

# IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

By REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Copyright, 1922, Western Newspaper Union.

## LESSON FOR JULY 1

### JOHN, THE BAPTIST

(May be used with temperance applications.)  
LESSON TEXT—Luke 3:3-5; 7:24-28.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"He shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink."  
—Luke 1:15.  
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Matt. 3:1-12; 11:7-15; Mal. 3:1-6.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Baby John Prepared the Way for Jesus.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Herald of the Christ.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Character and Work of John, the Baptist.

John was a great man. In announcing his birth the angel said, "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord." He was not only great in the Lord's sight, but was great when measured by the standards of men. In the teaching of this lesson a survey should be made of John's life and work.

#### I. Birth and Ministry Foretold (Matt. 3:3; cf. Isa. 40:3).

He was thought about and his work planned long before he was born. He came as God's messenger. His life was a plan of God. He was said to be a man sent from God (John 1:6). There is a sense in which every life is planned—everyone is sent from God. Everyone should remember that God has something to do with his life.

#### II. His Character.

1. Humble (Luke 3:4). He did not seek human praise and commendation. His supreme concern was to proclaim the Christ. He did not make himself prominent—was only a voice calling upon people to prepare for the Messiah. His person and habits were a protest against the luxury and hypocrisy of his time.

2. Courageous (Luke 3:7). He faced a great multitude and struck hard at their sins. He did not trim his message to suit the crowd. He even denounced the religious leaders of his time and demanded of them fruits worthy of repentance.

#### III. His Preaching (Luke 3:3-5).

1. Demanded Repentance (vs. 3-5). Suddenly emerging from his seclusion, he came into the region of the Jordan as a messenger of God, calling upon the people to repent in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

2. Demanded Proofs of Penitence (vs. 7, 8). He insisted that their false religions be abandoned—their sinful hearts renovated—showed them that the vile passions of their souls must be uprooted. A change of mind, that is, the turning of the soul from sin to God, was necessary. This is a preparation which must be made before one can see and experience the salvation of God.

#### IV. Jesus' Testimony to John (Luke 7:24-28).

Because John did not see the interval between the "sufferings of Christ" and the "glory that should follow" he was perplexed. Therefore he sent a deputation to Jesus for light. The prophets did not see, or at least did not make clear, the interval between the crucifixion of Christ and His second coming. The two events were so presented as to appear to be in close succession. John in his preaching has stressed the mighty judgments which should take place at the appearance of the Messiah. The two things were talking (he himself being imprisoned with the gloomy prospect of death), was in great contrast to the coming of the Messiah in fiery judgment—"the ax is laid unto the root of the trees" and "the chaff is burned up with unquenchable fire" (Matt. 3:10, 12). The trend of events puzzled him. It was not lack of faith, but confusion of mind that prompted his inquiry. Christ's testimony defended him against any such accusation. Christ vindicated him against a vacillating mind because of the storms of persecution. He was not like a reed shaken by the wind (v. 24). He had lived a life of self-denial, therefore he did not deny his faith in Christ because of the dungeon (v. 25). Jesus declared that no greater prophet had arisen. That which perplexed John was the delay in judgment—the day of God's patience while gathering out the Church. This was a truth not disclosed to the prophets—that which Paul made known—because a special revelation had been granted (Eph. 3:3).

#### V. The Martyrdom of John (Mark 6:14-29).

While John was in prison Herod had frequent interviews with him. John boldly told him that it was unlawful for him to have his brother's wife. He did not mince matters even with the king. This so enraged the licentious Herodias that she caused his death. He sealed his testimony with his blood.

#### Seeking the Name of God.

The Turks carefully collect every scrap of paper that comes in their way, because the name of God may be written thereon.—Richter.

#### Men of Genius.

Men of genius are often dull and inert in society; as the blazing meteor, when it descends to earth, is only a stone.—Longfellow.

#### Prosperity and Adversity.

He that swells in prosperity will be sure to shrink in adversity.—Colton.



## THE BIRDS' REVENGE

MR. AND MRS. WOODPECKER had finished their home and had four eggs resting on the soft sawdust inside when one morning they heard some one at the door.

