

John the Baptist

Jesus Is Born Lesson 6

Lesson Objectives

- The children will state that John the Baptist helped people to believe in Jesus.
- The children will thank God for being humble and loving them.
- The children will state ways that they can be humble with their friends.

Lesson Text

John 1:29-34; Matthew 3:1-17

Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."
John 3:16

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Honey Coloring Sheet

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: The Baptist

Life Application: Puppet Talk

Craft: Joyful Face

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for snack.



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John the Baptist

Honey Coloring Sheet

The children will be told of the radical lifestyle of John the Baptist.

Materials

For each child:

- markers and crayons
- 1 piece of construction paper, 8½" X 11"
- scissors (optional)
- 1 envelope (optional)

For the teacher:

- scissors
- glue
- 1 piece of poster board, 8½" X 11" for a sign

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut along the lines on the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Glue the cut-outs to the middle of the construction paper (making a framed picture).
3. On the 8½" X 11" piece of poster board write, Ask your child, "Who ate wild honey?"

Instructions

1. Have the children color their pictures.
2. Hang the poster board sign and the children's pictures outside the classroom for families to see.

Teacher Tips

- If the children would prefer, let them cut their finished pictures into pieces to create puzzles. Put them in envelopes for the children to take home.



John the Baptist

The Baptist

The children will learn what John the Baptist may have been like by hearing the teacher “interview” him and by asking their own questions.

Lesson Text

John 1:29-34; Matthew 3:1-17

Materials

For each child:

- plastic spoon

For the teacher:

- a beard
- a brown or white bed sheet
- a leather belt
- brown leather sandals (optional)
- fake bugs
- jar of honey
- a man to play John the Baptist

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for “John the Baptist”

Preparation

1. Ask a man from your congregation to play the role of John the Baptist for your class.
2. Give him the copy of Reproducible Page B.
3. Ask him to read and familiarize himself with the text and to read the Lesson Text in the Bible.
4. Give him the beard, sheet and belt for his costume. Ask him to wear brown leather sandals if possible.
5. Place the fake bugs inside the jar of honey.

Wild Man

TEACHER: John, we are so glad that you could join us today. We are studying about Jesus and learned that you are a good friend of his.

JOHN: Yes, Jesus and I were almost the same age. In fact, we were relatives.

TEACHER: What was your childhood like? Did you have a mom and a dad?

JOHN: Oh yes! I had a great mom and dad. My dad’s name was Zechariah and my mother’s name was Elizabeth.

TEACHER: What are you carrying, John?

JOHN: This is my lunch. (hold up the jar of honey and plastic insects) This is what I eat—locusts and wild honey. I love it! Would any one like some?

TEACHER: (give a spoon to any child who wants to taste the honey) Tell us a little about your life, John. What kind of job do you do?

JOHN: Well, I am a preacher and a prophet. I love my work. I get to tell people that Jesus is coming. I tell them to change things in their life that hurt God. They should make God happy and believe in Jesus (Luke 3:16).

TEACHER: Do people listen and change?

JOHN: Oh yes! Lots of people. And when they want to live for God, I baptize them, just like God said.

TEACHER: Wow! What is that like—to see people decide to make God happy and then baptize them?

JOHN: It’s great; but the greatest thing was when I got to baptize Jesus!

TEACHER: Well, what kind of things do you teach people about?

JOHN: I tell them to share their things and their food with others. I tell people not to steal from others and not to say bad things about other people. I tell people to be happy with what God has given them (Luke 3:7-14).

TEACHER: We are so glad that you could come and visit us today.

We read about you in the Bible and now we get to meet you.

Does anyone have any questions for John the Baptist?

(Prompt the children to ask John some questions.)

Conclusion

Ask the children the following questions:

- How did John help Jesus? (told people to believe in him, baptized him)
- What did John eat? (locusts and wild honey)
- What did John do? (He was a prophet; he told people about God and Jesus.)
- Did he like his work? (yes)
- Who did John baptize? (people who wanted to change, Jesus)



John the Baptist

- What things did John tell other people to do to make God happy? (share, not steal, be happy with what you have)
- Do you think he would say the same things to people today? (yes)
- What do you think he would tell you to do to make God happy?



