week21_valentines_day/heart_in_hand.html](http://www.spatulatta.com/week21_valentines_day/heart_in_hand.html)

Cookie Recipe

Ingredients

1 1/2 sticks of butter - softened

1 cup of sugar

2 eggs

1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

2 1/2 cups of flour and a little extra

1 teaspoon of baking powder

1 teaspoon of salt

12-15 clear, red hard candies - we used red Lifesavers® out of a variety bag because they come in individual little bags that kept the candy from flying when we hit it with the mallet.

Equipment:

Measuring cups and spoons

A butter knife

A mixer

A rubber spatula

A flexible metal spatula - the kind you turn pancakes with

A Dove cookie cutter set (You can also use a large Dove-shaped cookie cutter and a smaller heart-shaped cookie cutter that will fit inside it)

A rolling pin

A kitchen mallet

2-3 cookie sheets

Plastic wrap

Aluminum foil

A little help from an adult or older sibling

Directions:

Put the butter and sugar in a bowl and "cream" them together. Creaming butter and sugar means to beat them together until they are light lemon-colored and very smooth.

Next add the eggs and vanilla then beat again.

Now add the 2 1/2 cups of flour, the baking powder and the salt. Mix it all together. As you mix, the cookie dough will start to get stiff. Make sure you scrape all the flour from the sides of the bowl and mix it in well.

Using your hands, form one or two balls of cookie dough.

Wrap the cookie dough balls in plastic wrap and put them into the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.

When the cookie dough has chilled, take it out of the refrigerator.

Turn the oven to 375 degrees.

Prepare a cookie sheet by placing a sheet of aluminum foil on it. This will keep the candy from sticking to the sheet.

Sprinkle a little flour on your rolling pin and on the counter or on a large glass cutting board.

Using a cutting board will make clean-up easier.

Roll the cookie dough out until it is 1/8 of an inch thick.

Dip your cookie cutters into flour and gently shake most of it off.

Place the hand cookie cutter on the dough and press down firmly. If you are using a large cookie cutter make sure that all the sides are pressed down evenly.

Gently lift the cookie cutter and transfer the cookie to the cookie sheet. If the cookie gets stuck on the counter, use the flexible metal spatula to get the cookie up. Slide the tip of the spatula under the cookie dough and gently work your way under the cookie.

When the hand-shaped cookie is safely on the sheet, place the heart-shaped cookie cutter in the middle, where the palm of the hand would be. Cut out the heart shape.

Use the kitchen mallet to crush the hard candy. Don't crush it too much, you want it to stay in chunks.

Place the red candy chunks in the heart-shaped cut-out in the cookie. Fill the hole until the candy is level with the dough surrounding it.

Bake at 375 degrees for 7-9 minutes or until the cookies are slightly brown.

Take them out of the oven and cool them on the cookie sheet. Be patient! The cookies and their candy centers must be completely cool before you try to lift them off the foil or else the heart will be left behind.

When the cookies are cool, lift them gently off the foil or peel the foil away from the candy heart. You will see the light shine through the ruby red heart in the middle of the cookie.



Science and Computers | John the Baptist

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Summary of Lesson Activities:

The children will use iLumina Bible software to visualize the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus when he was baptized, and also that John said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. They will see a dry ice demonstration as a way of thinking about being baptized by the Holy Spirit and review this month’s memory verse with the Cal & Marty Scripture Memory Game.

Scripture References:

Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-18 (John’s sermons about repentance), John 1:6-8,15,19-28 (John talks about Jesus), 29-36 (John recognizes Jesus when the Holy Spirit descends on him and makes him known), 3:22-30 (John says that Jesus is greater than him), 3:22,4:1-2 (Jesus’s disciples baptized people), Acts 2:1-4 (Pentecost)

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Objectives for this Workshop: The children will learn:

About Jesus: that God sent the Holy Spirit down onto him when he was baptized. The Holy Spirit led him to do what God wanted.

About us: that Jesus baptizes his followers with the Holy Spirit, as John foretold.

That we should: ask Jesus to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and help us “hear” what the Holy Spirit wants us to do (not hearing with our ears, but with our spirit, our conscience, our love)

To Share: do what the Holy Spirit “tells” us to do.

Materials List:

Dry Ice demonstration:

wide-mouth plastic picnic thermos or water bottle with a spout that lifts up. OR Plastic bottle with a tight-fitting lid (e.g. 1 or 2L milk jug)

Water

Gloves to handle dry ice

Dry ice (in small pieces)

Scoop and funnel to get it into the bottle

Small thermos or cooler to keep dry ice in during class.

Computer software: iLumina Bible and Cal & Marty's Scripture Memory Game

Bibles

Leader Preparation:

Read the story and story background.

