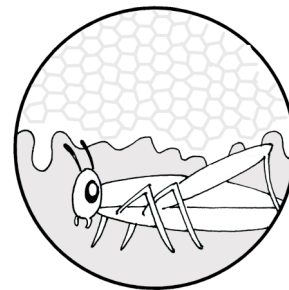


Lesson #1-18**Jesus and John the Baptist**

Matthew 3:1-17

**Key Verse:**

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

The Point:

Like John, we can help others recognize the promise of Jesus.

Unit Theme (December 25—January 20)

God's Promise of Jesus

What Is This?

Water is crucial

You will need:

- † Bowl of water
- † Towels

Preparation:

1. Fill a bowl half way with warm water.

Instructions:

1. I am going to bring a bowl to each one of you. You are all going to keep your eyes closed. You are going to put your hand into the bowl and feel what is inside. Do not tell anyone what you feel! We are going to all stay quiet until everyone has had a chance to put their hand into the bowl.
2. Ask students to close their eyes. Walk the

bowl around to the students. Do not have them pass it themselves. Try to keep the classroom quiet and encourage the students to keep their eyes closed.

3. **Now I want you all to open your eyes. We are all going to say what we felt inside the bowl. All together, what was it? [Water!] Yes, there is water in the bowl. Water is going to be really important in our Bible story today.**
4. **Water is important for a lot of things. What different things do we do with water? [Swim, drink, bathe, water plants, etc.] Water is so important for all of these things. Water is the most important thing in our bodies. We need water to survive. Jesus did something very special in water. We are going to hear about it in our Bible story.**