

Medal of Honor [Lesson 1 of 2]



Scripture:

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Introduction to Teachers:

Teachers: This introduction is for you to aid you with understanding what this lesson entails for the 4s, 5s, 6s age range.

Lesson will emphasize:

- God has a plan “just for you.”
- You will have a choice to do what He asks [accept it] or not do what He asks [reject it.]
- You should prepare NOW at this age to be ready for His Plan.
 - By being Obedient
 - By Praying faithfully

Written several hundreds of years prior to fulfillment:

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Fulfilled: *John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

Endorsed by Jesus Himself:

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Noteworthy and unusual facts about John the Baptist:

- Mission assignment announced before conception by Gabriel
- Was an ODD DUCK personality
 - Dressed like a 1960s Hippie
 - Ate bugs
 - A Loner when not doing public ministry; a recluse.
- Taught Repentance which looked nothing like the religious community of his day
- Had disciples; two left him to follow Jesus; one of those was named Andrew, Simon Peter's brother
- Announced Jesus arrival into ministry; then baptized the Son of God
- Was beheaded by Herod for standing by the Truth of God's Word concerning lifestyle choices. Died a martyr.
- Jesus awards him the highest honor possible in the eyes of mankind by his personal endorsement:*No one Greater*....

As a side note:

The Medal of Honor was established during the Civil War.

There have been 3000+ recipients since its beginning; 1500 of those were issued in the Civil War. Therefore, the average per year since that time has been 10 per year.

This is the highest military award available. It is presented by the President of the United States on behalf of the U.S. Congress for “personal acts of valor...” and “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life....above and beyond the call of duty.”

Often it is awarded posthumously to the next of kin.

LESSON:

Have a "birth announcement" or a picture of a new born to show.

CHOSEN FEW or God has a PLAN FOR YOU

Do you have a baby brother or sister? Or do you know someone that recently got a new baby at their house? What are some of the FIRST things everybody talks about when a new baby comes?

- Want to see pictures
- Want to know the baby's name

The same thing happened to Zacharius and Elisabeth in the Book of Luke in the Bible.

The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharius and Elisabeth that they would have a son and he should be named John.

Shortly after Elisabeth found out she was expecting, Gabriel also made a visit to her cousin, Mary.

Elisabeth and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were cousins.

What a VERY blessed family this was! Two of the ladies in the family were carrying very special children. One was carrying the man that Jesus would say that no Prophet had ever been greater than John the Baptist! How super special is that? And the other lady, Mary, was carrying the very Son of God who was God in the flesh, the Redeemer, the Savior of the World, the Messiah.

The Old Testament prophets had foretold John's mission as the forerunner and announcer of the Messiah's presence on earth.

He had a specific mission planned by God Himself.

JOHN THE BAPTIST DID NOT CHOOSE HIS OWN MISSION; NEITHER DID HE RUN FROM IT.

Read Luke 1: 76-77 and each scripture listed directly from your Bible so that the children can see that what you are telling them comes directly from the Word of God. This becomes less of a "story" to them and more of "God's Word is telling me this..."

His mission was stated by the Prophet Isaiah and by the Prophet Malachi several hundred years before his birth. His father, Zacharius was told straight out by the Angel Gabriel:

Luke 1:76-77 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

Zacharius and Elisabeth must have prepared John for this mission while growing up as a child because the Bible says:

Luke 1:80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel

The mission was clear to his parents.

This mission had to also be clear to John.

He was chosen, called out, for a particular time in history to do a particular job.

WE, ALSO, ARE CHOSEN, CALLED OUT, FOR A PARTICULAR TIME IN HISTORY TO DO A PARTICULAR TASK.

John was chosen to announce the Messiah; to clear the way for people to understand that prophecy was being fulfilled.

He did just that. But FIRST he had to grow spiritually strong, just as you and I must if we are going to fulfill the mission God has planned for us.

Can you think of some ways that you can PLAN and PREPARE to hear what God wants from you?

At your age it is extremely important to be OBEDIENT and extremely important to PRAY on a faithful regular basis. This way you can be READY when He calls.

