

WEEK 1

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I believe God gives me purpose.

BIBLE

John Prepares the Way:
Mark 1:1–8

ABOUT THIS WEEK

When you first go camping in the wilderness, you'll need someone to help prepare your supplies, guide you, and keep you on the right path. This week, we'll look at how John the Baptist's purpose was to get people ready for Jesus. God sent John the Baptist with a special purpose, and John's story helps us to say, "I believe God gives me purpose."

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Turn Around

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this game, have the kids listen to music and dance, facing away from you. The kids should turn around quickly when the music stops and face the leader.
- In this game, you had to turn around a lot! You were facing one way, but you had to turn in the opposite direction.
- Today, we'll hear a story about a man named John the Baptist. John's purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus by helping people turn away from their old way of life apart from God. He helped people turn toward God.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:1–8 (John Prepares the Way)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Set up a campfire circle. The storyteller should dress like they've been camping.
- Hey, campers! My favorite part of camping is telling stories around the campfire. Come join me around the fire to hear an amazing story about a man named John the Baptist.
- Long ago, a man named John spent a lot of time in the wild. John was not like other people. He wore clothes made of camel hair and ate honey and locusts.
- **Do you know what a locust is?** It's a bug, kind of like a grasshopper.
- God gave John a special purpose. He was getting people ready for the savior, Jesus. John told everyone that Jesus was coming soon and they needed to be ready, too.

- Let's pretend we are John and call out this message together: "Get ready! The savior is coming!"
- People from all around came to see John, and he talked to them about how to live the way God wants us to. John would baptize people in the river. By going into the water and coming back out, people were getting their hearts ready for Jesus.
- Let's imagine we are going in the river. Bend down low ... then jump up!
- Lots of people thought John was the savior because he had many followers. But he told them he wasn't. They needed to wait for the real savior, Jesus. He was more powerful and had all the answers.
- Many people listened to John and chose to follow God, too. They were getting ready to receive Jesus when the time came ... all because John followed the special purpose God gave him!

BIG IDEA | I believe God gives me purpose.

- Let's put these words in order and form today's Big Idea.
 - I (point to self)
 - believe (fist pump in the air)
 - God (point to the sky)
 - gives (hands out in front of you like you are giving someone something)
 - me (point to self)
 - purpose (place both hands beside your eyes with palms facing each other, then extend hands forward)

VIDEO | Camp Believe It, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World TeachingVideo1_CampBelieveIt_Preschool_GrowKids on Vimeo](#)

ACTIVITY | We're Going On A Bear Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a version of "[We're Going On A Bear Hunt](#)." ([Michael Rosen performs We're Going on a Bear Hunt](#)) Continue the nature hike story as long as you'd like. You can add more ideas, such as:
 - We have to eat a locust snack. (Everyone says, "crunch, crunch, crunch.")
 - We have to follow John. (Everyone skips around the room.)
 - We have to prepare the way. (Everyone swipes their hands in front of them horizontally like they are moving branches.)
- Let's go on a nature hike. I'll be your trail guide today! I will tell us what to do so we can walk on the trail, so listen to me and follow what I do!
 - We're going on a nature hike, we're going to explore the wilderness, but first we have to **jump over a log!** (Everyone jumps.)
 - We're going on a nature hike, we're going to explore the wilderness, but first we have to **jump over a log!** (Everyone jumps.) And **crawl under this tree branch!** (Crawl on the floor for a moment.)
 - We're going on a nature hike, we're going to explore the wilderness, but first we have to **jump over a log!** (Everyone jumps.) And **crawl under this tree branch!** (Crawl on the floor for a moment.) And **hop on these river rocks!** (Hop on one foot.)
 - We're going on a nature hike, we're going to explore the wilderness, but first we have to **jump over a log!** (Everyone jumps.) And **crawl under this tree branch!** (Crawl on the floor for a moment.) And **hop on these river rocks!** (Hop on one foot.) And **run away from this bear!** (Run in place or scatter.)
- Wow, that was fun! Great job! And remember our friend John the Baptist from our Bible story today? He was like a trail guide, too. He helped clear the way and point people to Jesus. That was his purpose from God!
- But that's not all. I believe God gives me purpose, and God gives you purpose, too!

PRAYER

- Dear God, I know you love me. Thank you for giving me purpose. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around objects like a toy grasshopper, a "jar of honey" (a plastic yellow jar), and "camel hair" (craft fabric or yarn) as you review these questions together.
- Who was the man from our Bible story today? *John the Baptist.*
- Can you name two things the Bible says he ate? *Locusts and honey.*
- What were John's clothes made out of? *Camel hair.*
- Who was John preparing the way for? *Jesus.*
- God gave John the Baptist purpose. Does God give you purpose? *Yes!*
- Let's say our Big Idea together: I believe God gives me purpose.

MEMORY VERSE | John 6:69 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (including the Scripture reference) to the tune of "Rain, Rain, Go Away." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- "We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.