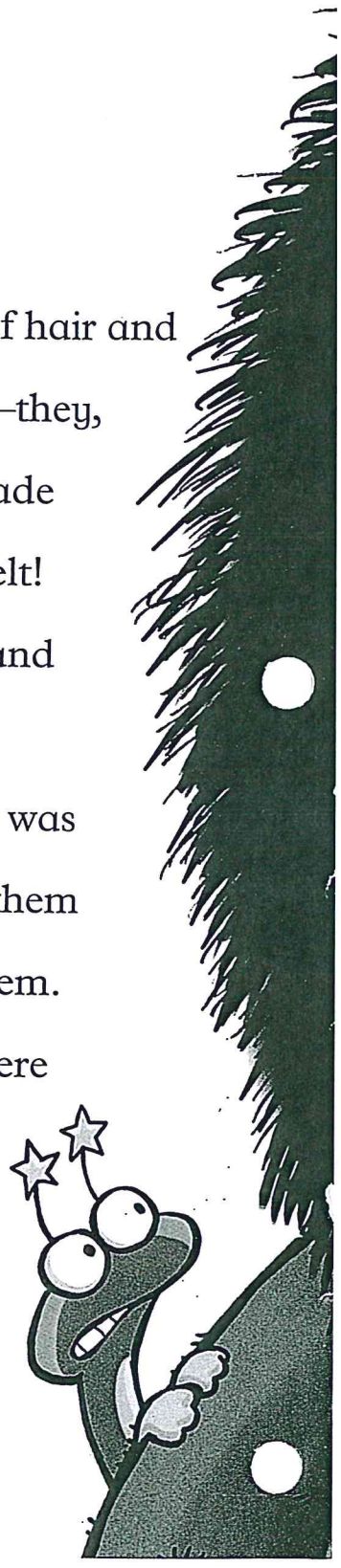
John the Baptist

John was an unusual man. He had lots of hair and a long beard. His clothes looked like his face—they, too, were furry and hairy! His clothes were made of camel's hair, held together with a leather belt! John ate strange foods, including wild honey and locusts, a kind of grasshopper. YUCK!

God gave John an important job. His job was to tell people that Jesus was coming and help them get ready to believe what Jesus would teach them. John knew the things Jesus would tell people were the most important things in the world.



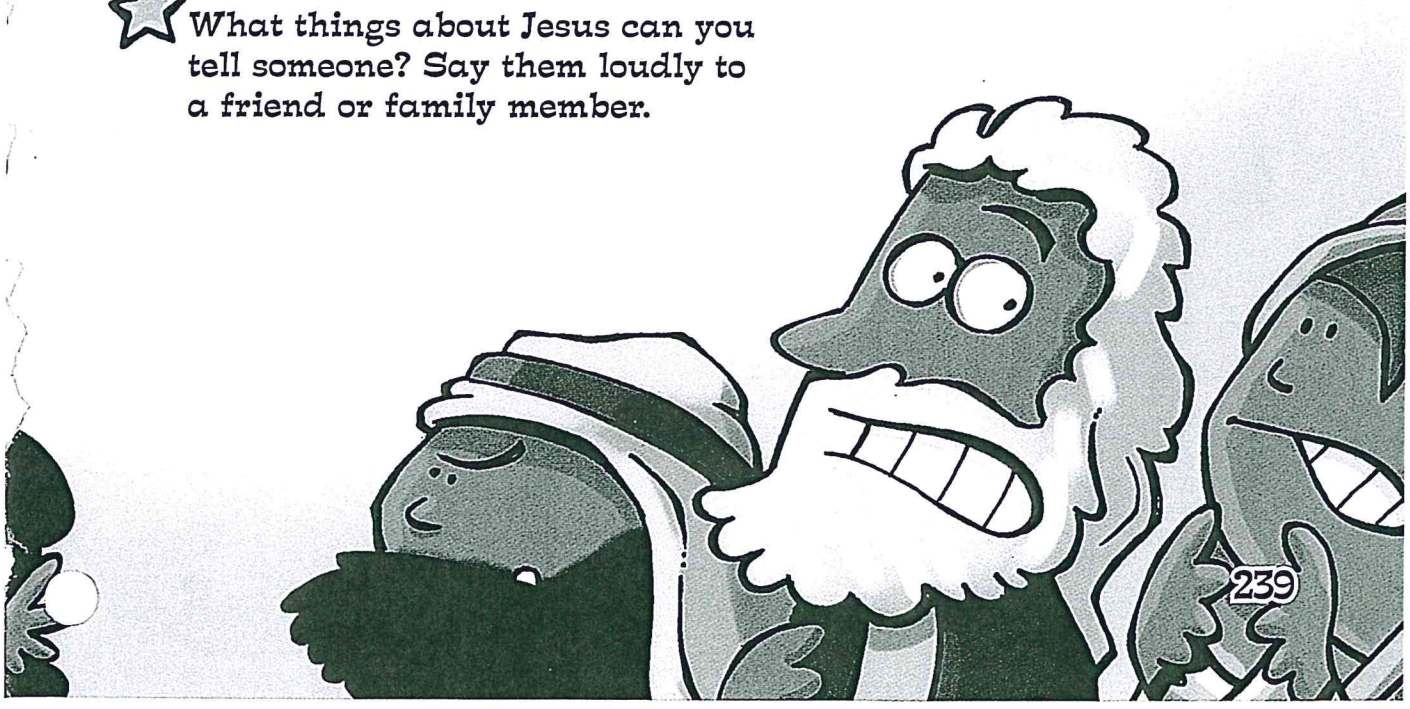
When he taught people, John stood by the river and yelled out, "Hey! All of you! Tell God you're sorry for your sins! Turn your life around and act in ways that are good and honest!"

Then he would turn to another group and shout, "Are you listening?!? This is important! Jesus is coming!

He is the Messiah! He will save all of us!" Day after day, John continued teaching, preaching, and crying out so people would listen.

Many people came to hear what John had to say about Jesus. There were rich and poor people, honest and dishonest people, nice and not-so-nice people.

Some people listened to John. Some people didn't. Some people said, "That man must be a messenger from God!" Some said, "He is really odd! I'm getting out of here!"

Many people believed the message John told. Those people said, "I am sorry for my sins. I want God to forgive me!" To each, John said, "God does forgive you!" He baptized those people in the river. The people started calling him John the Baptist. John the Baptist had done a good job. The people were ready to hear the message Jesus would bring!

What things about Jesus can you tell someone? Say them loudly to a friend or family member.