

Tuesday 26th January 2021

T: Can I learn more about Jesus' life through the story of the Baptism of the Lord?



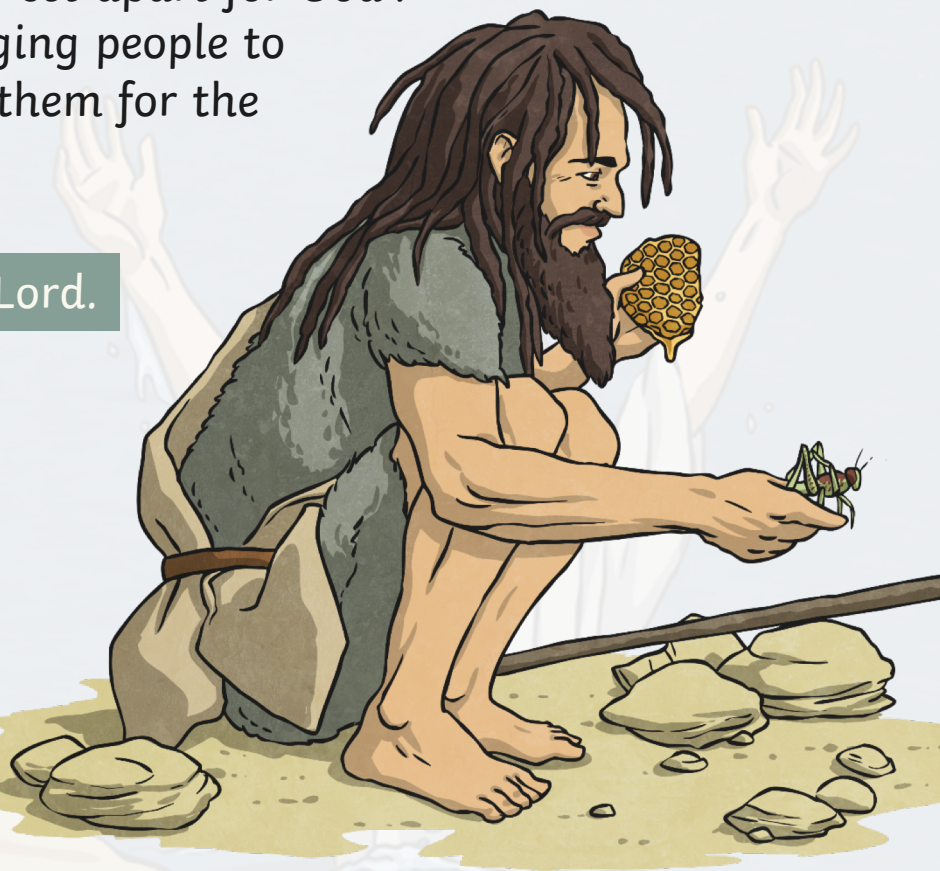
If you have a Bible at home, you can find the story of the Baptism of the Lord in **Matthew 3: 13-17**.



John the Baptist

There was once a man named John the Baptist. He knew he had been born to be 'set apart for God'. John devoted his life to encouraging people to repent of their sins and prepare them for the coming of the Messiah.

The word 'Messiah' means The Lord.



The Voice of Authority

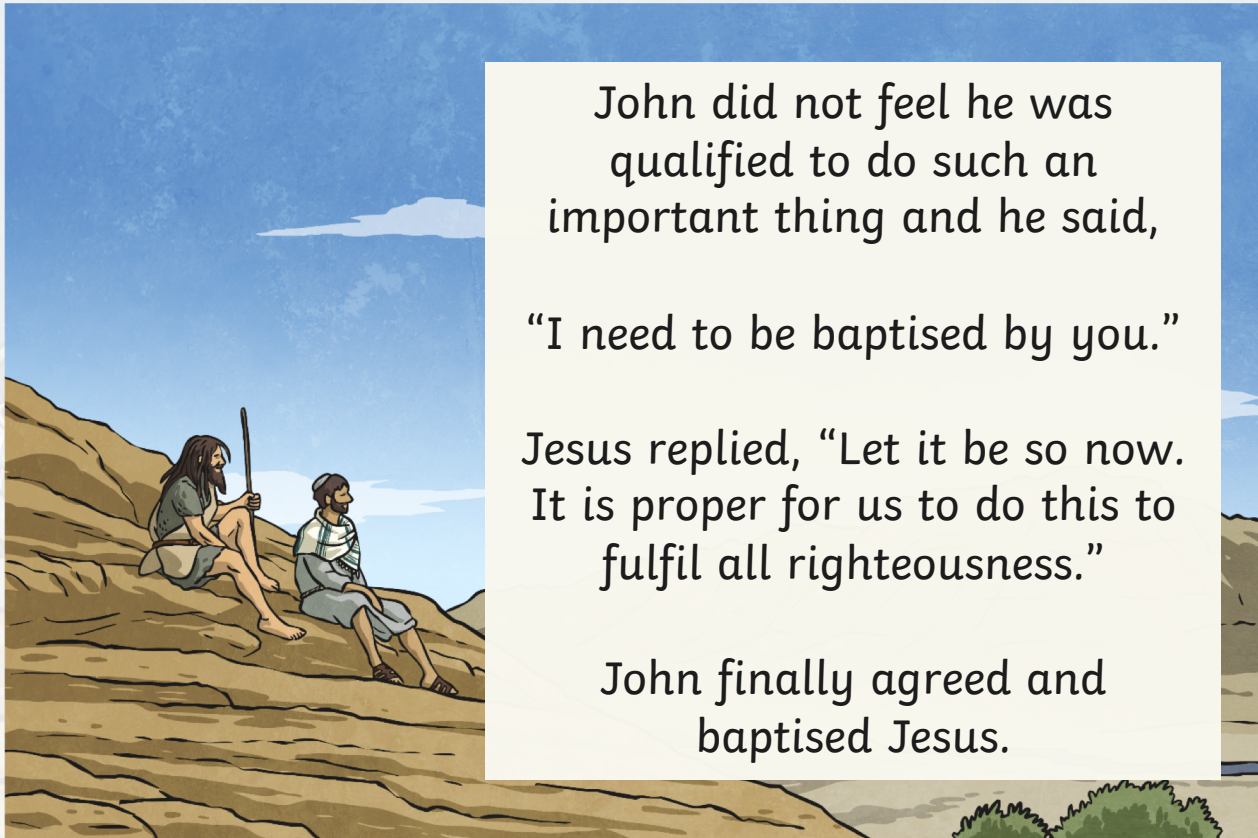
John was not afraid to say what he thought. He had a voice of authority when he spoke and he used it to tell people to turn away from sin, and be baptised as a sign of repentance. People flocked to be baptised by him.



He said, "I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

One day, Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptised by John.



John did not feel he was qualified to do such an important thing and he said,

“I need to be baptised by you.”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now. It is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.”

John finally agreed and baptised Jesus.

This is my Son

As soon as Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. A voice from heaven said,

“This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”



Why Was Jesus Baptised?

Despite being free of sin, Jesus was baptised for a number of reasons: being baptised before beginning his ministry shows that Jesus was being publicly recognised as the one John had spoken of, his baptism sets an example to his followers, and shows approval of John and the work he was doing.



If you were baptised as a baby, why not ask your Mum/Dad or carer to tell you all about your Baptism. They even might have pictures to show you.



Today's activity



Look at the artwork of Jesus' Baptism.

Look carefully at what you can see in the picture, especially how the characters are standing and what their facial expressions look like.

There is a word document with questions about this piece of art for you to answer.