

Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What does baptism help us understand about Jesus and what it means to follow Him?
- Why was Jesus baptized? Why are believers baptized?
- If you have witnessed a baptism or been baptized, describe what it was like.

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

STORY POINT: JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.

John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. John began telling people, "Repent and be baptized because God's kingdom is almost here."

Some people asked John, "Who are you?"

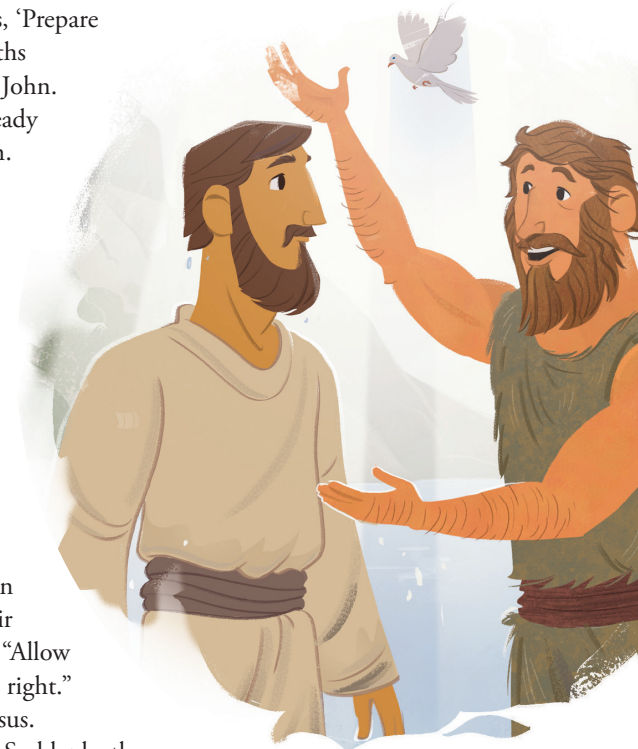
John said, "I am not the Messiah." Long before John was born, the prophet Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'" Isaiah was talking about John. John was supposed to get people ready for Jesus—God's promised Messiah.

People started to repent. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. John preached, "Someone greater than me is coming. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus went to see John at the Jordan River. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. But John baptized people who confessed their sins; Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, "Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

Jesus came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened, and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"

Christ Connection: Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.



FOLD

Baptism Words | More than 40 words can be formed using the letters in the word *BAPTISM*. How many words can you make?
List them in the space provided.

BAPTISM

Tell the Story

Find and read each Bible reference.
Write what happened in your own words.

Matthew 3:13-14

Matthew 3:16

Matthew 3:15

Matthew 3:17

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What did Jesus' death accomplish?
- Why does Jesus' resurrection give us hope?
- Can we ever be good enough to get to God on our own? Why?

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

STORY POINT: JESUS' RESURRECTION GIVES US HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

After Jesus was arrested, He was led to the high priest. The high priest asked, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right." The high priest said, "He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!"

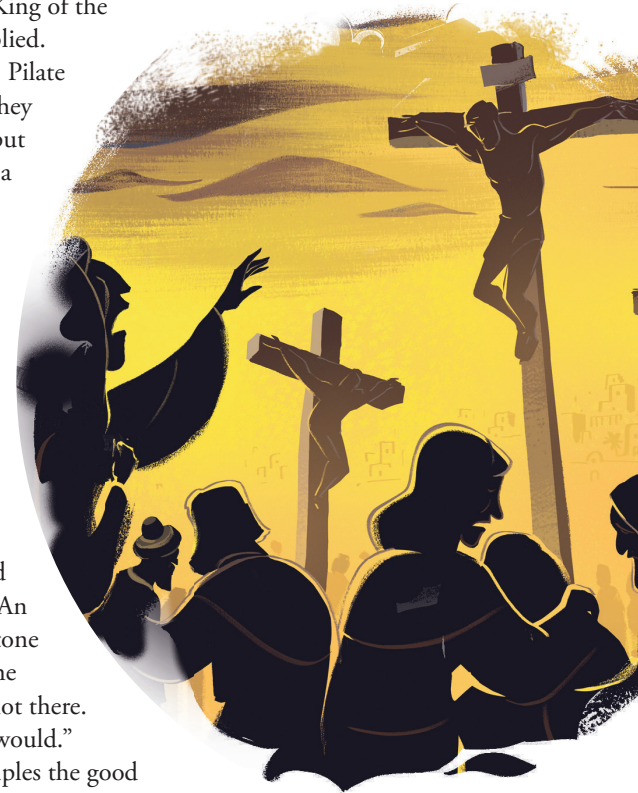
In the morning, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. "Are You the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. "Yes," Jesus replied.