Jesus Is Born

Lesson 6

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- Choose someone with a strong spiritual character who is good with children to play the role of John the Baptist. You want the children to catch the radical spirit of John the Baptist and to see him as a true hero. Instruct the person to give Biblical answers where applicable.
- Be sure that the children do not eat the plastic bugs.

John the Baptist

Puppet Talk

The children will see how they can imitate John the Baptist in his humility.

Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."
John 3:16

Materials

For the teacher:
• 2 puppets

Preparation

Practice the dialogue with the two puppets until you are comfortable enough to do it without the text in front of you.

Instructions

Today we are learning about John the Baptist. Before people met Jesus, they thought John was the greatest preacher. But after meeting Jesus, they knew he was even greater. John was such a good friend to Jesus. He let Jesus be the greatest. He didn't try to become better than Jesus. God calls that being humble.

These are my two puppet friends, Rick and Amy. They are going to help us learn what "humble" means.

Act out the following scenarios with the puppets:

1. Amy: Whew, it sure is hot out here. Oh goody, there's a water fountain! But look at the line! Oh well, they must be thirsty too. I'll just wait my turn. Hey! Here comes my friend!
Rick: Hi. Boy am I thirsty! I can't wait for all those people, I'm thirsty now. I'm going to the front. See you later.
Amy: But what about the others in line?
Rick: They can wait, but not me!
Amy was humble. She waited in line to get a drink. Rick was selfish and did not want to wait. Was he humble? What should he have done?

2. Amy: I finished my puzzle before you did! I'm faster than you!
Rick: My puzzle was harder than yours.
Amy: You're just slow. I'm fast. I'm the best.
Amy thought that she was better than Rick because she finished her puzzle first. Was she humble?
3. Amy: I'm a fast runner.
Rick: I run faster than you do. I'm better than you are. Do you want to race?
Was Rick being humble? To be humble he could have said something nice like "You are a fast runner. Let's run together." That would have made his friend happy.
How do you think you can be humble with your friends? (share with them, compliment them, let them go first)

Scripture Memory Activity

Have the puppets ask the children one by one to say the Scripture Memory Verse.

Conclusion

God loves us so much and wants us to be humble with each other. He wants us to think about other people and what they need. That is what God does for us.

Let's thank God that he thinks about our needs before he thinks about himself. Choose a child to pray.

We need to help each other and our other friends to be humble. Your friends might not know that God loves them so much that he takes care of them before he takes care of himself. That makes me so happy to think that God loves me that much. Can you think of a friend who would be happy to hear that God loves them that much? Should you tell that friend?

Teacher Tips

- Substitute the puppets' names for common names in your area.



John the Baptist

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“For God so loved
the world that he gave
his one and only Son.”

John 3:16



CRAFT

John the Baptist

Joyful Face

The children will make a puzzle to remind them how much God loves them.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of bright-colored construction paper
- glue stick
- pen or marker
- envelope

For the teacher:

- markers
- decorative materials

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the smiley faces from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. Cut each face into five pieces and put them in an envelope.
3. Across the bottom of each piece of construction paper write "I'm so happy that God loves me."
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Jesus Is Born

Lesson 6

Instructions

1. Give each child a piece of construction paper and an envelope with the puzzle pieces in it.
2. Have the children take out the pieces and put the puzzle together on the piece of construction paper.
3. Have the children put glue on the back of each puzzle piece and glue the pieces to the paper forming the face.
4. Have the children decorate the paper around the face.

Conclusion

Explain to the children that John the Baptist was very happy when Jesus started his ministry. It helped him to know that God loved him too.

Ask the children what God does that makes them happy.

Teacher Tips

- Copy Reproducible Page C onto yellow paper.



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John the Baptist



Finished Craft



John the Baptist

Jesus Is Born Lesson 6

Lesson Objectives

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Lesson Text

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Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

John 3:16

Wild Man-1

The children will begin working on the craft.

Materials

- For each child:
- 1 piece of poster board
 - crayons or markers
 - glue stick
- For the teacher:
- scissors
 - yarn
 - push pin
- Reproducible Pages:
- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher



Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Wild Man-1

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: Prepare the Way

Craft: Wild Man-2

Life Application: Puppet Talk

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for snack.

Preparation

1. Cut out the body stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Trace and cut out one body for each child from poster board.
3. Make a small hole with a push pin in the shoulder that is missing an arm of each body. This will be where the children will attach the arm in the Craft center.
4. Cut ten 1" pieces of yarn for each child to use as "hair."