Write memory verse on the blackboard/whiteboard

Familiarize yourself with the iLumina Bible software and Cal & Marty Scripture Memory Game software

Dry Ice Demonstration:

Buy dry ice, preferably in small pellets. Store in freezer. Don't buy it too far in advance, because it will melt slowly even in a regular freezer. Leave it in the freezer until you need it.

If using milk jug, cut a hole near the top of the plastic bottle or in the lid.

Take water jugs to classroom with enough water for both activities.

Presentation

Opening- Welcome and Introduction:

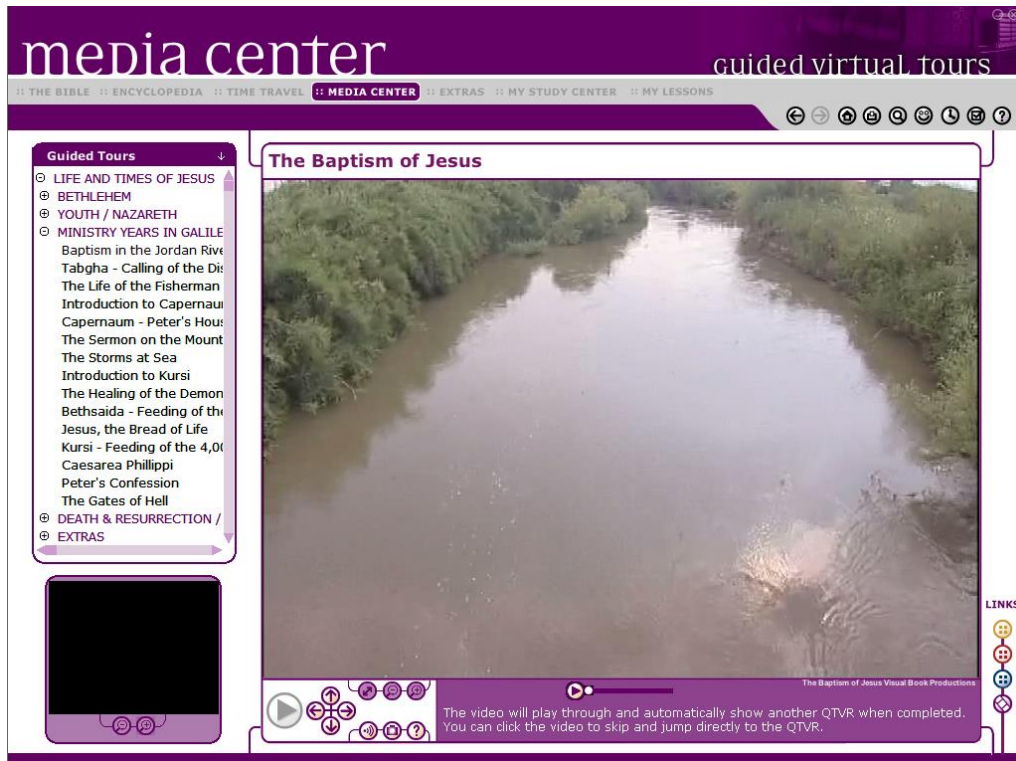
Welcome the children and introduce yourself. Have them introduce themselves if there are new ones or any you don't know. Take attendance.

Story: Open your Bible to Matthew 3.

Show "The Baptism of Jesus" video under Media Center | Animations | New Testament in iLumina Bible



Then show "The Baptism of Jesus" Media Center | Guided Tours | Ministry Years in Galilee | Baptism in the Jordan River. Click the play icon at bottom to start guided tour video. Watch first 3 minutes 42 seconds.



Make sure they know what happened when Jesus came up out of the water, and who the Voice and Dove are. (Matthew 3:16,17)

Tell them that the Trinity is one God in three parts: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit, and this is one place in the Bible where we see all three of them together.

Then tell them that this week we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit.

Discussion:

What is a spirit? (like a ghost, invisible, someone who lives but you can't see him/her, what is inside our heads—the part that thinks and feels emotions, the part of us that lives even when our bodies die)

What is God's spirit like? (God, Jesus, because they are all part of God, like a wind, like a fire)

Tell the children to listen to **Matthew 3:11** to find out what John said about Jesus. (he will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire.) Wow! Let's read about when Jesus did that.

Read Acts 2:1-4. Did you hear what the Holy Spirit was like? (wind, tongues of fire)

Jesus baptizes all of his followers with the Holy Spirit, but he doesn't usually do it in such an exciting way. Usually the baptism takes place quietly in our hearts.

Dig-Main Content and Reflection:

Dry Ice Demonstration:

Get the dry ice from the freezer and take out the bottle/thermos. Tell the children you are going to show them what being baptized with the Holy Spirit might look like if we could see the Holy Spirit.

Show them the dry ice and warn them not to touch it because it will burn them with cold (feels a lot like being burned with fire).

