

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 21

**HEROD & JOHN
THE BAPTIST**

MARK 6: 14-29

Life of Christ

Herod & John the Baptist

Mark 6:14-29

Younger Verse

Don't be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian.

1 Peter 4:16

Older Verse

Don't be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God that you belong to Him.

1 Peter 4:16

Lesson Goals

Learn that John the Baptist was treated badly for speaking the truth
Understand that doing the right thing isn't always popular
Recognize that we need to be God-pleasers, not people-pleasers

Opener

Have you ever heard the saying, "If everyone else jumped off a cliff, would you do it, too?" Sometimes, we are tempted to join the crowd, even when we know it is wrong. Let's learn about a man who was brave about his faith.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus sent His disciples out to share God's love with people. Many great things happened because they followed the directions Jesus had given them. Does anyone remember what happened when they went out? Sick people were healed, evil spirits were removed, and many people were able to hear about God's love. The good news about Jesus continued to spread.

King Herod was the ruler of the land at that time. He had heard about the things that Jesus had done. When he heard about those things, it reminded him of John the Baptist. Does anyone remember who John the Baptist was? He went around telling everyone to prepare their hearts because God's Son, Jesus, was coming. He also baptized Jesus. But Herod had done an evil thing—he had had John killed! So when he heard about the amazing things Jesus was doing and His teaching, Herod thought John had come back to life!

Herod was probably feeling guilty about what had happened to John. In Mark's gospel, it tells us what had happened with Herod and John the Baptist.

It all started when Herod married a lady named Herodias. Herodias had been the wife of Herod's brother! John told Herod that it was not right for him to take his brother's wife. This made both Herod and Herodias angry. They did not want to be criticized for what they had done.

Herod had respected John, and he enjoyed listening to his teaching. He knew that John was a man of God. But when John told him that marrying Herodias was wrong, he did not want to listen. Herodias, Herod's wife, hated John. She wanted John killed, but Herod did not want to kill him. So instead, Herod ordered for Him to be put in jail.

Later, an opportunity came for Herodias to get her revenge. On Herod's birthday, he held a big dinner party and invited many important people. The daughter of Herodias came in and performed a dance for all the guests. The king enjoyed the dance so much that he made a promise to the girl. He said, "Ask me for anything you want; I will give it you." He was even willing to give her up to half of his kingdom!

Unsure of what to do, the girl ran to her mother. Herodias told her what to ask for. Remember, Herodias hated John the Baptist. The girl ran back to the king and said, "I want the head of John the Baptist."

Now the king had a problem. He respected John, but he had made a promise to the girl. He was afraid of looking bad to all his guests. What do you think the king chose to do? Immediately, he ordered for John the Baptist to be killed. When John's followers heard about his death, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

John stayed true to following God even when it was hard. John preached God's truth, and he ended up dying for it. Can you think of anyone else that died because they were sharing God's love and truth? Jesus died on the cross, and three days later, He came back to life. Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that we can have eternal life. You can ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive your sins. Then He will be with you forever.

Review Questions

1. Who did King Herod think of when he heard Jesus teach? (John the Baptist)
2. What did Herod do that John said was wrong? (He married his brother's wife.)
3. What did Herodias tell her daughter to ask Herod for? (for John to be killed)

Prayer Time

Pray that we will be willing to stand up for what is right, even when it is not the popular thing to do.

Life Application

Herodias held a grudge against John, even though she was the one at fault. She did not want to admit her wrong, and she blamed John instead. In our lives, we must admit when we are wrong, ask for forgiveness, and forgive others in the same way. God promises that He will forgive us when we tell Him our wrongs. He also tells us that He will forgive us and forget all the wrongs that we did.

John the Baptist was always bold when he preached God's truth. He wasn't worried about being popular and pleasing people. He lived to please God. Who are we living to please—people or God?

Planning for Lesson 22
Jesus Feeds the 5,000
Mark 6:30-44

Preschool Lesson for Herod & John the Baptist

I am so pleased to see that many of my friends could be here today. Our story is about someone that is related to Jesus. His name was John; he was Jesus' cousin. Do any of you have cousins? John loved to tell people about Jesus. John knew that Jesus was God's Son, and he told people to get ready for Jesus to come.

John even had the chance to talk with the king. The king's name was Herod. Herod did many bad things. When Herod did the bad things, he did not think they were wrong. Herod decided he wanted to get married. The girl he picked, though, was already married! Her name was Herodias, and do you know what? She was married to his brother. John knew God's truth, and he knew that this would not please God. John shared many things about God with Herod and also told him that it would not be right for him to marry his brother's wife. What do you think Herod decided to do?

Herod and Herodias did not like being told what to do. Herodias wanted John to be killed, but Herod did not. Herod was angry at him, but knew that he was a man that loved God. So Herod had John put in jail. Had John done anything wrong? No! Well, Herodias still wanted to get revenge on John. So she waited until she could find a way to do something to John.

It was Herod's birthday, and he was having a big party with many people. Herodias' daughter came and danced at the party in front of all the guests. Everyone liked it so much that Herod promised her he would give her anything she wanted, even half of all his kingdom! The girl was not sure what to do, so she went to ask her mother, Herodias, what to do. What do you think Herodias told her to do? Remember, Herodias was still mad at John.

The girl ran back to Herod and told him she wanted John to be killed! Well, now the king had a problem. He knew that John was a man of God, and he enjoyed listening to John when he taught. But he had made a promise to the girl. Herod did not want to look bad in front of all his friends, so he ordered for John to be killed. When John's friends heard what had happened, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

John wanted to help people know how to live in a way that pleased God. That was why he told the king that he was not making a good choice. We can help our friends when we see them making bad choices. That is one way of showing God's love to others.

