

# Luke 3:1-22

## Bugs and Honey (Part 1)

**Scripture:** Luke 3:1-22

**Memory Verse:** Luke 3:8a *“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance...”*

**Lesson Focus:** John the Baptist’s ministry of both preparing people for Jesus and alarming them of the looming punishment for their sins takes center stage in our lesson today. John challenged the people to not only repent of their sin, but to prove or show their repentance and faith was REAL by their actions. He challenges us to do the same!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of John the Baptist, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Grasshopper

**Starter Activity:** John the Baptist Food Challenge

Most kids are pretty picky about food and many of them may be surprised when they learn about what John the Baptist’s diet consisted of. Consider getting the lesson started by having some discussion about some things that kids are typically pretty picky about. Perhaps write a few commonly unpopular items on the whiteboard like spinach, asparagus, eggplant, etc. and take a class vote on how many kids like them and don’t like them. **Teachers:** Consider even bringing some of these items in and testing some of the kids who say they eat them!

Then add a new item to the list: **GRASSHOPPERS!** Take another vote and see if there are ANY kids who would eat them. Hopefully a couple of kids will respond affirmatively because immediately afterwards pull out the Mexican grasshopper snack that we will leave in your classroom! \* To see if those kids were actually serious, have them try one of them. (And if you are brave enough, try one of them yourself!) \*

Now transition into the lesson by asking this question:

Q: Did you know there is someone in the Bible who is described as eating bugs and wild honey (**Mark 1:6**)? (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a small bottle of honey \* to show the kids, and again, if you are really brave, pour some on a grasshopper and eat it!)

This is John the Baptist! \* We learned about him a few weeks ago at the beginning of the gospel of Luke. He was a miracle baby of Zacharias and Elizabeth. 20-30 years have now gone by and he is all grown up (and also a little “weird”). We will see how God used him to get the attention of the people and to get their hearts ready for Jesus. \* Let’s take a look!

## Bible Study:

**Luke 3:1-2:** We have mentioned before that Luke very CAREFULLY researched and put together this biography about Jesus. Here again he provides very specific details about REAL people and places so we can be CERTAIN about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (**Luke 1:4**) \*

**Luke 3:3:** As we talked about a few weeks ago, John the Baptist came preaching about REPENTANCE. \*

Q: Who remembers what REPENTANCE means? A: It means TURNING AWAY from your sin and TURNING BACK to God! \*

For hundreds of years God had been sending other prophets that were also a little “weird” (i.e. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, etc.) with a similar message of repentance. (**Teachers:** Consider reading a few of these examples to further make this point: **Isaiah 55:7**, **Jeremiah 4:14**, **Zechariah 1:3**) John the Baptist is the last one.

**Luke 3:4:** John the Baptist himself was prophesied to come 700 years earlier by Isaiah!

Q: Can you imagine what it would be like to grow up knowing that someone 700 years ago prophesied about your life? Wow! \* And as we have already mentioned, his mission and purpose was to “prepare the way” for Jesus or to get people’s hearts ready for Jesus, the promised Savior. \*

**Luke 3:5-6:** God has been cooking up His BIG plan of salvation for the whole world. This plan isn’t just for the Jewish people, but ALL people, even you and me!

**Luke 3:7:** John is making a lot of noise and attracting a lot of attention! \* Lots of people were coming and truly repenting of their sins and getting baptized, but others were just curiously “rubbernecking” with no intention of repenting. John calls them out as a bunch of snakes! \*

Q: How many of you ever had to wake up to an alarm clock? If you are a deep sleeper, you may need something very piercing to wake you up. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in an alarm clock to share the sound or use [this](#) to demonstrate) Well, in the same way, John the Baptist is “sounding the alarm” on people’s sin and “waking them up” so that they are aware of the deserved punishment to come if they do not repent!

**Luke 3:8:** John challenges people to show or “prove” their repentance is real by bearing fruit! \* We will talk about what that means in a minute, but notice how some of them seem to think they “get a pass” because they are Jewish (descendants of Abraham).

**Luke 3:9:** NOPE! No one “gets a pass”. All must turn from their sins (repentance) and turn to God (faith). And those who have truly repented WILL bear fruit. \*

Boys and Girls: Some of you today might think you “get a pass” because you are “kids of Christians parents”. NOPE! Each of you has sinned and if you have never turned from your sins and turned to God in faith, this alarm is sounding for you today as well! \*

**Luke 3:10:** This is a good response! Some of the people appear to be truly sorry for their sins and are ready to learn how they can show their repentance and faith in God is real. John then gives several answers to various groups of people in his audience.

**Luke 3:11-14:** Some of them needed to be less greedy, some of them needed to be more honest, and some of them needed to be less mean and crabby. \*

Q: But what do you think John would say to us today? A: I think he would say something like this: “You are a Christian? THEN ACT LIKE IT!” \* **Teachers:** To bring this point home, consider playing a quick game called “Act Your Age”. Ask the kids what this phrase means and then invite few pairs of volunteers to come up and act out a few things. Have one kid pretend to act like a baby while the other kid acts like a big kid. Have the rest of the class decide who is “acting their age”. \* Just as an adult might challenge you to “act your age”, John the Baptist would challenge us to “act like followers of Jesus”!

**Luke 3:15-18:** John attracted many crowds and got the attention of many people. With all of this fame and popularity, perhaps he was tempted to become proud. But he never forgot his mission which was to get people ready for the “One that was mightier than him.” Q: Who was this? A: Jesus! And He is about to make His grand appearance! \*

**Luke 3:19-20:** But first, Luke tells us that John the Baptist eventually becomes imprisoned for even calling the King out for his sin! \*

**Luke 3:21-22:** Finally...the moment we have all been waiting for! \* Jesus enters the story with some *style*! John baptizes Jesus and there is a moment where God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (one God in three persons) are all working together to launch Jesus into His earthly ministry. This is one of the few times in the Bible where God the Father speaks out in a way that people could hear. And no surprise since this is the moment God has been planning for thousands of years: The promised Messiah and Savior of the world is now being introduced into the world to begin His ministry!

In **John 1:29**, John the Baptist said this as Jesus came to be baptized by him, “**Behold** \*, ***the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.***”

**Key Point:** John is inviting you also to come and behold Jesus. Is your heart ready? Do you even care? \* John is challenging you to WAKE UP, behold Jesus, and follow Him!

John sounded the alarm on the people back then to repent and “act like the people of God.” I think John would warn us similarly today. If you’re not a Christian, become one today! And if you are a Christian, “ACT LIKE IT!” The same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus lives inside every Christian to help them walk in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control! (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 3:7-8  
What does it mean to  
"bear fruit worthy of  
repentance"?

*Parent Signature:*  
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*Parent Challenge:*  
How is John the Bap-  
tist like an alarm clock?

Read John 3:30  
What did John the Bap-  
tist mean by this?