Put on the gloves and put the dry ice into the bottle. Add water. Put the lid on tightly and watch the steam pour out of the hole. We can imagine that this steam is the Holy Spirit.

"Pour" the steam onto the children, one by one. If they are nervous, pour it on yourself or a helper first. Reassure them that it doesn't hurt and the steam won't burn them. (It is carbon dioxide from the dry ice, which is frozen carbon dioxide, along with water vapour. There is carbon dioxide in the air and in our bodies all the time.)

Point out how the steam engulfs them and then disappears. This is like when we get baptized in water, because the water dries off. We remember that we were baptized, but we don't stay wet. We trust God to be with us even after we are dry.

It's the same if we have a feeling that God is very close to us. The feeling doesn't stay with us forever, but we remember it. Then we have to trust God that he is still near, because he says he will never leave us.

Tell the children that they are now going to do an activity to help us learn more about the Holy Spirit.

If you've ever played with dry ice before, then you know it is something each kid will want to try and will find visually memorable.

Dry ice can feel like it's burning (really cold), use gloves to handle.

Dry ice 'smoke' is the CO₂ gas being released from the ice. Like a soda bottle, the more you constrict the opening of the container you put the ice and water in, the more fervently the gas will pour out.

How to create a simple small dry ice 'machine' that's safe for this demonstration:

Practice at home!

Cut a 1/4" hole in the top of a 1 quart plastic container with a tight locking lid.

Fill it almost full of warm water, -leaving room for one cup of dry ice.

Drop the ice in the water and secure the plastic lid.

As dry ice vapor pours out of the hole, hold the container over a student's head. (Don't worry, the vapor is harmless and if anything splashes it is just cold water).

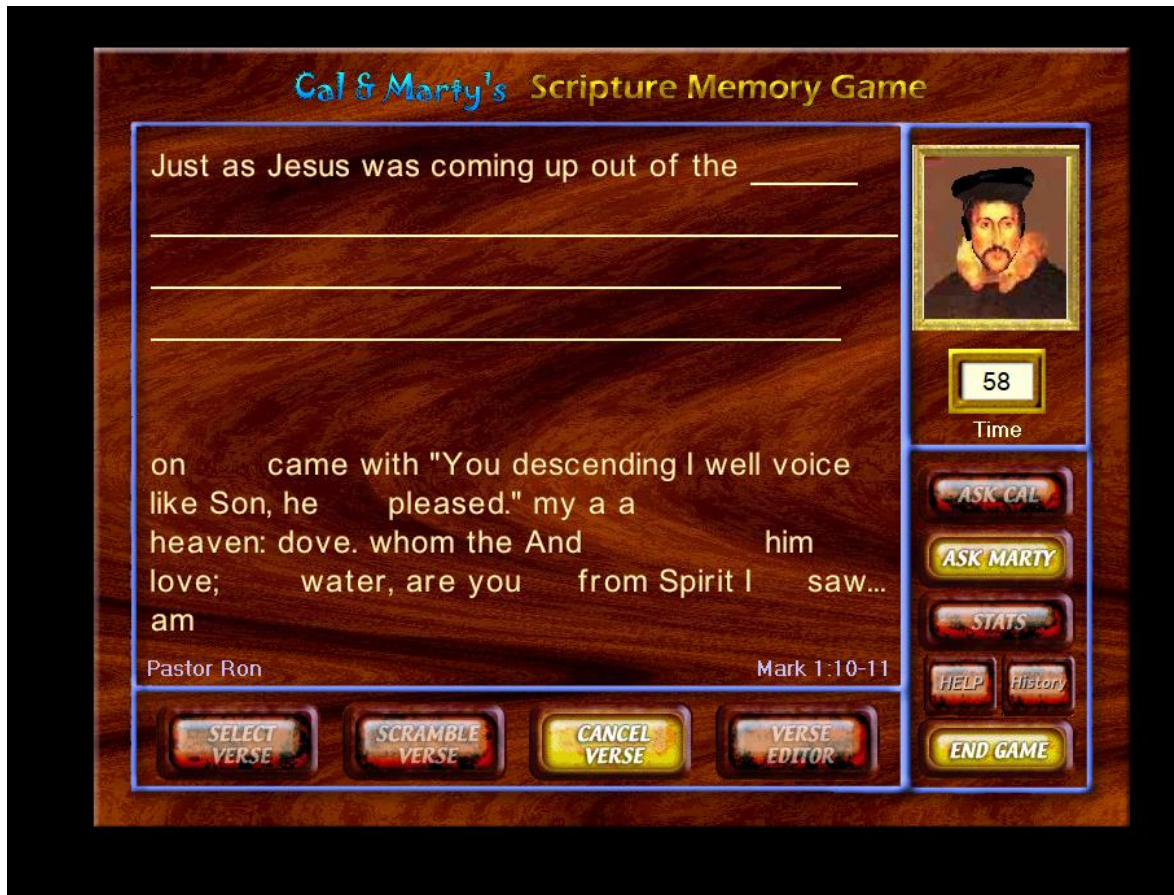
Be sure to buy plenty of dry ice and keep it in the freezer until ready.

