

John the Baptist

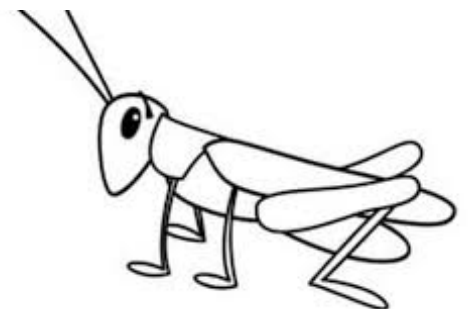
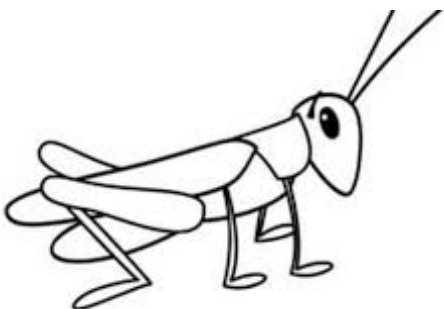
Mark 1:1-11

Story:

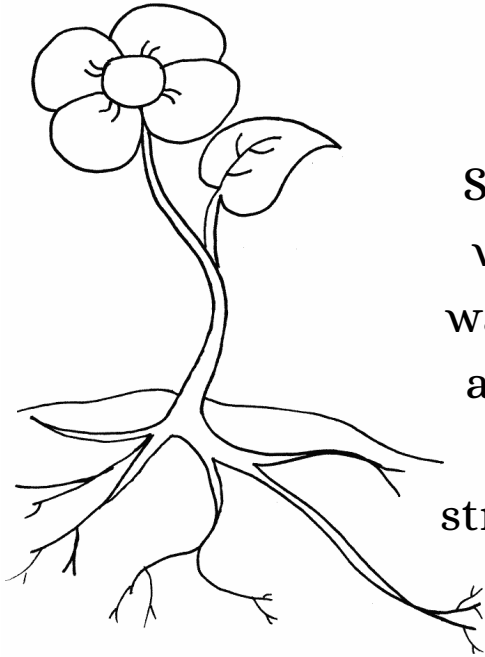
John the Baptist prepared the way before Jesus. This means he would go to different places and tell people about the exciting news of Jesus. He would then baptise them. They would go to the River Jordan and he would place them under water quickly. Then Jesus met John and John baptised him. When this happened the sky opened and a dove came down from Heaven and Jesus heard a voice saying "You are my son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased". John baptised with water but Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit.

Did you know?

John the Baptist is thought to have only eaten locusts and honey! Locusts are insects! Have you ever eaten insects before?

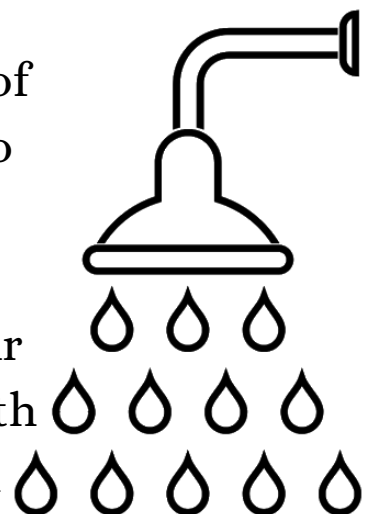


John baptised people. This means they go under water and then come back up again. Often churches baptise using something called a font and putting water on the head of the person being baptised. Water is a powerful symbol*



Think about how plants need water. Sometimes if a plant does not have enough water it will start to die. But once they are watered they will look more alive and happy again. This is what it is like for us when we have the Holy Spirit inside us, we will be strong because God is with us, refreshing us.

When we are cleaned we are getting rid of any bad things that we might have on us. Again, the water symbolises* this cleaning of our mind and spirit. This allows for Jesus to live inside us and to help us. Like with showers this is something that we have to repeat regularly. If we pray regularly for our hearts to be open to the Holy Spirit to be with us we will begin to see a transformation in ourselves.



*Symbolism is when one object or thing stands in the place of something else, such as an idea, another object, a person, or a place. For instance, all countries have flags for their own country. The flag symbolises the country. The flag stands in place of the country.

Want to see for yourself the impact that water has on plants?

Put the top of a carrot in a saucer of water and watch how it grows and comes to life over time.



We Pray...

Heavenly Father, we ask for your Holy Spirit to fill us, refresh us and clean us in our heart and mind. Thank you that when we are baptised with water we are baptised with the Holy Spirit at the same time. Help us to remember the importance water has both as a symbol of how Jesus helps us but also the physical ways it helps us. Thank you for giving us water so that we are not thirsty.

Amen.

