June 24: Birth of St. John

On this day, many Christians worldwide celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, a Bible time man known for his camel-hair clothing and unique diet of locusts and honey. Make a John-inspired snack by sprinkling dried cranberry "locusts" onto crackers with drizzled honey. The Bible doesn’t tell us how he cleaned the sticky treat from his beard, but it does tell us he baptized Jesus, who was his cousin.

Disciple Hopscotch

Test your Bible knowledge in a game of Disciple Hopscotch. Draw a hopscotch game on the sidewalk, with twelve numbered squares. As you jump from one number to the next, name each of Jesus’ disciples. (Their names can be found in Luke 6:14-16.) Peter is named first and Judas Iscariot is last. Keep hopping until you can name them all without stopping!

Walking Sticks

Read about the large stick (called a rod or staff) that Moses carried during times of God’s dramatic action. At the burning bush, his staff transforms (Exodus 3:1-2 and 4:1-3). The Lord tells him to lift up his staff at the Red Sea (14:16). When he strikes a rock with it, water gushes out (17:5-6). On summer hikes together, find walking sticks, raise them up, and ask God to bless you on your walk of faith.

Donut Quest

Take a family quest to find the best donut. Post reviews on social media with pictures of your favorites. When examining a donut, don’t focus on the hole in the middle—we see the glorious frosting and sprinkles! Instead of thinking about what is missing in our lives, God calls us to be thankful for what we have. What sprinkles are you grateful for in your life? Take turns naming them.

Encouraging Chalk Walk

Follow the instructions of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and go on a mission to write uplifting notes to neighbors. Target walkways and driveways to write specific notes with sidewalk chalk for friends or inspire passersby with colorful messages like, “You’re not alone!” or “Have a great day!” Simple notes and happy drawings can turn around even the most difficult days.