"What should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked the crowd. "Crucify Him!" they answered. The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him: "Here is the King of the Jews!" They beat Jesus and led Him away to be killed. The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Two criminals were crucified next to Him. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus shouted again and then He died.

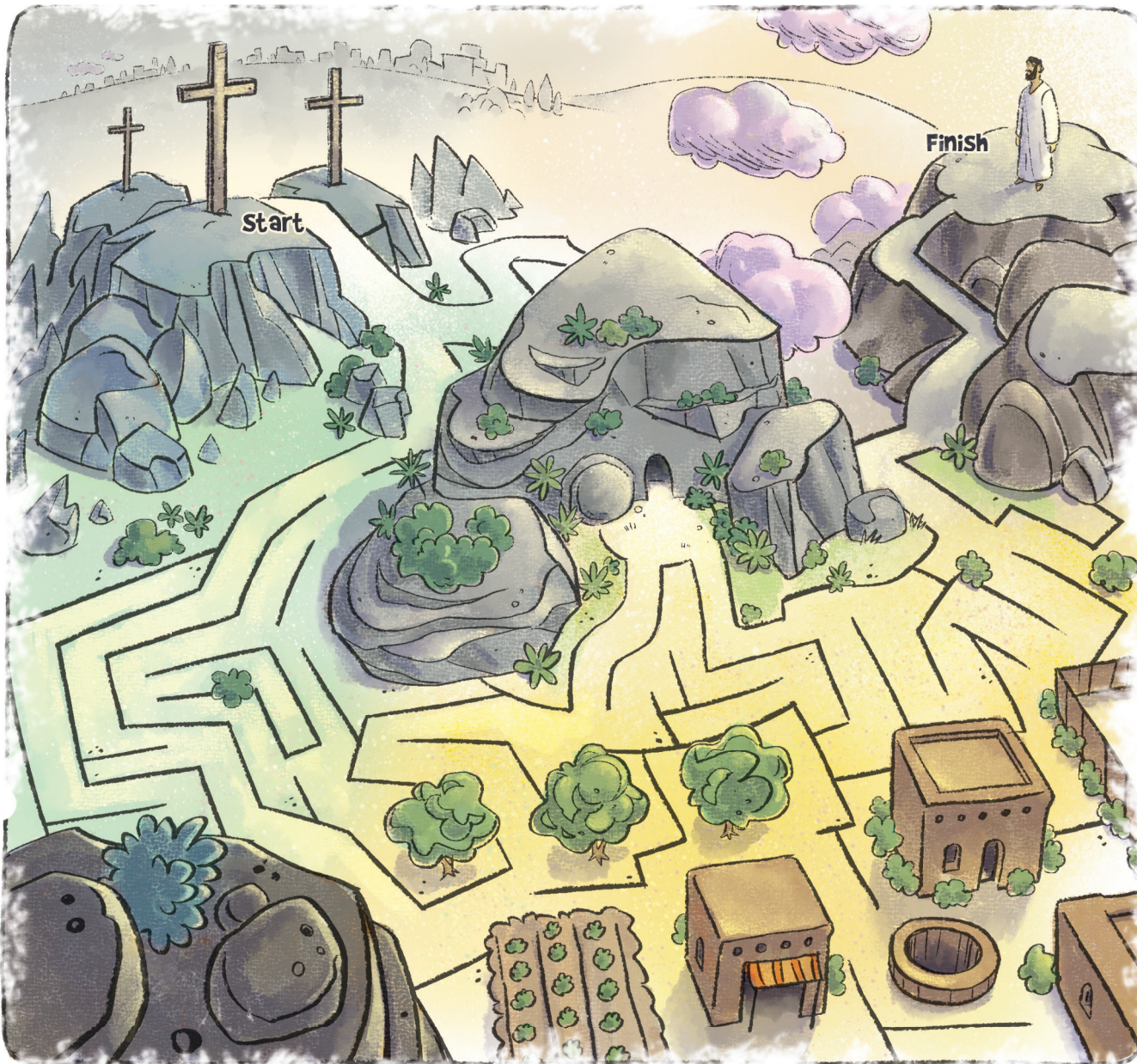
Jesus was buried in a tomb. On the third day, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel spoke to the women, "Don't be afraid! Jesus is not there. He has risen, just like He said He would."

