

JOHN THE BAPTIST STORY (Part one)

There was once a very old couple who had no children, so they prayed to God for a son. After many years of praying, the man named Zechariah received a visit from an angel who told him that God had heard his prayer and a baby boy was coming to him and his wife.

About one year later, the baby came and the old couple named him John.

John grew up near mountains and a desert which had the river Jordan flowing through. When he was a boy he was allowed to go into the desert by himself with his bow and arrow and camp there. At night he would unroll his sleeping bag which his mother had made for him and lie on his back looking up at the many thousands of stars in the night sky and wonder about the God who made them.

When John's sandwich's had been eaten he needed to find a way to get food. The desert was hot by day and apart from the odd bush there was nothing but sand for miles. One day he heard buzzing in the crag of nearby mountain, bees had made a nest. At the risk of being stung John wrapped his sleeping bag around himself, quietly walking towards the nest and took a clone of honey to eat. On another day, John observed a swarm of locusts eating a green bush. He was hungry and so picked as many locusts and bugs as he could, putting them into his bag to eat later.

All this camping in the desert was good practice for when he grew up to be a man.

Picture of
desert
+
bugs

One day, after eating his lunch of bugs John walked down to the river Jordan and stood in the middle of the water. By now he was a grown up man and the people of the town thought he was a weird. Some people liked John and some did not. The King's wife did not like John.

John had a job to do which was from God. People would go to him and tell him about the naughty things they had done, such as telling lies or stealing someone's donkey and John would dunk them in the water. John told the people to change their ways for God doesn't like people telling lies and stealing other people's property. John had a more important job than this, for he was to tell the people about a very special person who would come to earth and die for all the naughty things people had said and done – his name was Jesus.