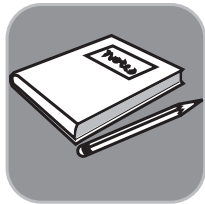


WEEK 1

The Man

Preparation:

Read Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:1-6, Luke 3:1-6, using the Bible study notes to help you.



Matthew

- 3:1 The Desert (or Wilderness) of Judea lies to the west of the upper end of the Dead Sea.
- 3:2 Repent involves a change of attitude resulting in a changed life-style. The reason given for the need for repentance is the imminent arrival of God's kingdom.
- 3:3 cf. Isaiah 40:3 (the exile is ending at last, spiritually).
- 3:4 cf. 2 Kings 1:8.
- 3:6 Baptism symbolised the washing away of past sins in order to be ready for the coming of God's kingdom.

Mark

- 1:2 cf. Malachi 3:1.
- 1:3 cf. Isaiah 40:3.

Luke

- 3:1-2 Tiberius reigned between AD 14-37. Pilate was governor of Judea in AD 26-36, so John's ministry (and the start of Jesus' ministry) was somewhere between AD 26 and 29.
- 3:2 Caiaphas was high priest in AD 18-37, but his father-in-law, Annas, (high priest in AD 6-15) was still very influential.
- 3:4-6 cf. Isaiah 40:3-5.

Other passages of interest: Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 11:11-14; 17:10-13, Mark 9:11-13.

Lesson Aim:

To show that John was the forerunner spoken about in Malachi 4:5-6.

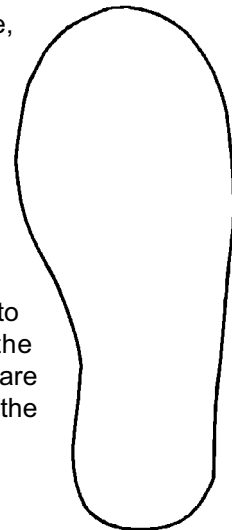
Show the children a picture in which there is a lot of activity. Put the picture away and ask them to describe

Lesson Plan



what they saw. Discuss why different people saw different things. Hopefully, when everyone's account is taken into consideration, you will end up with a complete picture of the event. Link this to the different accounts of the ministry of John the Baptist. Teach the Bible passage, using the grid on page 9 to help.

To teach the memory verse, prepare 29 sandal cutouts (see diagram). Write the memory verse onto the sandals, one word on each sandal. Pin them up and repeat the Bible verse twice. Then remove several words and see if the children can still repeat the verse. Continue to remove words, repeating the verse each time, until there are no more sandals left. Keep the sandals for the next lesson.



A map of the area is useful to show where John's ministry took place (see page 8).

Visual aids



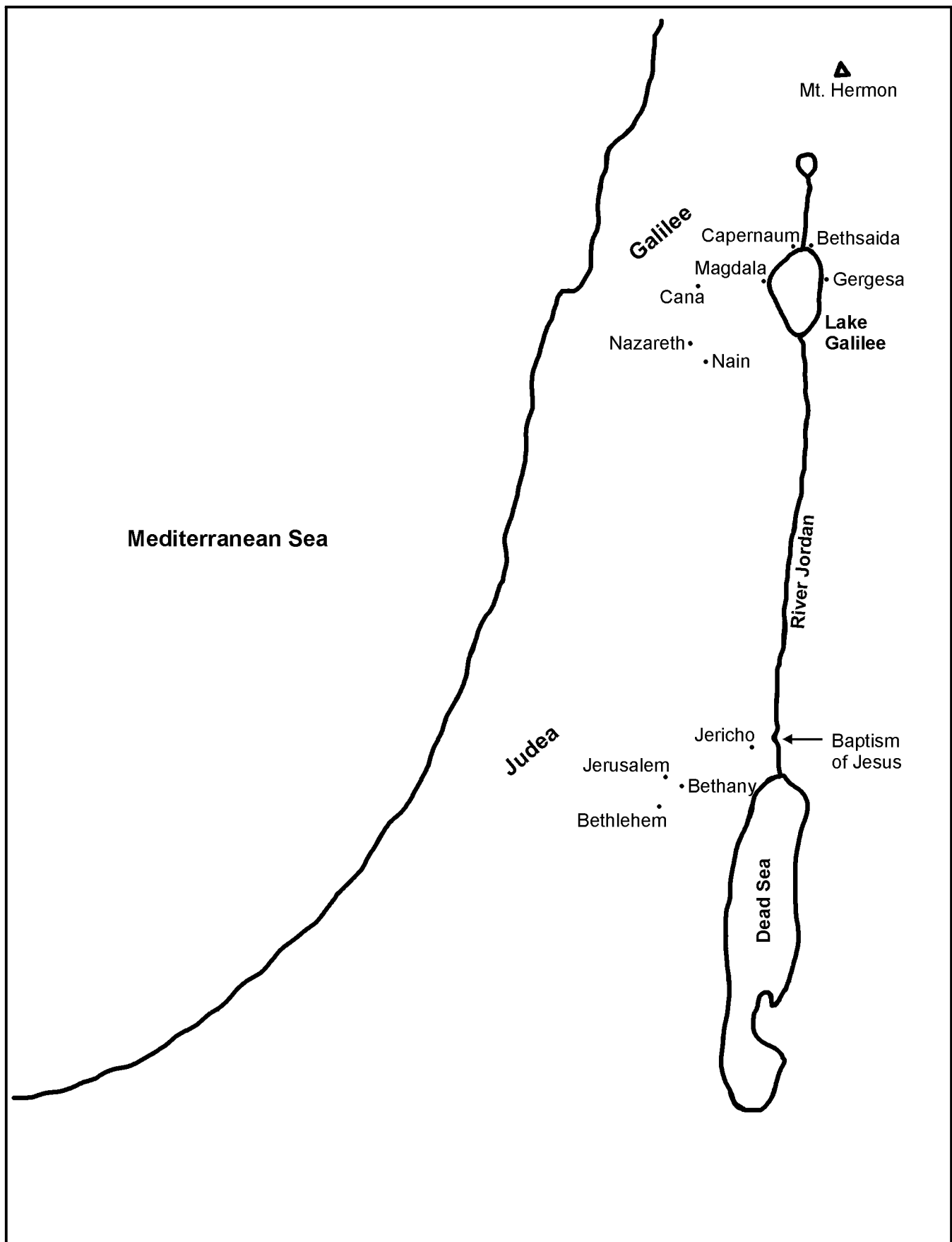
Photocopy page 9 for each child. The activity is designed to teach the children to use different gospel

Activities



accounts to build up a complete picture of an episode. Look at the statements on the left of the sheet and fill in the verses in which they occur in the appropriate column. e.g. Son of Zechariah - Luke 3:2. Keep the sheet for the next week to fill in any points from the John passage.

Palestine in the Time of Jesus



John the Baptist - the Man

Description	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Son of Zechariah				
Ministry took place between AD 26-29				
Preached in the desert of Judea				
Preached in the country around the Jordan				
Was spoken of by Isaiah - 40:3 - 40:4-5				
Was spoken of by Malachi - 3:1				
Preached the need for repentance				
Preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins				
People came to hear him from Jerusalem and the whole of Judea				
People came to hear him from around the Jordan				
Wore a camel's hair coat and a leather belt				
Ate locusts and wild honey				
Baptised people after they had confessed their sins				