The women ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. "Don't be afraid," Jesus told them. "Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there." Jesus appeared to Peter and then to the other disciples. Many people witnessed that Jesus is alive!

Christ Connection: Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. In Adam, we were spiritually dead in sin, but Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives new life to everyone who trusts in Jesus.



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Easter Scramble

Unscramble the key words from today's Bible story.

AISESMH

This name for Jesus means "anointed one."

AITLEP

This governor handed Jesus over to the crowds.

OTNHRS

Jesus' crown was made of these.

AICTURN

This split from top to bottom when Jesus died.

ONTES

Jesus' tomb was sealed with this.

IAELLEG

Jesus said His followers would see Him here.

SUSEJ

He greeted the women and they worshiped Him.

IRTHD

Jesus rose from the dead on this day.

He's Alive | Find the path from the cross to the tomb and then to Jesus.

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What does it mean to be tempted?
- Why was Jesus' being sinless necessary for Him to save people?
- What can you do to better understand the Bible?

Jesus' Temptation

Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

STORY POINT: JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.

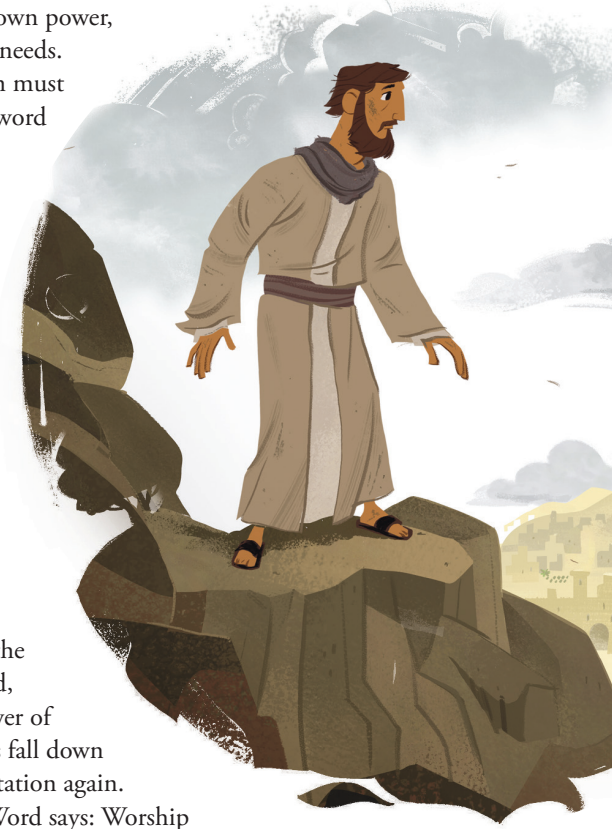
After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. Then the devil, who tempts people to sin, came up to Jesus. He said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread." Instead of using His own power, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, "God's Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The devil took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You." The devil even said: "God's Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus reminded him, "God's Word also says, do not test the Lord your God."

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. All You have to do is fall down and worship me." Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, "Go away, Satan! God's Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Jesus never sinned.

Christ Connection: Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.



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What Would You Do? | For each scenario, circle how you would respond.