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU! WATCH FOR IT! PREPARE FOR IT, STARTING NOW.

Obedience and prayer are two of the biggest preparations/training elements you can start with now.

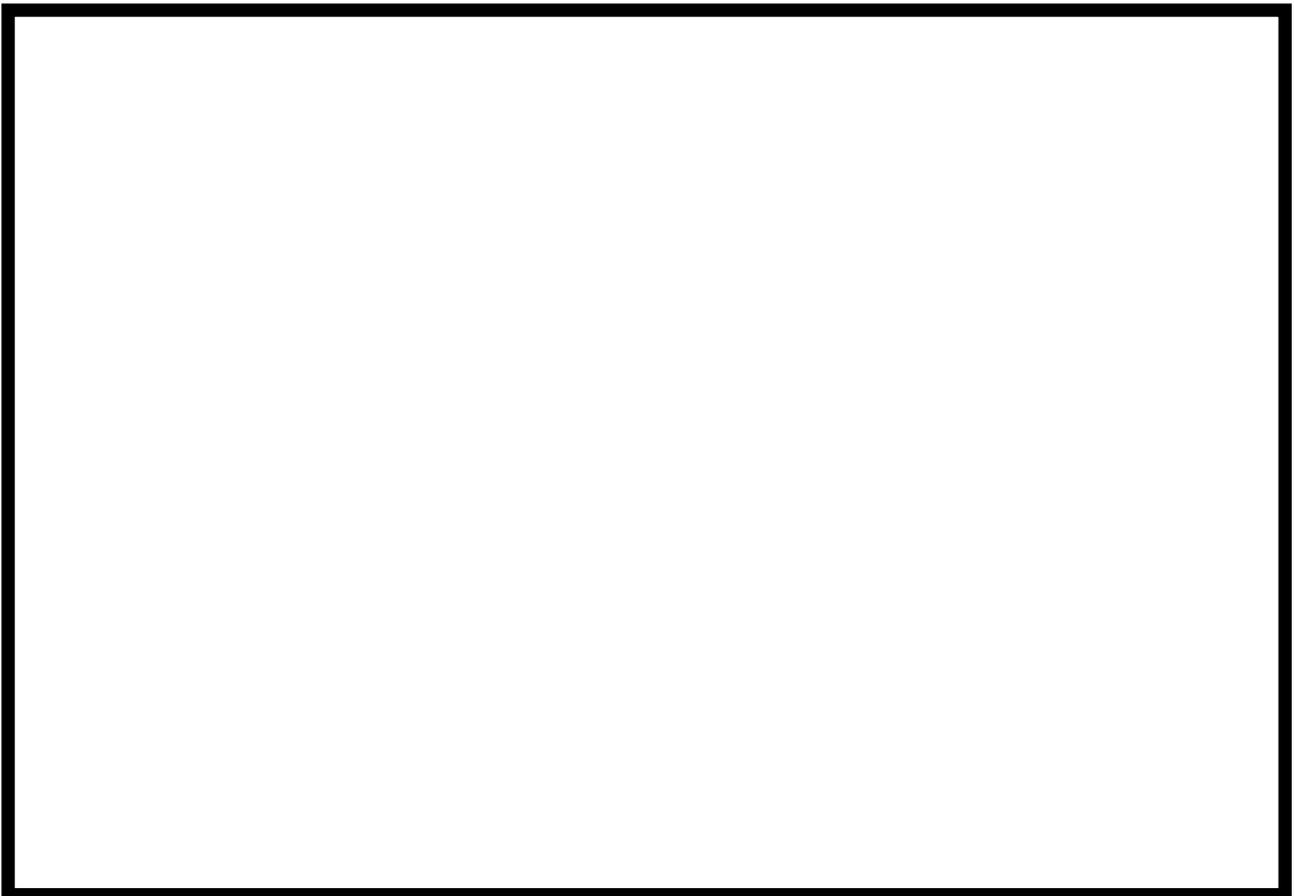
A Medal of Honor recipient does not start out to try to earn the Medal of Honor. He starts out by doing his duty.

Obedience and Prayer are your duty!

Worksheet follows.

