

Art Extra - John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus' Coming

Scripture Reference: John 1:6–8, 19–28

Stick Puppet John

Kids make a puppet of John the Baptist that carries a "Get ready for Jesus!" sign.

Supplies:

- Get Ready Sign PDF
- John the Baptist PDF
- Bamboo skewers or large craft sticks, one per kid
- Bottled glue
- Kid-safe scissors
- Flat toothpicks, one per kid
- Paper towels
- Fake fur (optional)

Set Up:

Print John the Baptist Front and Back PDF, one per kid. Print Get Ready for Jesus! Sign PDF, one per nine kids, allowing for one per kid. Cut signs apart. Use extra copies of everything to make a sample puppet to show the kids.

Instructions:

John the Baptist had an important message to share. Does anyone know what that message was? (*Jesus is coming, get ready for Jesus, repent, turn from doing bad*) **He wanted to tell as many folks as possible. We use different ways to get a message across to a lot of people. Can you guess what some of them might be?** (*television, billboards, emails, newspapers*) **A sign is a good way for many people to see a message.** Show the stick puppet. **Our puppet of John the Baptist has a sign in his hand. It says, "Get ready for, who?!"** (*Jesus!*) **Let's make one!**

1. Hand each kid a copy of John the Baptist (front and back). Have them cut around outside edges.
2. Give each kid a sign and toothpick for John to hold. Model folding it on the line. Place a medium glob of glue between front and back, stick in toothpick and press sides together.
3. Show kids how to lay the back view of John on the table and squeeze a large glob of glue onto it and smear it with one finger. Have a paper towel handy for cleaning little fingers!
4. Next, model how to lay the bamboo skewer or craft stick halfway on the puppet and halfway on the table. Lay the toothpick sign handle in John's hand.
5. Demonstrate laying the front view of John over the back view and pressing sides together. Allow to dry a short while.

What a fun way to tell an important message!

If you have less time. . .

Skip step 2. Simply glue a sign in John's hand after step 5.

If you have more time. . .

Glue fake fur to John's beard and hair. Or, take a walk down the hall or visit a few classrooms, letting others read the message on John's sign. Before leaving the room, prepare kids to answer questions about what John's sign means.