

John the Baptist

Character: John the Baptist



heritage learning welcome

Read the story below.

Think about how John the Baptist might be feeling and what he might be thinking at each point. Make notes in the boxes – these will help you later on.

John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were very old when they had John, and they knew that he was going to have some very special work to do for God when he grew up.

John became a preacher and walked around the area near the river Jordan. He told people that they had to change their ways and begin living better lives. John said that someone else was coming who was much more important than he was, someone John thought was so important that John would not be worthy to do even the tiniest thing for, like tying his sandals.

When people came to John, and said they wanted to try and live better lives he would dip them in the water of the river. (Baptism is another way of saying dip in water.) Hundreds of people had come to John to be baptised.

One day, while John was baptising people in the River Jordan, Jesus came up to John. John and Jesus were cousins, so John recognised Jesus, but he also recognised that Jesus was the one he had been teaching about – the one who was much more important than John, who was going to do God's very special work.

At first John refused to baptise Jesus, he didn't feel he was good enough to do something so important to Jesus. He also thought that Jesus didn't need to be baptised, he was already doing things the way God wanted them.

Jesus said, "John, I want you to baptise me. God wants me to begin my work now, and this is how he wants me to begin."

So John took Jesus into the water and dipped him in, making sure the water went right over him. When Jesus came out of the water, a dove flew above him and God said, "You are my son. I am pleased with you."

John the Baptist

Character: Jesus



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Think about how Jesus might be feeling and what he might be thinking at each point. Make notes in the boxes – these will help you later on.

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John the Baptist

Character: The crowd



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Read the story below.

Think about how the crowd watching John the Baptist might be feeling and what they might be thinking at each point. Make notes in the boxes – these will help you later on.

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John the Baptist

Character: God



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Read the story below.

Think about how God might be feeling and what he might be thinking at each point. Make notes in the boxes – these will help you later on.

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John the Baptist

Character: The followers of John



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John became a preacher and walked around the area near the river Jordan. He told people that they had to change their ways and begin living better lives. John said that someone else was coming who was much more important than he was, someone John thought was so important that John would not be worthy to do even the tiniest thing for, like tying his sandals.

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