Pray and Obey are two things you can do now to prepare to serve God now and in the future.

Color Picture. Then draw an additional picture inside the box of something to pray about.



Medal of Honor [Lesson 2 of 2]



Scripture:

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than

Introduction to Teachers:

Teachers: Please go back and re-read the introduction in Medal of Honor [Lesson 1 of 2] in preparation to present Medal of Honor [Lesson 2 of 2].

LESSON:

We are continuing our lesson about John the Baptist today.

Review these points:

You may remember from last time that John the Baptist was:

- **CHOSEN** by GOD to do a very special MISSION for GOD.
- He was chosen before he was born
- **You also are chosen** by God.
- **He chose to PREPARE** for his mission.
- **You can ALSO choose to prepare** for your mission
 - By Obedience
 - By Prayer

MADE THE CHOICE: Enlisted

The old Mission Impossible television series and the movie utilized this phrase: *"If you choose to accept your mission....."*

John the Baptist did have a choice.

He had free will just like you and I have free will.

We can make choices. Sometimes your choices are easy ones like: Chocolate or Strawberry.

But at other times choices are not as easily made. Like if someone gets mad and hits you; you have a choice to hit back or a choice to try to "resolve" the problem in another way. It's a choice.

- **He had a choice to accept Christ or not**
- **To accept his mission or not**
- **To accept his calling or not. He could enlist or not enlist.**

BUT ONCE ENLISTED THERE ARE REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING INVOLVED IN ORDER TO GO BEYOND ENLISTMENT AND TO BE IN THE BATTLE;

JUST LIKE WE HAVE THE SAME OBLIGATIONS IF WE ACCEPT OUR PERSONAL MISSION; OUR OBLIGATION IS TO PREPARE.

Just as a soldier must undergo basic training and special skills training for his particular military position, so did John the Baptist for his and so must you and I for our assignments.

HE HAD TO DEPEND UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MAN IN ORDER TO HIT THE MARK THAT GOD HAD INTENDED.

To the Teacher:

Pick and choose from this list some facts to help highlight the lesson. Consider age appropriateness as well as your time limitations.

- To get his orders from Headquarters, he had to be Holy Spirit filled.
- To be set apart and used in a mighty way, he had to be different from the World
- He was misunderstood by the masses because his message was not the same as their message.
- Spent 30 years in seclusion in the desert before his mountain top experience of baptizing Jesus.
- Spent less than 2 years preaching publicly the repentance message, baptizing, and making disciples.
- Accomplished his miss to *"make straight the way of the Lord.."*
- Spent about 18 months in prison for standing on the Word; paid the ultimate cost humanly possible.
- Died in the line of duty. Beheaded by King Herod.
- In today's military service he would have earned the Medal of Honor.

COMPLETED THE MISSION

Read Matthew 3: 1-3 & 13-17 and each scripture listed directly from your Bible so that the children can see that what you are telling them comes directly from the Word of God. This becomes less of a "story" to them and more of "God's Word is telling me this..."

Matthew 3:1-3; 13-17 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.....

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS CHOSEN TO FULFILL A MISSION. YOU ARE, TOO.

John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHOSE TO ACCEPT HIS MISSION. Whether you accept yours or not accept yours is up to you.

JOHN THE BAPTIST COMPLETED HIS MISSION. John's mission was completed successfully. The Messiah was introduced as the scripture said He would be.

REVIEW:

- YOU ARE SPECIAL CALLED/HAVE A MISSION PLANNED BY GOD.

- YOU CAN PREPARE NOW FOR IT.
- YOU CAN EITHER ACCEPT OR REJECT GOD'S CALL WHEN IT COMES.

Activity:

Make a "Medal of Honor" with a place for the child's name.

Talk about the Honor of earning a real one in the military.

Talk about the Honor of earning a Medal of Honor for completing your Mission that God has for you to do.

Foam Craft Kits are sold to make Badges/Medals/Awards or you could make one from construction paper and markers.

I simply google'd "make your own medal" and added foam kit and the pictures alone came up with about 40 different styles. Some were even as extravagant as making them from cookie dough. Others simple as foam on foam craft sets.