



BIG IDEA:

WE CAN HEAR GOD'S VOICE IF WE LISTEN

BIBLE:

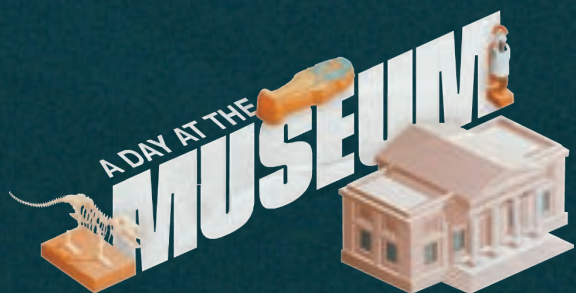
LUKE

GRADE:

4 - 7

WEEK:

2



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ACTIVITY

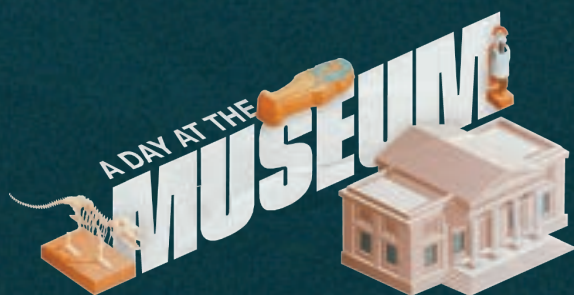
Hello, everyone! It's another great day to spend a day at a museum! Today, we get to experience an aquatic life museum, also known as an aquarium. We'll also be exploring how else we can use our senses to experience God.

What is your favorite aquatic animal to see?

It's so cool to walk around and see all of the different kinds of aquatic animals. In fact, we just entered the shark exhibit! Let's have fun with a little shark trivia. **Can you name these sharks?**

INSTRUCTIONS: *Show kids pictures of different sharks one by one (see your Shop & Prep list for examples), and see if they can name the sharks. Consider writing out the names of the species on a board for kids to guess from.*

PRETEEN HACK: *Instead of quizzing preteens on species of sharks, show photos or video clips of famous sharks from popular movies or pop culture references kids may know. (Bruce from Finding Nemo, Baby Shark, San Jose Sharks hockey team, etc.)*



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BIBLE STORY

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Hey, there! What an exciting day it's been at the museum! I just love being your tour guide.

We're about to head into the Bible story exhibit. Last week's special feature included John the Baptist telling us how he helped prepare everyone to have the sight to see and experience God through Jesus.

This week, we'll get to hear about John's amazing encounter with Jesus!

INSTRUCTIONS: *For today's story from Luke 3:15–17, 21-22, dress up like a guide or docent again. You could change it up and wear colors or patterns that match an aquarium (think Ms. Frizzle from The Magic School Bus). Prepare a shoe or sandal, a basin filled with water, and a stuffed animal bird or an image of a dove.*

[Show shoe or sandal.]

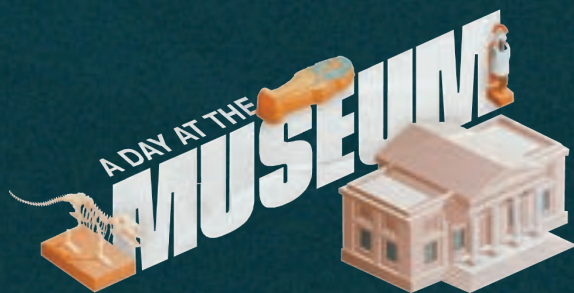
Who knows what this is? Back in Jesus' time, these were referred to as sandals.

John the Baptist was a very important person, but he told everyone that he was not as important as they thought. Even though he was baptizing people in water — which seems important — there was someone who was on their way, who would be far more important.

This is what he said about that someone. [Read Luke 3:15-16.] He said that he wasn't even worthy to untie the straps of this person's sandals. He was trying to say that he would need to serve the Savior that was coming.

[Start splashing water in a basin.]

John continued to baptize people though. Nearly every day, the sound of water splashing and the joyful shouts from the people getting baptized in the Jordan River could be heard.



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But one day, who should come to the river, but the person he had been talking about all this time . . . Jesus!

John probably scrambled to make room for Jesus, but Jesus asked John to baptize him. That couldn't be right! But Jesus said this is how it had to be.

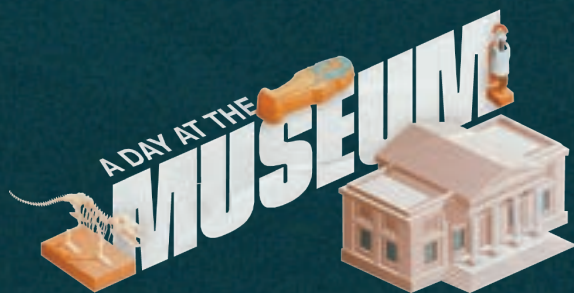
[Show stuffed animal bird or image of dove.]

When Jesus came back up out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove.

What a sight that must have been! Now, perk up your listening ears because you won't want to miss this next part.

[Read Luke 3:22b.]

God spoke and let anyone who was listening know who Jesus was. Jesus was truly God's son!



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BIG IDEA

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INSTRUCTIONS: Write the Big Idea with white crayon on butcher paper and place in the art tube from last week. Unroll and lay the paper on the floor. Let kids come up and paint the entire paper with watercolor paint to reveal the Big Idea. Since today's lesson emphasizes hearing, try emphasizing the words "hear," "God's," and "listen" as you say the Big Idea. As you practice the Big Idea with the kids covering their ears, you might want to have fun with saying it using different tones, volumes, and silly voices.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: For kids that may be hard of hearing, use physical motions such as clapping to cue them on the words you are trying to emphasize.

What is today's Big Idea? **We can hear God's voice if we listen.**

STORY

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

INSTRUCTIONS: Tell a story about a time when you heard God speak to you while you were praying. Explain what you were praying about, what it was like to hear God, and how you knew it was God speaking to you.



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In today's Bible story, Jesus was seeking God out in prayer after being baptized. God chose to speak to Jesus at that moment, and **we can hear God's voice if we listen** and are seeking God out, too.

Have you ever heard God's voice? What was it like?

MEMORY VERSE

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NIV)

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."