SCENARIO	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
You left your sister's new crayons in the sun, and they melted.	Offer to buy her new crayons.	Hide the crayons and hope she doesn't notice.	Other: _____
You buy popcorn at a concession stand and get \$1 too much in change.	Give back the extra money.	Pocket the change and walk away quickly.	Other: _____
You see a kid at recess shivering because he doesn't have a coat.	Pretend you don't see him.	Let him borrow your coat.	Other: _____

Temptation and Reply | Look up the Scripture references to fill in the ways Jesus responded to temptation.

"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

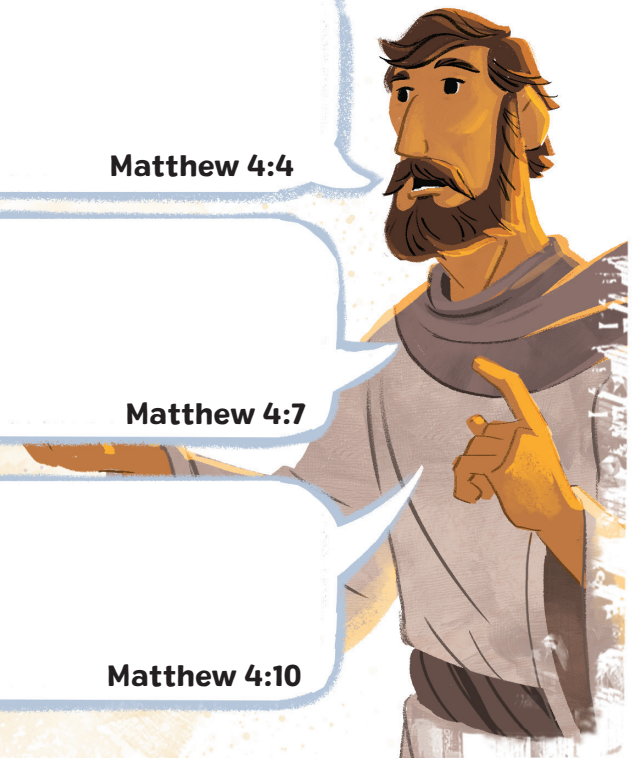
Matthew 4:4

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

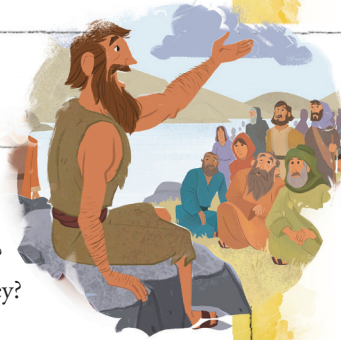
Matthew 4:7

"I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."

Matthew 4:10



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What makes a good follower?
- Why might people follow something or someone other than Jesus?
- What can you tell others about Jesus?

John Pointed to Jesus

Matthew 3; John 1; 3

STORY POINT: JOHN THE BAPTIST TOLD PEOPLE TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Jesus and His disciples went out into the countryside. People came to see them, and Jesus taught the people. Many people were baptized.

Nearby, John the Baptist was baptizing people too. Some of the people who followed John went to John.

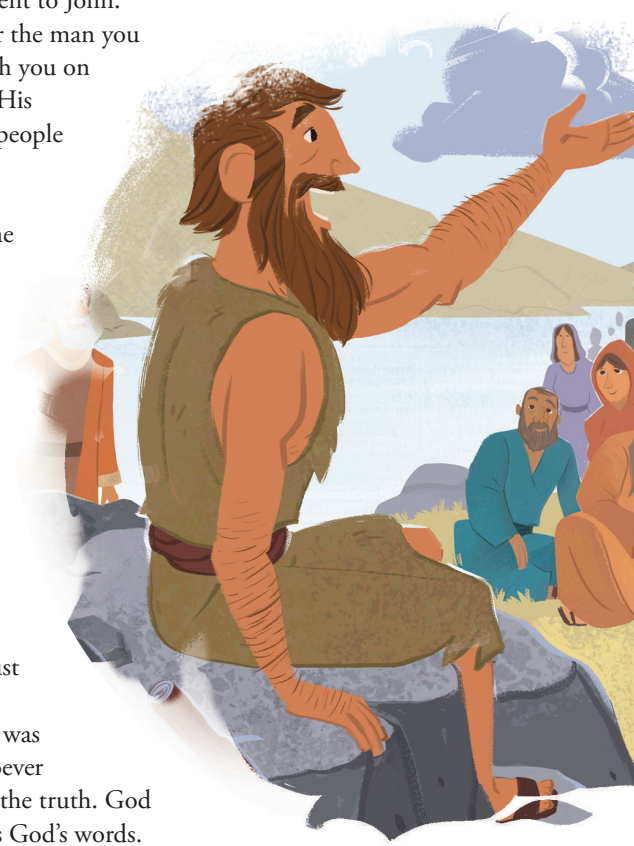
"Teacher," they said, "remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him." John's followers were talking about Jesus. John answered them, "You heard me say that I am not the Messiah."