Alternately, if you have a long thin tube from the hardware, you can fix one end of the tube tightly into the top of the plastic lid and hold the open end of the tube over the kid's head. Like a water hose, the narrower the tube, the more the CO₂ vapor will 'jet' out of the tube.

Cal & Marty Scripture Memory Game

Open Cal & Marty and select "John the Baptist" verse (Mark 1:1-10-11) Let kids read over memory verse a couple of times, then pass mouse around to unscramble the set.

"John the Baptist" verse will already be preloaded in Cal & Marty for you.



Closing:

Thank God for sending us first Jesus, and also the Holy Spirit. Ask him to help us hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and do what he says.

Have the children help you clean up.

The dry ice idea was adapted from Neil MacQueen's post in <https://www.rotation.org/topic...2#332028387125123602>

Bible Games | John the Baptist

Memory Verse: “Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw... the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Summary of Lesson Activities:

A Jesus jeopardy game.

Materials List:

DVD – “John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus”

TV/DVD Player

Jeopardy Game Board set up with game pieces

Flip chart and marker to record scores

Bibles

Leader Preparation:

Read the scripture ahead of time.

Gather the materials.

Presentation

Opening-Welcome and Lesson Introduction:

Begin class by taking attendance and introducing yourselves.

Begin with this prayer or one of your own:

Dear God, We thank you for the wonderful story of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus. Help us to be witnesses of your mercy and grace. Amen.

Dig-Main Content and Reflection:

Watch the short video “John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus” so kids have basic understanding of the story.

Watch a YouTube version of the video: [John the Baptist BAPTIZES JESUS - YouTube](#)



Lesson:

SAY: We've been studying the story of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus. Today we are going to play the John the Baptist Jeopardy Game. In a minute I am going to divide you into two teams. Each team will take turns choosing and answering questions. You will take turns answering for your team, but the team must come up with an answer together. For each correct answer your team will get the points for that question. If you answer incorrectly, points will not be taken away, but the other team will have an opportunity to answer. Teams will take turns whether you answer correctly or not. (Instead of keeping going as long as you answer correctly.)

Divide the class into two groups, being sure each team includes kids from all 3 age groups. Have teams sit together. The team on your right begins.

SAY: The categories are:

1. What?
2. Where?
3. Who Said It?
4. Who?
5. True or False? (double points if you can state a false statement correctly)

Now let's begin John the Baptist Jeopardy!

[The answers for each question are in () below.] Keep score on the chart.

John the Baptist and The Baptism of Jesus Jeopardy Game

Who?

Who? 100 Who was Zacharias? (The father of John the Baptist)

Who? 200 Who was Elisabeth? (The mother of John the Baptist, or cousin of Mary the mother of Jesus)

Who? 300 Who was Gabriel? (The angel who announced to Zacharias that he and Elisabeth would have a son.)

Who? 400 Who was Herodius? (King Herod's wife)

Who? 500 Who spied on John the Baptist? (Pharisees)

What?

What 100 What did Zacharias and Elisabeth long for? (A child)

What 200 What happened to Zacharias when he did not believe the angel? (Couldn't speak)

What 300 What did the Holy Spirit come down as at the baptism of Jesus? (a dove)

What 400 What did Jesus want John to do for him? (Baptize him)

What 500 What did Gabriel tell Zacharias to name his son? (John)

Where?

Where? 100 Where did Zacharias see the angel? (The temple.)

Where? 200 Where did John the Baptist baptize Jesus? (Jordan River)

Where? 300 Where did John the Baptist live? (In the wilderness)

Where? 400 Where did Zacharias go to burn incense? (The temple)

Where? 500 Where did a voice come from after Jesus was baptized? (heaven)

Who said it?

Who said it? 100 "Behold, the Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world." (John the Baptist)

Who said it? 200 "You will be silent and unable to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words." (The Angel Gabriel)

Who said it? 300 "Don't collect any more than you are required to." (John the Baptist)

Who said it? 400 "You brood of vipers!" (John the Baptist)

Who said it? 500 "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (God)

True or false?

True or false? 100 The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in the temple. (T)

True or false? 200 John only preached about Jesus in the city. (F—he preached in all the country around the Jordan)

True or false? 300 Jesus baptized John. (F—John baptized Jesus)

True or false? 400 Elisabeth went to visit Mary before John was born. (F—Mary went to see Elisabeth.)

True or false? 500 Zacharias could not see when he left the temple. (F—he couldn't speak)

Closing:

End with a prayer.
