



JESUS BEGINS

Theme/Value

Preparation

Notes:

Intro

Appendix B

Idea of a trailer - gets us excited about what is to come
See appendix B

Game

Appendix B

Reaction Charades
Give volunteers something to react to - others have to guess what caused the reaction

Story

Ref: Matt 3:11-17, Mark 1:7-11, Luke 3:15-23, John 1:29-34, John 3:1-22
John Baptises Jesus - See Appendix A

- Questions
- Water pistols
- John's message & Jesus' humble response
- We prepare for new things too
- God responds by saying who Jesus is
- How can we prepare for the rest of our lives? How will we respond to something new?

Reflection

Appendix B

It's Jesus, who is He to you?

Gets ready, pleases His Father, washes, is special...?

Song suggestion

If I were a Butterfly

Prayer

Thank you God that you appear in this story as a Father proud of His Son, a man ready to work, and a dove, gentle and powerful. Help us to see the important moments in our lives and respond in humble but great ways. Amen

Equipment

Water Pistols

Suggested Entry Music

It's Time
- Imagine Dragons



Appendix A: Story

It was busy by the banks of the river Jordan, a crowd had gathered to listen to the teaching of John, a man committed to living a different kind of life. "Change your habits! Change your attitude. Wash yourself in the River and come out refreshed and renewed.", he would say.

100's of people followed John, they loved his message. One day he gave the most important message he had ever given.

"Something special is about to happen," John called out to anybody who would listen, "It's time to choose a fresh start with God, his promised Messiah is on the way, and He is going to change the way we live forever." The crowd wanted to know what to do.

"Come into the river," John invited them, "let me baptise you, completely cover yourself in water as a sign that you are committed to living your life for God."

More and more people walked into the river to be baptised, saying sorry to God for the way they had behaved before, promising to live differently for God.

"What will the Messiah be like?" one woman asked John, "What will he do?"

"I am baptising you with water," John explained, "but the one who comes after me, the Messiah will do so much more, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit. I am nothing compared to him, I'm not even important enough to carry his sandals!"

"Come to the bank," somebody called to John, "there's a visitor to see you, it's Jesus, your cousin from Nazareth."

"I've come to be baptised," Jesus called to John from the bank of the river.

"But you are the one I've been telling everybody about" John replied, "I can't baptise you, you should be baptising me!"

"I want to be an example that everybody can follow," Jesus explained, "so let me be baptised because it is what God wants."

And so that's what they did. John tipped Jesus backwards until he was totally covered in the water, then lifted him back up with a splash. As Jesus came back out of the water, the clouds above the river parted and a perfectly white dove appeared swooping down above Jesus. From heaven a loud voice could be heard.

"This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him."

"Thank you," Jesus said to John as he made his way out of the river.

The crowd just stared in amazement, "Who is that man?" they began to ask one another, "what will he do next?"



Appendix B

Introduction

Last week I was at the cinema and one of the best bits I find is seeing all the new trailers. Little glimpses of exciting things to come. We can't help but react when we see something big or new or exciting so we're going to play a game all about that now. Reaction charades!

Notes:

Game: Reaction Charades

Get 5 volunteers who like to act and give them each a situation to react to. Tell the possible answers to the rest of the children (or use the PowerPoint to show).

In turn the volunteers will show their reaction and everyone has to guess which situation they have reacted to.

The options are:

You've just smelled something awful, someone has surprised you with a party, your netball team have just scored, you've seen a spider in the bath, you've dropped something on your toe, a seagull just stole your chips.

TIP: to add some humour you can suggest something that isn't on the list e.g. hmm looks like you want to lick your foot...

Reflection

I wonder if you could imagine yourself in that story.

Q. How would you have felt?

Q. Being a bystander when Jesus arrived?

Q. Being John when he was asked to baptise the Son of God?

Q. Hearing God say those words?

There are lots of things that can cause something to stir inside us. But what if we can't react? I'm going to do something and you have to try hard as possible not to react to it...

squirt them with water pistols and expect them to react.

It's almost impossible isn't it! We have to do something.

There are lots of little nuggets showing us some of who Jesus is in this story even though it starts with a different man; John. He had a special message of how to live life and people **responded** by being washed to be made new for this new way of living.

Jesus, the Son of God comes along and **reacts** by doing the same. He is believed to be the perfect example of how to live yet He is humble enough to also be washed. Can someone tell me what humble means?

Jesus is being humble and getting baptised and that's why people still do it today. He set an example of what people should do if they want to start a new life with Jesus.

When we start new things then we get ready for them as well. When you start a new school year you might get new school shoes or a fresh pencil case, when we start a new day we wash our face and eat breakfast to fuel our day. Can anyone think of anything else we do to prepare for new things?

Jesus is getting ready to start his work and God **responds** showing his love for His son and telling everyone who he is. Jesus isn't just another very good person, he's not simply a religious leader, this is His Son and he's about to do something big!

So after hearing this story, how will you **respond**? How are you going to prepare for the rest of your lives? Will you try something new?

