

JOHN – THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-18

The child named John grew up and became strong in body and spirit. He lived apart from other people in the wilderness of Judea, that desolate area near the Jordan River and west of the Dead Sea.

When it was God's perfect time, he sent John out to preach. For John was that one spoken of by the prophet Isaiah (40:3) that was sent to prepare the people for the Messiah's ministry.

We are told that that perfect time was the 15th year of Tiberius being Caesar in Rome, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great was the tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and also Trachonitis. Also, Caiaphas and Annas being the high priests. God is very careful to give us all the details needed to know that this is an actual event in time.

John wore clothes of camel hair with a leather girdle around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

John began to preach to the Jewish people. He went through out the whole area around the Jordan River saying, "Repent from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive you." Crowds came from Jerusalem and all Judea to the Jordan River where John was baptizing to see and hear him.

When John saw the Pharisees and Sadducees come to the baptism, he spoke to them sharply, saying, "You generation of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth fruit that shows that you have repented. Don't think in your hearts that you are descendants of Abraham and that therefore you are guaranteed a place in heaven. God is able to make children for Abraham out of these rocks."

When the people heard this they said, "What should we do?"

John told the people, "Share what you have with those who need it. Tax collectors, don't overtax in order to make yourselves rich, soldiers don't do violence to any man or falsely accuse, and be content with your wages."

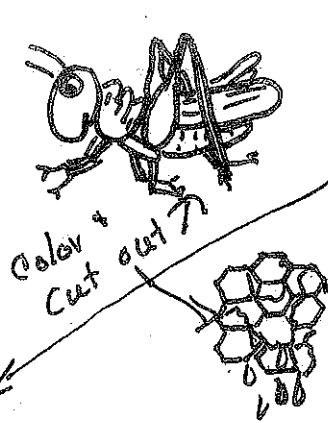
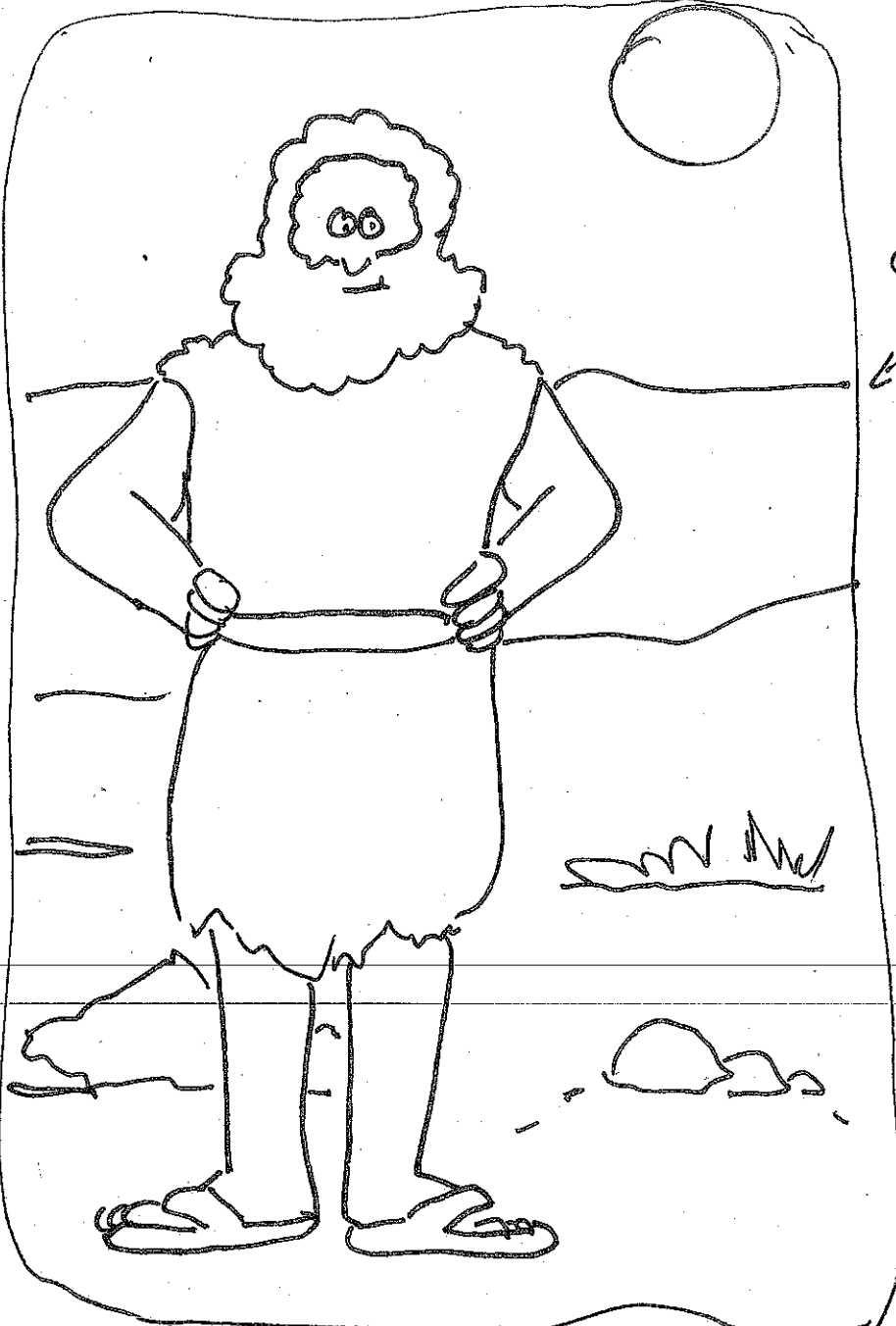
The people began to wonder whether John might be the Messiah, but John denied it. He said, "Someone is coming who is greater than I am." He said, "I am not even worthy to unloose his sandals."