Instructions

1. Explain to the children that they are going to make John the Baptist. They will start him now and finish him in the Craft Center.

2. Give each child a body and some yarn to glue on as hair.
3. Have the children draw a face on John and color his body. Explain that they will be putting a fur coat on the body in the Craft Center.
4. Have the children put their names on the backs of the bodies.
5. Give the 'John the Baptist' bodies to the craft teacher.

Teacher Tips

- Cut out a few extra bodies and give them to the craft teacher for children who arrive late.

John the Baptist

Jesus Is Born

Lesson 6

G

Prepare the Way

This game will help the children remember that John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.

Materials

- For the teacher:
- 1 scarf for a blindfold

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the game.

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Instructions

1. Choose one child to be John, and place a blindfold over his eyes.
2. Have the other children spread out in the space you are using.
3. The goal is for the child playing John to find another child and tag her, without looking. To do this he will call out "Prepare the way..." The other children will answer "for the Lord."
4. By listening to the children's responses, John should try to locate and tag one of the other children.
5. John may call "Prepare the way..." as many times as he wishes. Each time the other children must respond with "for the Lord."
6. When John tags someone, he must guess who it is. If he guesses correctly then the person he tagged takes a turn being John.

Teacher Tips

- If you have enough room, the children may move around to avoid being tagged. If your room is small, have the children stand still or slowly walk around.



CRAFT



John the Baptist

Wild Man-2

This craft will remind the children of the story of John the Baptist.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper
- markers or crayons
- 'John the Baptist' bodies from the Preclass Activity
- 1 brass fastener
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- stapler
- poster board
- fake fur
- white glue or tacky glue
- a push pin
- 1 piece of black construction paper

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for every 5 children

Preparation

1. Cut out the honey pots from the copies of Reproducible Page E.
2. Cut out an arm stencil from one copy of Reproducible Page E.
3. Trace and cut out one arm for each child from poster board.
4. Make a small hole in the shoulder of each arm with a push pin.
5. Cut out a 2" x 2" piece of fur for each child.
6. Cut several very small pieces of black construction paper as "locusts."
7. On the top of each piece of construction paper write "John the Baptist."
8. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

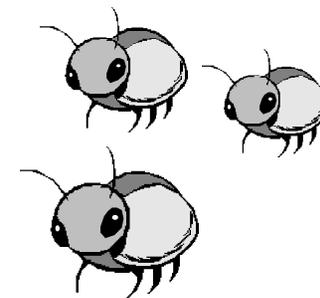
1. Give each child their John the Baptist from the Preclass Activity, an arm and a brass fastener. Help them to push the fastener through the arm and through the hole in the John figure.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them glue John onto the piece of construction paper.
3. Help the children glue a piece of fur onto John's body as a shirt.
4. Give each child a honey pot to color.
5. Have each child glue a few locusts onto the honey pot.
6. Have the children glue the honey pot onto the hand of the arm.
7. Have the children complete any coloring that they may not have finished during the Preclass Activity.

Conclusion

Have the children tell you things that they have learned about John the Baptist.

Teacher Tips

- Use tiny plastic bugs as "locusts."