John tried to explain by talking about a wedding. When two people get married, the man who marries the bride is the groom. His friend stands with him at the wedding, and he is happy to be there. The groom's friend should not make it about himself. This was how John felt—like a groom's friend—because he was happy that Jesus, the Messiah, had come. John said, "Jesus must increase, but I must decrease."

Then John explained why Jesus was more important than himself. Whoever believes Jesus knows that God tells the truth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus speaks God's words.

The Father loves the Son and has given Him power over everything. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life, but whoever refuses to believe in the Son will not have eternal life.

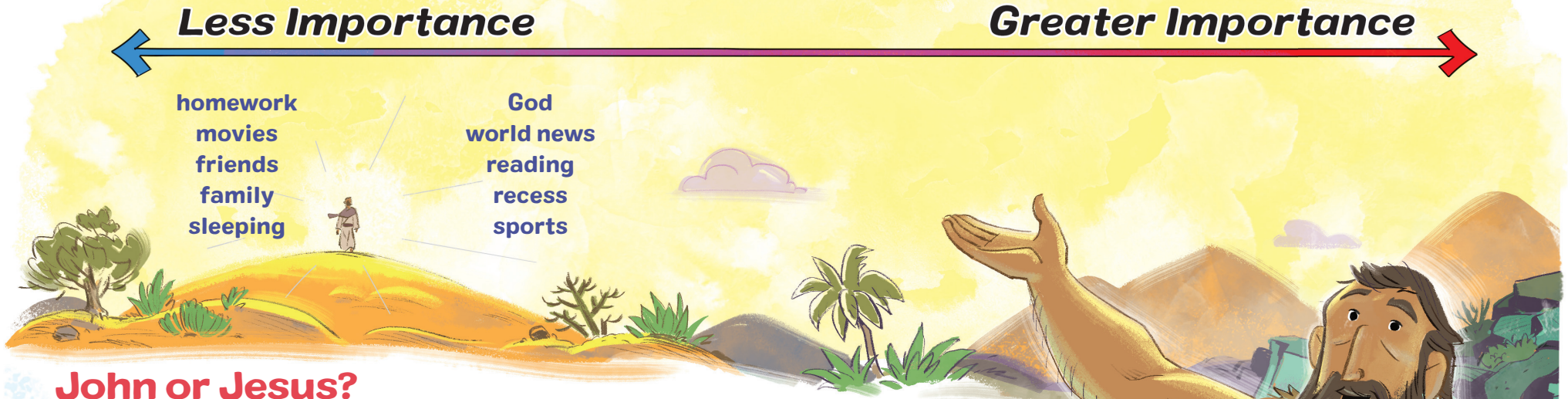
Christ Connection: John the Baptist told people to get ready for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Now that Jesus was on earth, John's mission was complete. Jesus was greater than John, and John joyfully stepped aside as Jesus began His earthly ministry.



FOLD

On the Line

Mark each item on the scale to indicate how important it is to you.



John or Jesus?

Fill in each blank with the correct name—*John* or *Jesus*.

Some of the people who followed _____ got into an argument. They went to _____. “Teacher,” they said, “remember the man you talked about, the One who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River? His disciples are baptizing people, and people are starting to follow Him.” _____’s followers were talking about _____.

