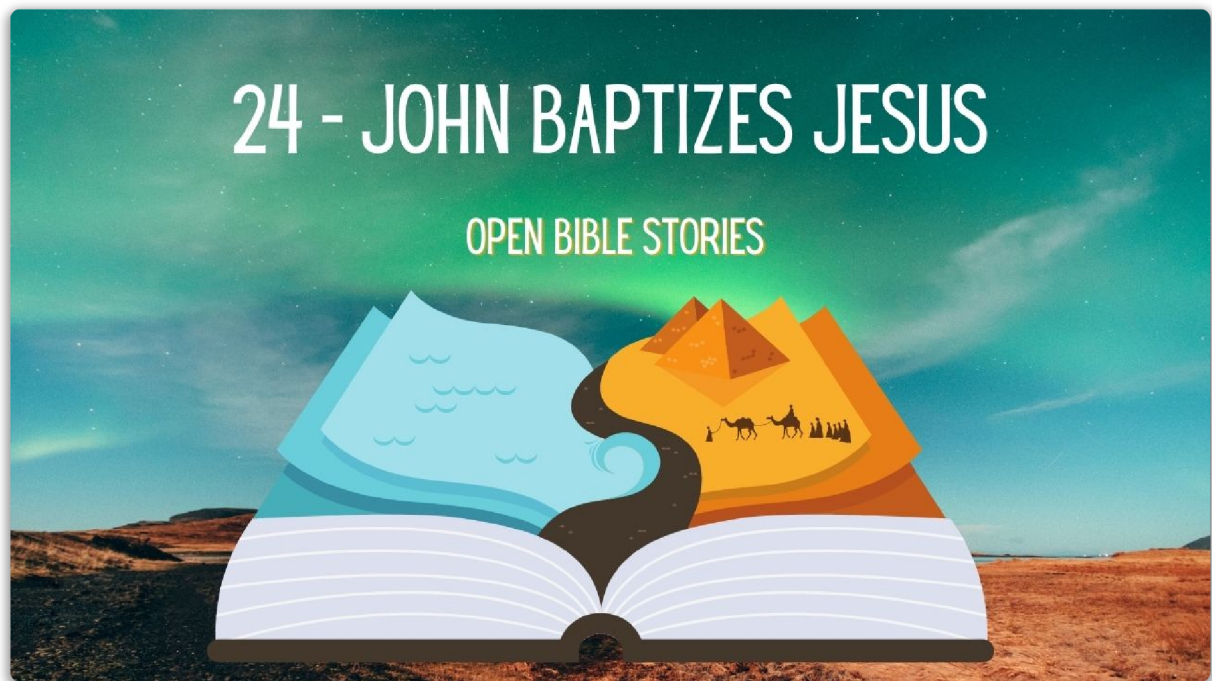


# STUDY AIDS

## Story 24 - John Baptizes Jesus

A Bible Story from the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John



MORINGA MEDITATIONS

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# A Guide to Using the Stories in the Open Bible Stories

## The Reason For The Stories

The stories in the OBS tell about things that happened in the Bible. However, the stories are shorter than the Bible accounts, and the language is often easier to understand. The stories can help people learn about who God is and about what he has done. Also, each paragraph of a story has an image that can help people understand what happened in Bible times when clothing, houses, and culture were very different than they are today.

## How to Use The Stories

- **Choose a story to read.** The stories will be easier to understand if you read the stories in order, beginning with the first story
- **Read the story.** In a group, one person may read the story aloud, or the people may take turns reading portions.
- **Look at the images.** Use the images to help you understand what happened in the time of the story. Try to identify the people in the images.
- **Refer to the Notes.** Read the study notes whenever there is a word or something else that you do not understand in the story.
- **Discuss the Questions.** Read each question and think about the answer. The first set of questions help you see what the story says. The next set of questions help you think about what the story means to you. If you are in a group, allow different people to offer answers to the questions. Look at the answer to each question and see how it is the same as your answer, or different from it.
- **Read the Summary.** Read the story summary at the end of the questions. Think about what you have learned about God in the story. If you are in a group, ask the group what they have learned from the story.

## The Parts of The Stories

- The text of the stories
- The images in the stories
- The study notes in the stories
- The questions for the stories

## Study Notes

### Slide 1

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, grew up and became a prophet. He lived in the wilderness, ate wild honey and locusts, and wore clothes made from camel hair.

**wild honey** - This honey was the natural product of bees in the wilderness; it was not cultivated by people.

**locusts** - These were large, hopping insects with wings, like very large grasshoppers. Some people who live in the desert eat them.

**clothes made from camel hair** - The hair of a camel is very coarse and strong. Clothes made of camel hair would not quickly wear out in the wilderness as other clothes would.



### Slide 2

Many people came out to the wilderness to listen to John. He preached to them, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!"

**Repent** - To repent means to begin to think and act differently about something. In this case, it means to decide to change your behavior because it was wrong to sin.

**the kingdom of God is near** - That means the kingdom of God is ready to appear.