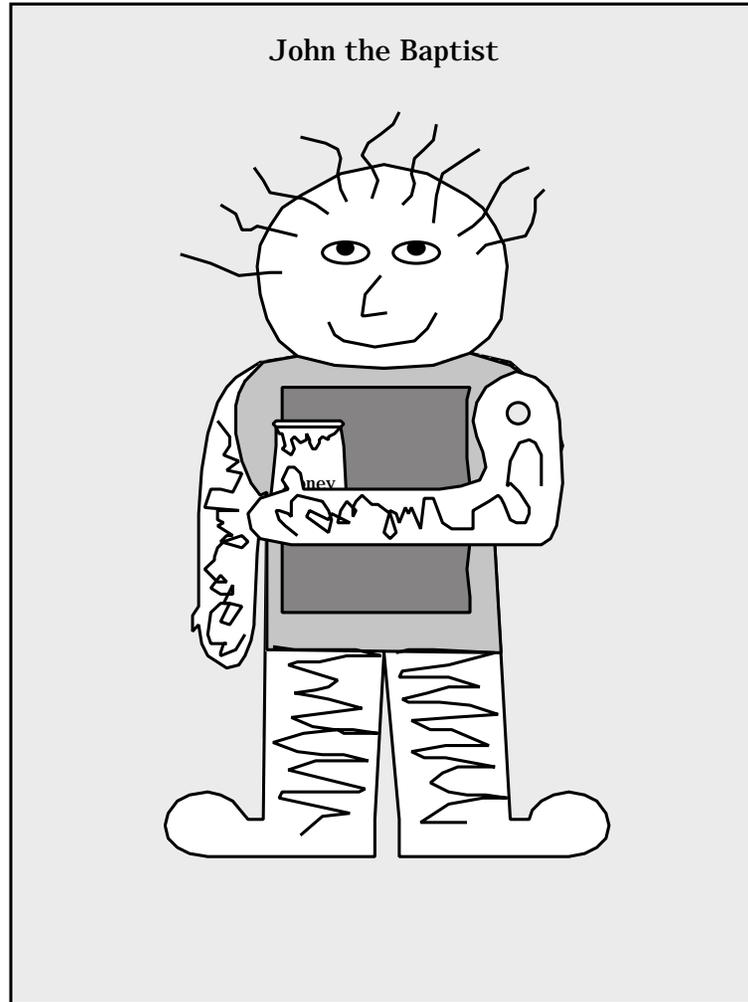
supplement

CRAFT

John the Baptist

Jesus Is Born

Lesson 6



Finished Craft



Life

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Puppet Talk

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Amy was humble. She waited in line to get a drink. Rick was selfish and did not want to wait. Was he humble? What should he have done?

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3. Amy: I'm a fast runner.
Rick: I run faster than you do. I'm better than you are. Do you want to race?
Was Rick being humble? To be humble he could have said something nice like "You are a fast runner. Let's run together." That would have made his friend happy.
4. Amy: That's a nice picture that you drew.
Rick: Thank you. I worked very hard on it. Wow, you drew a nice picture too.

How do you think you can be humble with your friends? (share with them, compliment them, let them go first)

Scripture Memory Activity

Have the puppets ask the children one by one to say the Scripture Memory Verse.

Conclusion

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Teacher Tips

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“For God so loved
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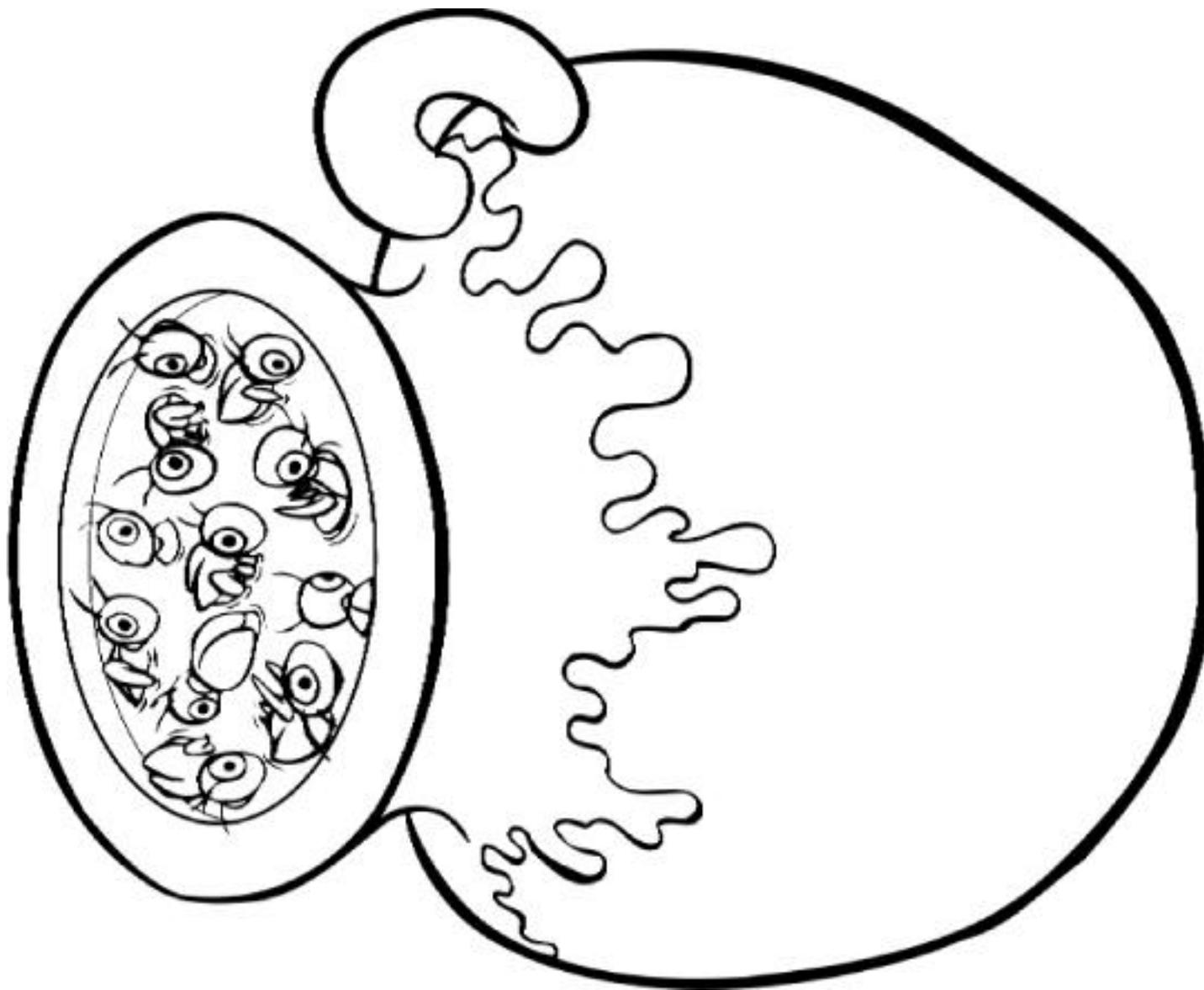
John 3:16



