



BIG IDEA:

WE CAN SEE GOD THROUGH JESUS

BIBLE:

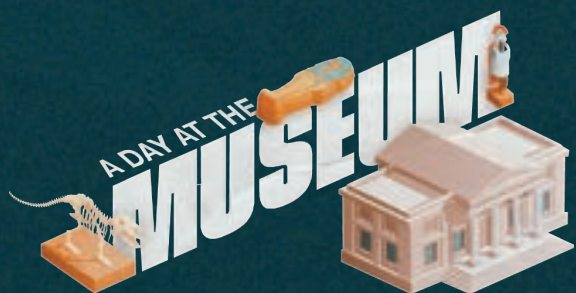
JOHN

GRADE:

4 - 7

WEEK:

1



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ACTIVITY

When you go to a natural history museum, we often find things that people made a long time ago that tell us about what life might have looked like back then. We call those things artifacts.

Let's see how quickly you can spot some artifacts around the room using only your eyes!

INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare five items that look like you might find them at a natural history museum (e.g., fake fossils, cool-looking rock, old book, archaeological tools, pottery, etc.). Show kids the items then have one kid leave the room. Get five volunteers to hide each of the items in plain sight. Once the kid returns from outside, see how quickly they can spot all five of the items. Repeat this activity with a different set of volunteers.

PRETEEN HACK: Have the volunteer wear a blindfold and locate all the objects by following verbal instructions from a peer or, to make it more challenging, the whole group shouting directions.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: Have kids find one object at a time instead of all five. Have the group say "hot" when the kid is close to an object, and "cold" if they are far from the object.



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BIBLE STORY

JOHN THE BAPTIST

INSTRUCTIONS: For today's story from John 1:1–18, write "Jesus" largely on the paper, and post it up. Write "Jesus" on a second paper, and "John" on an arrow-shaped paper, then set those aside. Have the flashlight zoomed in as a spotlight. Turn it on, and set it on a table so that it lights up the "God" paper. Cover the flashlight with an upside-down box. If possible, dress up as a tour guide or museum docent and point out everything that the kids should be observing.

PRETEEN HACK: Ask preteen volunteers to be the "audio guides" as you tell the Bible story. Assign each of them a section of the Bible passage to read, then station them a few feet apart. Walk up to each volunteer when it's time for them to read their passage and "press" them on the arm and have them start reading.

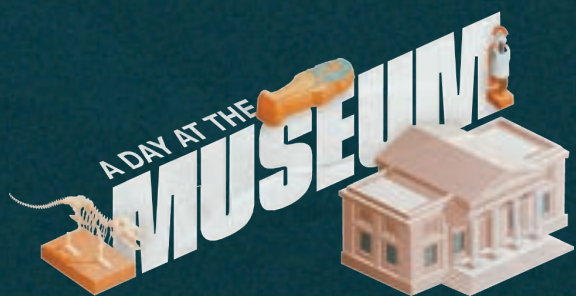
Hello, everyone! I hope you are all enjoying this day at the museum so far! Can you tell by my outfit that I am your trusty tour guide for the Bible story exhibit today? I'm so excited to tell you about it.

The Bible story we are looking at today is about a guy that is known to be a little bit out of the ordinary. How out of the ordinary?

For one thing, he ate honey and insects called locusts. For clothing, he wore camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist.

Close your eyes with me for just a moment. Can you imagine tasting the sweet honey, hearing the crunch of the locusts, and feeling the soft but kind of scratchy camel's hair?

His name was John, and was sometimes known as John the Baptist. As eccentric as he was, John was actually sent by God.



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[Read verses 1–5.]

The book of John (this is a different John, by the way) tells us that there was someone that was with God ever since the beginning. This someone gives life and is like a light that shines in the darkness. This was describing . . . not John. This was Jesus! [Lift box to shine light on "Jesus" poster.]

[Read verses 6-8.]

John's job was to tell people about Jesus. And John did that. He told people that they needed to get ready for Jesus. He taught about how to receive forgiveness for sin that separated them from God. He helped people live for God. [Point to Jesus poster using John poster.]

[Read verses 9-13,]

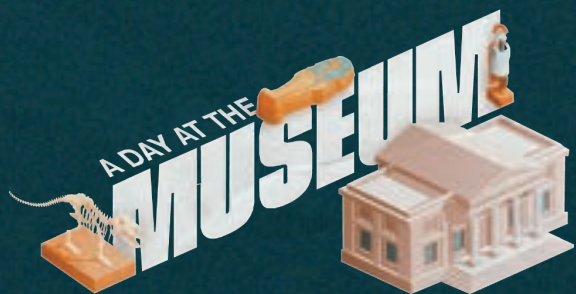
Now even though Jesus had been with God since the beginning, people did not recognize who Jesus was when he came to earth. But for those who did choose to believe in Jesus, he made it possible for them to become children of God and have a super close relationship with God!

[Read verse 14,]

In fact, because Jesus came to earth, all of us got to see God's glory — glory is a word to describe God's greatness and beauty!

[Read verses 15-18.]

John helped people recognize Jesus as God's son. And Jesus helped people know who God is! [Place God poster on top of Jesus poster.] People got to see Jesus walk the earth and teach us about God. They saw Jesus show God's love, kindness, and power. Jesus was the only way the people could see God!



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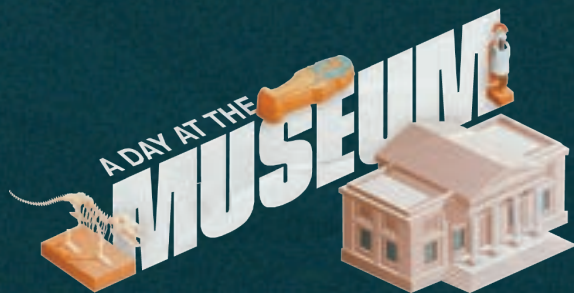
Jesus is God, and Jesus showed us God's great love for us! Let's say the Big Idea together: **We can see God through Jesus.**

OBJECT LESSON

SHOW ME HOW IT'S DONE

INSTRUCTIONS: *Tell kids to shout out instructions on how to do a simple task, like put on a sweater or tie your shoelaces. Pretend you've never done this task before, and follow their instructions literally. If they say something like, "Put the sweater over your head," hold the sweater over your head, or put it on top of your head. Then, invite a kid to actually show you how they put on a sweater.*

The best way to teach someone something is to show them! Jesus did the best thing possible. Jesus didn't just tell people about God . . . Jesus showed them God because Jesus is God. **We can see God through Jesus**, so let's let others see God through us, too!



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REFLECTION

BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD

INSTRUCTIONS: *Discuss as a large group or encourage kids to share in small groups of three or four.*

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: *Collect images from a book or online of people performing any kind of action (e.g., reading, sweeping, playing, etc.). Talk with kids about how they could tell someone about God while doing any of these activities.*

When you go to a museum for the first time, it's super helpful to have a guide show you what to do, tell you where to go, and help you learn more about what you see. Similarly, John became the guide so that people would be ready to see Jesus.

Our job is to do the exact same thing! Because we know that **we can see God through Jesus**, we can help others see God by introducing them to Jesus!

What are some ways we can help others see God?

- It could mean inviting them to church, but it also might look like being kind!
 - You can be generous and share the things you have.
 - You can be joyful even when things don't go your way.
 - You can encourage others.
 - You can stand up for what is right.
 - You can give your siblings and friends a chance to be forgiven.
 - You can say you are sorry when you are wrong.

These are the kinds of things that point to Jesus and help others experience God through you.



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MEMORY VERSE

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NIV)

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