_____ answered, “You heard me say that I am not the Messiah. I am the messenger who goes before Him.” This was true. _____ had said, “Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

_____ tried to explain by talking about a wedding. A wedding is the groom’s special day; the groom’s friend should not make it about himself. This was how _____ felt—like a groom’s friend—because he was happy that _____, the Messiah, had come. _____ said, “_____ must increase, but I must decrease.”

_____ the Baptist told people to get ready for _____, the promised Messiah. Now that _____ was on earth, _____’s mission was complete. _____ was greater than _____, and _____ joyfully stepped aside as _____ began His earthly ministry.

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Do you follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- How can God use our weakness for His glory?
- What kinds of things might you have to leave behind to follow Jesus? Discuss the costs and rewards of following Jesus.

Jesus Called Disciples

Matthew 4; 9; Mark 1-3; Luke 5-6

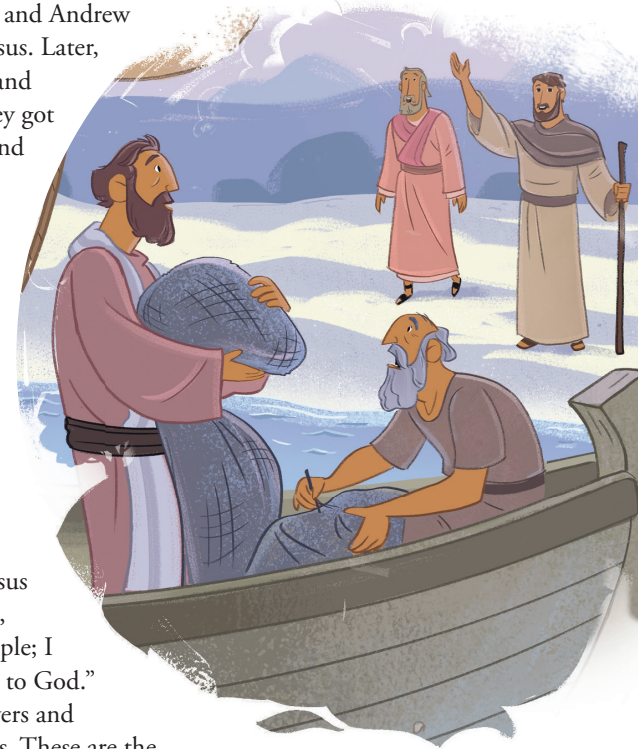
STORY POINT: JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM.

Jesus traveled around, preaching about God and telling people to turn away from their sins. Large crowds followed Jesus around and listened to Him teach. One day, Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers: Simon (who was called Peter) and Andrew. Jesus called out, "Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!" Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus. Later, He saw two more brothers, James and John. Jesus called out to them. They got up, left their father and the boat, and followed Jesus.

Jesus went on and saw a man named Matthew. Jesus called out to him, "Follow Me!" So Matthew got up, left everything behind, and followed Jesus. Matthew had a big feast for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples. The religious leaders complained to the disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard the religious leaders and said, "I did not come to invite good people; I came to invite sinners to turn back to God."

Later, Jesus gathered His followers and chose 12 of them to be His apostles. These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus.



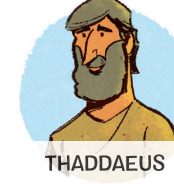
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The Twelve

Find and circle each disciple's name in the word search.
(Note: The name *James* appears twice.)



O P X M O E P C D F S R B D
 N J E A N D R E W A V M E N
 B A R T H O L O M E W I T O
 C M N T E B X O J A M E S M
 G E W H P R H P H I L I P I
 A S K E O T H A D D A E U S
 L C D W C J U D A S H W A P



Connection Point

Decode the messages. (Hint: 1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = C, ...)

Jesus told His disciples to 20-5-12-12 15-20-8-5-18-19 1-2-15-21-20 8-9-13.

We are Jesus' disciples when we 20-18-21-19-20 9-14 8-9-13.

Everyone in the world needs to hear 20-8-5 7-15-15-4 14-5-23-19 1-2-15-21-20 10-5-19-21-19.