Jesus Is Born

Lesson 6

Core/Preclass
1 copy for each child



REPRODUCTION
Page
A



Core/Bible Story

1 copy for the teacher

Wild Man

TEACHER: John, we are so glad that you could join us today. We are studying about Jesus and learning that you are a good friend of his.

JOHN: Yes, Jesus and I were almost the same age. In fact, we were relatives.

TEACHER: What was your childhood like? Did you have a mom and a dad?

JOHN: Oh yes! I had a great mom and dad. My dad's name was Zechariah and my mother's name was Elizabeth.

TEACHER: What are you carrying John?

JOHN: This is my lunch. (holds up jar of honey and plastic insects) This is what I eat—locusts and wild honey. I love it! Would anyone like some?

Give a spoon to any child that may want to taste the honey.

TEACHER: Tell us a little about your life, John. What kind of job do you do?

JOHN: Well, I am a preacher and a prophet. I love my work. I get to tell people about Jesus coming. I tell them to change things in their life that hurt God. They should make God happy and believe in Jesus. (Luke 3:16)

TEACHER: Do people listen and change?

JOHN: Oh yes! Lots of people. And when they want to live for God, I baptize them, just like God said.

TEACHER: Wow! What is that like—to see people decide to make God happy and then baptize them?

JOHN: It's great, but the greatest thing was when I got to baptize Jesus!

TEACHER: Well what kind of things do you teach people about?

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TEACHER: We are so glad that you could come and visit us today. We read about you in the Bible and now we get to meet you. Does anyone have any questions for John the Baptist?



