



Matthew/Mark/Luke/John

Jesus' Baptism

Lesson Objective: Jesus lived a life of obedience to His Father.

Arrival Special Greeting

Invite each kid to make a personalized special greeting with you. Since we are avoiding shaking hands at this unique time in history, suggest kids incorporate elbow taps, fist pumps, hand-clapping, and other moves. Practice each greeting a few times.

Connect To activity to the lesson:

People all over the world shake hands as a greeting. It's a sign to say, "Hello, nice to meet you." Lately, due to the virus that has impacted the whole world, people have been coming up with new and safer ways to greet each other. What other actions do we do that communicate messages without using words? (waving, bowing, saluting, crossing your arms) What do they mean? In the Bible story we will hear today, we'll learn about baptism—a symbol that shows what it means to follow Jesus.

WORSHIP (15 min.) Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Prayers: How can I pray for you?

Introduction:

Zechariah's son, John, grew up in the wilderness. His ministry began when God's word came to him, and he began preaching near the Jordan River. John worked to get people ready for the coming of Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, "A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness" (Isa. 40:3a). John called people to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John also instructed people on right living. (See Luke 3:10-14.) Some of the people suspected that John might be the Messiah, but John insisted, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming" (Luke 3:16).

Video: (4 min.) - "Jesus' Baptism" (Video Transcript)

John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made out of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John began telling people, "Repent and be baptized because God's kingdom is almost here."

Some people asked John, "Who are you?"

John said, "I am not the Messiah," or Elijah. "Who are you, then?" they asked.

Long before John was born, the prophet Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'" Isaiah was talking about John. John had a very important job. He was supposed to get people ready for Jesus—God's promised Messiah.

People started to repent; they turned away from their sins and turned to God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. Baptism was a picture that the people's sins had been washed away.

John preached, "Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

By this time, Jesus was an adult. He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. But John didn't think he should baptize Jesus. "I need You to baptize me," John said. "Why do You want me to baptize You?" John was confused. He baptized people who confessed their sins; Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, "Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

Jesus immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"

Read—Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1

Debrief: Questions to ask

How does baptism remind us of Jesus? (*Jesus died on the cross for our sin. After three days, God raised Him from the dead. Baptism reminds us of what He did to save people from sin.*)

What message do we declare when we are baptized? (*Baptism does not make you a Christ Follower – it shows that you already are one! When someone is baptized, that person follows Jesus’ example*)

What does going under the water have to do with baptism?

Baptism is showing people on the outside, what God has done for you on the inside. Have you ever been baptized or seen a baptism? The act of baptism is mirrored in scripture. Romans 6:4

When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared His death.

So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.

Going under the water in baptism, it symbolizes a death and resurrection. That your old way of life has been buried and coming out of the water symbolizes being raised to new life—a life lived for Jesus.

Can we earn God’s forgiveness through Baptism?

*That’s a great question and you would be surprised that answers vary. When it comes to questions about our relationship with Jesus, we must ALWAYS align our belief with scripture—not public opinion. Here is what the Bible says: **God saved you by his grace** when you believed. And **you can’t take credit for this** (you can’t earn it by doing something); **it is a gift from God. Salvation is NOT a reward for the good things we have done**, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8-9*

If Baptism does not save us, how are we saved?

Romans 10:9 says, If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Being baptized is a step of obedience. Baptism is showing people on the outside, what God has done for you on the inside. Jesus instructed his followers to dedicate their lives to helping others grow in their faith (“making disciples”), and baptizing believers as a public demonstration or your personal commitment to Christ.

Apply the Story

Before His ministry began, Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan River. But John was calling people to a baptism of repentance. Jesus never sinned (see Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21), so why did Jesus come to be baptized? John said to Jesus, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?” (Matt. 3:14). Jesus answered John, “Allow it...” (Matt. 3:15). Jesus was setting an example for us to follow. He completely obeyed God, and God audibly confirmed His sonship. Baptism is not what saves us; baptism is a way we show that we have been saved. Baptism reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we die to sin and come into a new way of life—a life lived for Him. (See Rom. 6:3-4.)

GUIDE: Momentum Moment – Origami Dove (*supplies: origami dove instructions, construction paper or origami paper, scissors, markers*)

Follow instructions provided to form an origami dove. Origami paper or cut construction paper into 4- to 6-inch squares. Lead kids in following the origami instructions step by step. Encourage them to draw eyes on the dove when they finish.

What part did a dove play in today’s Bible story? Jesus obeyed God by being baptized. When Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God’s voice came from heaven: “This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!

Close in with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.