Mr. Woodpecker flew to open it, and who was it but Mr. Squirrel asking if the house was for rent.

"The very idea," said Mrs. Woodpecker, when her husband told her what Mr. Squirrel had asked; "he knew perfectly well that we were living here. What he wanted to find out was if we were at home and if we were not he would have come right in and taken possession."

"I gave him a good sharp peck," said Mr. Woodpecker, "and he knew

his home now and that possession proved it."

Mrs. Woodpecker flew away to find her husband, but he met with no better success, for Mr. Squirrel told him the same thing he had told his wife and drove them away.

But the Woodpeckers knew that Mr. Squirrel would not stay in the house all the time so they patiently waited for revenge.

It was not until the next day that Mr. Squirrel ventured far from the new home. Then he came to the door and took a look all around, but he did not see the Woodpeckers, who were flattened against the tree far over his head.

Mr. Squirrel had been busy storing away food and while the Woodpeckers knew they would never be comfortable again in their home they determined that had Mr. Squirrel should not live in comfort there either, and as soon as they had watched him running down the path they flew over to Reddy Squirrel's and told him about the food in the hollow of the tree which had once been their home.

Now Reddy Squirrel liked nothing better than to find a store of food which Mr. Gray Squirrel had hidden. When he heard the news he did not even stop to thank the Woodpeckers, for Reddy is not a very polite creature. Off he scampered.

It was late in the day when Mr. Squirrel returned to his new home, and when he discovered he had been robbed he ran to the door of his home and chattered angrily.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodpecker knew that they were revenged, but before they flew away from the limb where they sat watching, Mr. Woodpecker said, "Reddy Squirrel called while you were out, Mr. Squirrel, and we told him to go right in and make himself at home. We know that was the way you did when folks were not at home."

Mr. Squirrel wanted the Woodpeckers fly out of sight and then he ran down the tree and away from that part of the wood to look for a new hole to dig. It was no use living there now that Reddy Squirrel had discovered his storehouse.

"I wonder if they told him," thought Mr. Squirrel. "I guess I won't see any bird know where I make my home this year. Little birds are always telling things you don't want known."

(© 1923, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

**YOUR HAND** How to Read Your Characteristics and Tendencies—the Capabilities or Weaknesses That Make for Success or Failure as Shown in Your Palm

"SHALL I TRAVEL?"

### THE RIGHT THING at the RIGHT TIME

By MARY MARSHALL DUFFEE

### TOPICS TABOO

THERE are some people—one finds them everywhere—who seem to like to bring up for conversation topics of a morbid or salacious interest. Sometimes you will find the most prudent woman in the world, who would be extremely indignant if any one told a questionable story in her presence, who has a penchant for talking in a shocked way about immorality and unconventionality and this really is just as much to her discredit as it is to the discredit of the woman who jests about such matters. It shows an underlying and abnormal interest in subjects which are quite properly taboo in polite society.

Stop and ask yourself if you are of this number. It is really an indication that you are living a narrow, one-sided life, that you are losing your youthful attitude, and that your mental attitude is not as normal nor as wholesome as it should be. And when you permit yourself to verge on these subjects taboo you just increase this unwholesome, crabbed side of your nature.

And remember that in this country well-bred persons generally keep off topics of this sort. You will never queer yourself socially by keeping clear of them and there is much probability that you will spoil your chances for social success if you don't keep clear of them.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

### Has Anyone Laughed At You Because —

You don't approve of dancing? No doubt you have seen some dancing which has upset your sense of decency! Maybe your parents did not approve and gave you their prejudices; maybe you've never tried the thing yourself. There is dancing and dancing. You are quite right to be against the wrong sort. You are not alone in this. If you still are against it when you know the whole story you won't be laughed at if you are not snobbish about your point of view. No one will laugh at you if your reasons are healthy. No one will laugh at you if you don't try and hurt others in reforming them.