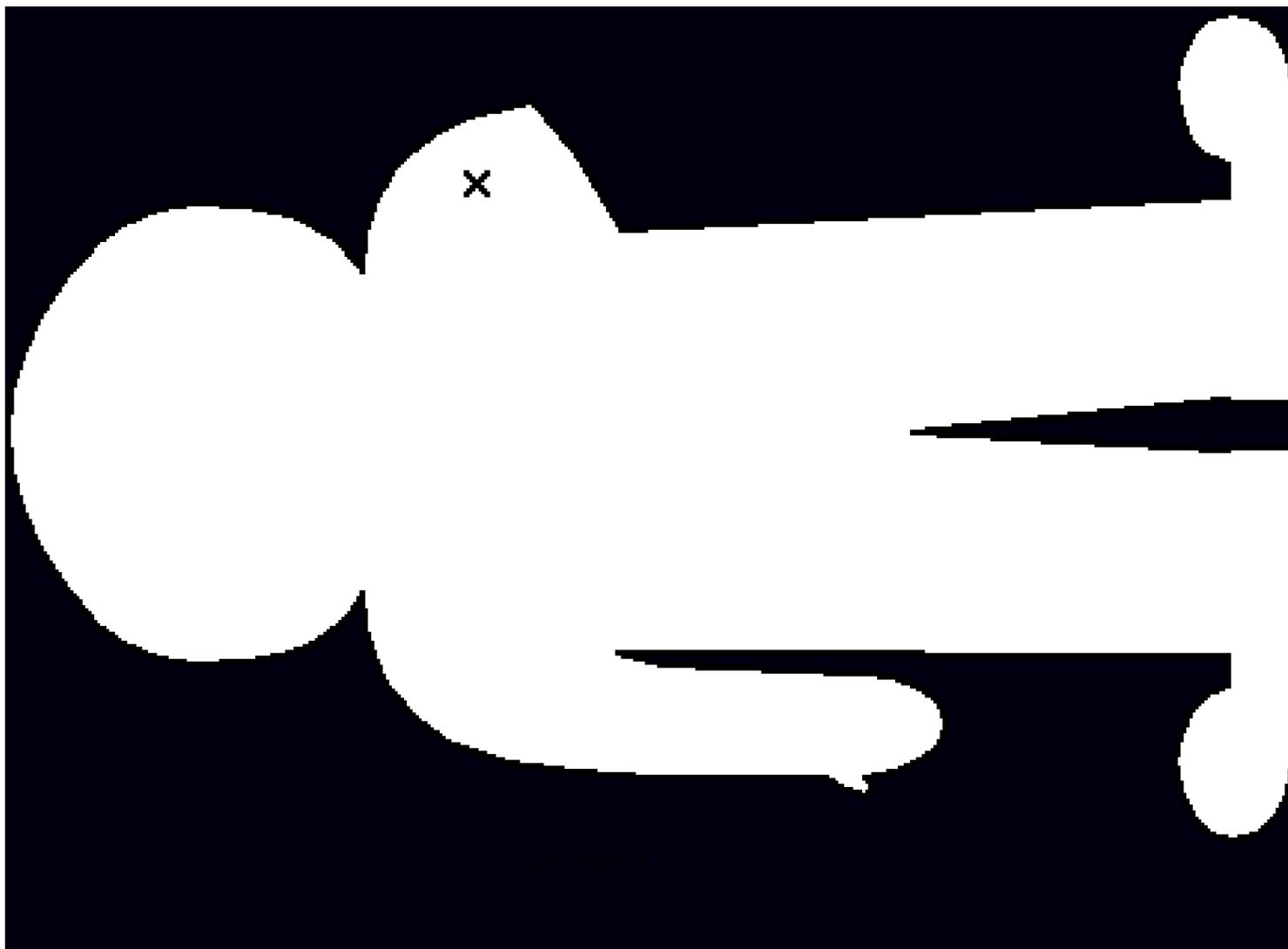
Core/Craft
1 copy for each child

Jesus Is Born
Lesson 6



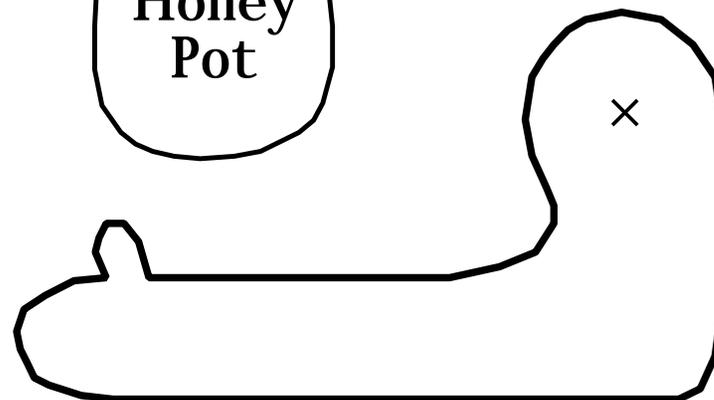
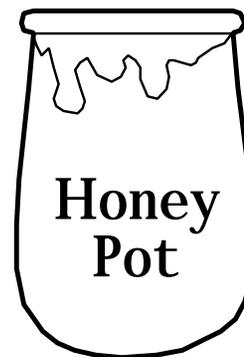
Supplement/Preclass
1 copy for the teacher

REPRODUCTION
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Supplement/Craft

1 copy for every 5 children



arm stencil