John died for telling others about God. Can you think of anyone else who died because they shared about God's love? Jesus died and then came back to life three days later. He died to make a way for us to get to Heaven and be with God. If you ask Jesus to live in your heart and to take away the wrong things you have done, then you will get to live with Him in Heaven.

Hands-on Activities for Herod & John the Baptist

Make up a dance or stomp routine with your kids. Discuss how Herodias' daughter danced to please King Herod. But we need to sing and dance to please God!

Talk about how Herodias held a grudge against John the Baptist. Bring a backpack filled with something heavy, like books, bricks, rocks etc. Share how a grudge is like carrying a heavy backpack around with you. Let some of the kids carry it. Now remove the heavy items. Share how Jesus can help us remove the heavy "grudge" if we talk to Him and ask Him to help us.

King Herod heard John's words but did not take them to heart. It is easy to hear about Jesus and know who He is. It is another thing to believe and trust in Him with your heart. Teachers, you may have children today that do not know Jesus personally. Take time to share how Jesus can be more than someone they hear about in history; He can be their best friend!

Celebrate birthdays today! Bring a cake and party favors. It would be fun to sing also! Make sure every child knows that you love them and that they are special.

King Herod worried about what others would think if he didn't grant the dancer's request. It is important to do what God wants and not worry about what others think or say. Talk about how hard it is to do things and not be afraid of what others are whispering about you. Then play the "Telephone" game by starting a sentence and whispering it around the circle. Then see if it comes back the same as when it started.

Look around your apartment complex and see if someone needs encouragement this week. Have the kids write cards or take flowers to that person. Help the kids see the importance of helping others in need.

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Christian.
1 Peter 4:16



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Praise God that you
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1 Peter 4:16



Word Search

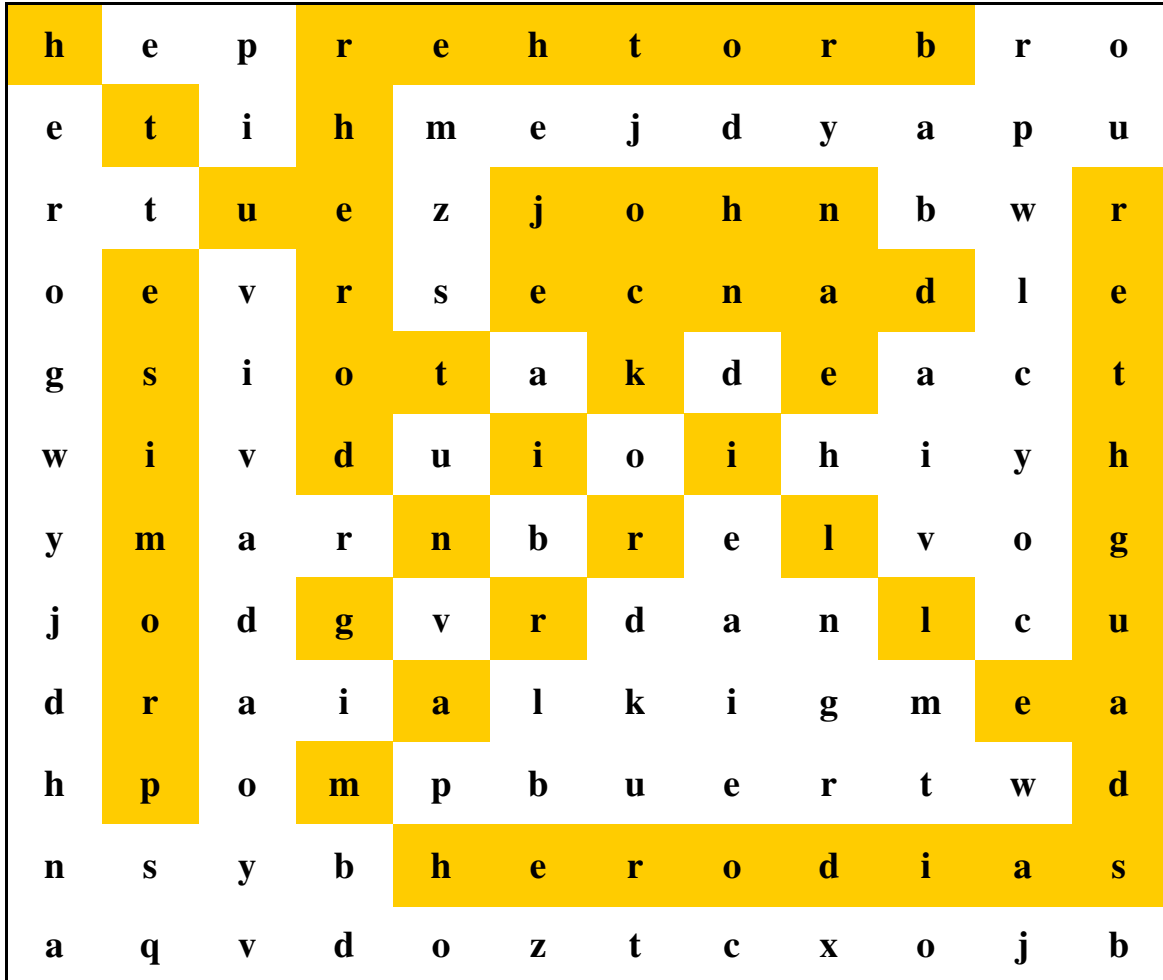
Herod & John the Baptist

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|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| John | Herod | Herodias |
| daughter | dance | killed |
| brother | married | king |
| promise | truth | |

Word Search

Herod & John the Baptist



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|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| John | Herod | Herodias |
| daughter | dance | killed |
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Herod r__sp__c__ed

John the Baptist.

But he made a foolish

Promise

to Herodias' daughter.