SO Your get-away here is— That experience and reason and not guesswork or prejudice lead you to disapproval.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

### A LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs.

### BORROW

SORROW like some poisoned dart Often comes to pierce the heart. But from out the scar there grows Like a fair and fragrant rose Sympathy to help them bear Some too heavy load of care. Whereby we ourselves may gain Sure relief from present pain.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

## WATCH REPAIRING

Done under a positive guarantee. Jewelry repaired. Estimates furnished on all mail orders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

100 West of Rixburgh Hotel

J. W. BRYAN, Jeweler

## FARM FOR SALE

Containing 28 acres, 1/2 mile from Butler, on main highway. Most of the land is clay, and produces crops across level to gently rolling. No rock, balance smooth hill land. 2 acres in small timber; fenced and cross fenced; good orchard of apples, peaches, cherries, and grapes. Branch runs through the place that never goes dry. Other land can be bought joining this. 1-1/2 mile to the church and school; the Watauga Academy at Butler is one of the best schools in the state. Cottage house painted; with six rooms; in nice view of Southern R. R. Good well and well house; coal and wood house; good barn and other out buildings. Will take \$3,250.00 if sold within sixty days. Terms part cash, balance one to five years time, if interested, call or write me at Butler, Tenn. R. 43.

JOE CULVER.

## NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND FOR TAXES

For the purpose of collecting the taxes for the years, 1920 and 1921, to-wit: on Monday, July 2, 1923, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estates, to-wit:

### Boone Township, 1921.

J. T. Barnett, \$7.06 200 Acres.

Paul B. Hartley, \$9.70 Town lot.

H. W. Horton, \$25.12 5 acres.

G. A. Hodges, \$21.00 15 acres.

B. T. Brannock, \$1.12 Town lot.

F. A. Norris, \$16.91 68 acres.

Will Wineberger, \$2.05.

### Boone Township, 1920.

Burgess, J. S., \$7.80 54 acres.

W. H. Greene, \$7.80 100 acres.

W. H. Sams, \$8.00 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

### Blue Ridge

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

W. J. Frickman, \$16.30 100 acres.

## C. B. KEARFOOT

Architect

BRISTOL, VA. TENN.

Registered Architect in North Carolina, South Carolina and Public Exhibitor

1912-23

**DR. ALFRED W. DULA**  
SPECIALIST  
TO SEE BETTER  
SEE DULA  
17 Years Experience  
The Best Equipment Obtainable  
Glasses Fitted Exclusively  
MARTIN BLOCK, LENOIR, N. C.



Place Your Order Now For a Ford

Father starts it—mother finds she can add a little—even the kiddies will contribute their pennies and in a surprisingly short time, the whole family is enjoying the pleasures of owning a Ford. Here is how you can do it through the

## Ford's Weekly Purchase Plan

Bring the first \$5 in to us. Lay it all under the terms of the new, easy way to buy a Ford. Select the car you want. We will deliver your money in a local bank at interest. And a little each week. You will be surprised at the rate the money piles up when everyone is helping. Soon the payments, plus interest paid by the bank will make the car yours. Come in—let us give you full particulars.

J. B. TAYLOR  
DEALER  
BOONE AND VALLE CRUIS

# Here Is The Big AUCTION SALE YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR

Another Car-load of New and Second-hand Furniture to be sold under the Hammer on Saturday, July 7th, at A. G. Miller's Store, Brownwood, N. C.

This is High-Grade Furniture and is in excellent condition, just as good as new and much better than most of new stuff now sold thur this section, and will suit and serve the rich as well as the poor.

This car of Furniture consists of Bedsteads, both wood and metal, Cots, Dressers, Wash Stands, Kitchen Cabinets, Dining Tables Cupboards, Book Cases and Desks combined, Side Boards, Organs, Davenport, Ranges, Chairs and Rockers, Wardrobes, etc.

Come prepared to take this Furniture with you, for when you see it you will own it. Sale begins at 10 o'clock A. M. Come everybody and see this Furniture and buy, for it will possibly be your last chance to buy what you want at your own price.

An Auctioneer with much experience will be on the job, so there will be nothing dragy about this sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10.00 Cash, over \$10.00 Bankable notes. Come rain or shine.

Yours for better furnished homes at your own price.

# A.G. MILLER

Brownwood - N. Carolina