John said, "I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He will thresh out the grain and then gather the wheat into his barn, and the chaff he will burn. This John was indeed the man that Isaiah meant when he said, "Someone is crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Today God sends us the same message that John brought to the people of Israel. The message is "Repent, turn away from your lives of sin and disobedience to God. Trust in the Messiah Jesus for the baptizing of the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives to those who put all their trust in him.

Have you repented and put your trust in Jesus to save you?

LEARN: Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a



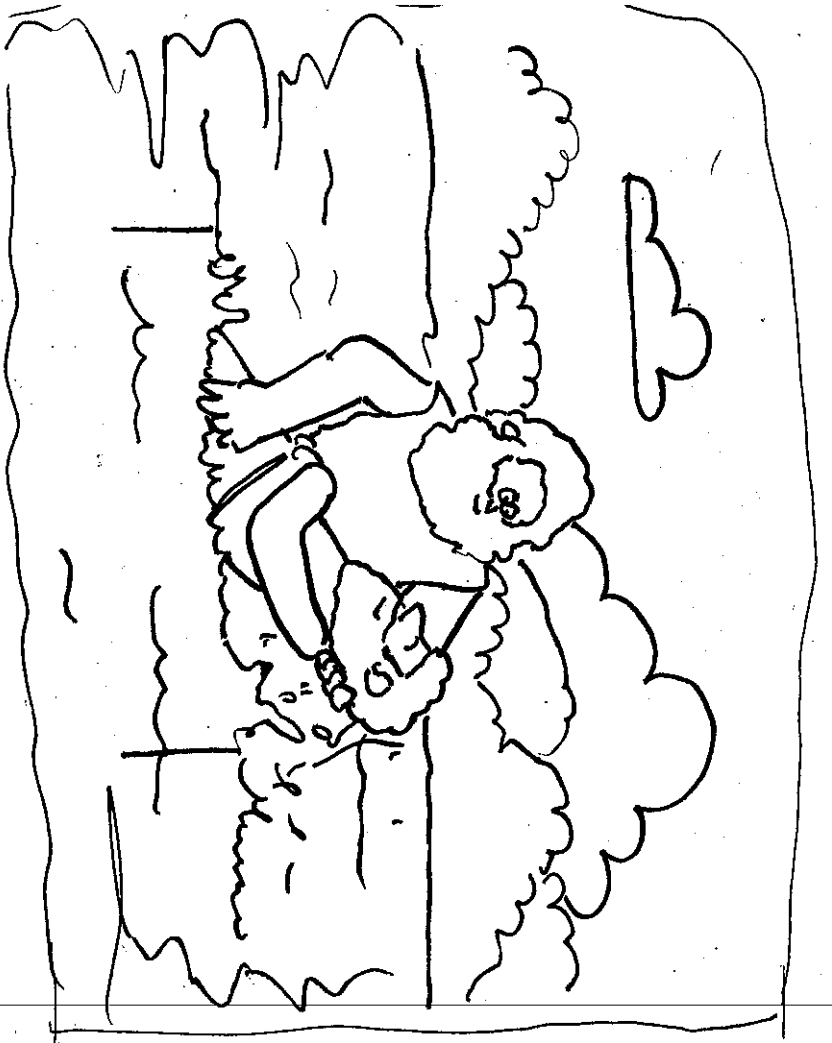
1. Use large construction and do a 3 fold
2. Cut slits around John's hands and insert locust in one hand & honey in other hand
3. Paste completed picture + comment on 1st fold
4. Color John preaching + people - cut out and paste with comment 2 on 2nd part of 3 fold dress John with camel cloth if desired
5. Color baptizing scene and water fold piece - Cut out both - Paste on 3rd part of 3 fold with comment 3 - add - water piece to scene as directed.

↑ Scene 1 - first fold and comments

John lived in the desert til the Lord called him to preach. He dressed in camel skin and ate locusts and wild honey.

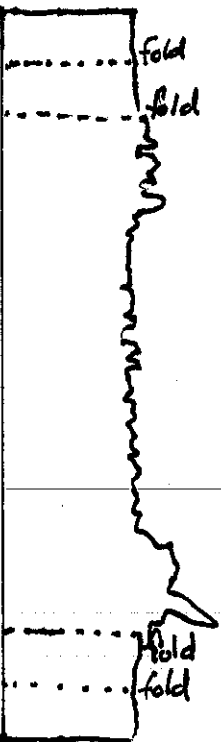
Comment 2

John told the people to repent - Turn away from their sin and obey God.



John baptized the people that were sorry for their sin in the Jordan River.

Lesson 3



Color water - cut out, do folds paste in appropriate slots of John baptizing picture