

## John Baptized Jesus

**Matt. 3; Mark 1;  
Luke 3; John 1**

## Is Jesus God or a human?

Jesus is fully God and fully human.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

-John 1:14

### Story Point:

Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.



### PREPARE HEARTS

- Welcome - Deciphering Doves
- Starter Activity - Dove Craft



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- Review and discuss the Bible Story
- Reflection and Prayer
- Questions from Kids Video



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- Key Passage Activity - Ball Pass
- Group Game - Jesus Obeyed Perfectly
- Group Activity - God is Three in One

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

There is much we don't know about the early life of Jesus. After Jesus' trip to the temple as a 12-year-old, we are told that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52). Luke's Gospel account then fast-forwards to the baptism of Jesus as an adult. This was an important event in the life of the promised Messiah that is recorded in each of the four Gospels.

At first glance, it may seem strange that Jesus would seek to be baptized as even John seemed surprised by this request and tried to stop Jesus. After all, Jesus never sinned and was not in need of God's forgiveness. Yet, Jesus was fully committed to doing the will of His heavenly Father, which included baptism. Jesus' baptism modeled how His followers are to publicly profess their faith in Him. Jesus' baptism would also be His next step in beginning His earthly ministry. Indeed, the very next day, Jesus began calling disciples to follow Him.

As Jesus went up from the water, we see a beautiful picture of the Trinity: the heavens opened as the Son prayed, the Spirit descended upon Him, and the Father declared Jesus the Son in whom He is well pleased. Jesus' baptism represents believers' death to sin. Just as Christ died on the cross and was raised, so, too, are His followers born again and raised up from the grave into new life.

Lead children to see that Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience and died as the sacrifice for our sins before rising again. Help them understand that though we cannot follow God perfectly, we can place our trust in the One who did. Remind boys and girls that Christians are called to obedience through baptism. While baptism does not have the power to save us, it is an outward expression of an inward reality in the life of the believer.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that God is three persons in one - The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- \*RECOGNIZE their need for Jesus and when they are ready, accept Him as their Lord and Savior.
- \*FOLLOW Jesus by obeying His Word, showing His love and trusting His ways.



*As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.*

*When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.*

*\*Pen Pal Kit!!*



### PREPARE HEARTS

#### OPENING QUESTIONS:

**What are some ways you obey your parents every day?**

Invite kids to complete the “Deciphering Doves” activity page.

By matching up the doves, you guys were able to decipher our story point. In today’s lesson, we’ll learn how Jesus obeyed God by being baptized by John.

#### WELCOME Deciphering Doves

- Activity page
- pencils
- markers

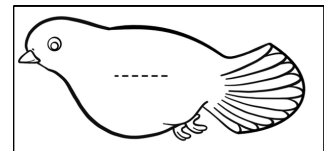


#### STARTER Dove Craft

- Dove cut-out
- Blank paper
- Yellow markers/  
colored pencils

Pass out a dove cut-out to each child. Have them fold a sheet of blank paper like an accordion, back and forth, about every inch. Insert through the dove to form wings. Add some color to the beak.

**SAY:** In our lesson today we will hear that all three persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, were present at Jesus’ baptism. Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.





## ACTIVE MINDS

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in LG2

### BIBLE STORY:

#### John Baptized Jesus

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

#### Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

**Is Jesus God or a human?** Jesus is fully God and fully human.

Open your Bible to Matthew 3.

#### STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

**Say the phrase:** As you read the story, have the kids repeat the phrase Inside out! each time they hear the word baptized. Remind kids that baptism is the outward display of how Jesus has inwardly changed someone's heart.

**Use emphasis:** Consider changing the tone of your voice to reflect John's surprise at Jesus' request as you read through their conversation.

**Baptism:** Remind the kids that baptism does not save us. We are saved by faith, through the grace of Jesus. Consider showing the kids a picture of your church's baptistry.

**Leaders of the Law:** Remind the kids that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were the religious leaders and teachers of God's law.

Day after day, John was leading people to confess their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. One day, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptized in the Jordan River by John.

When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I have been telling you about, the one who is greater than me, because he has always existed. I have been baptizing you with water to prepare the way for him, so that he might be revealed to all God's people."

When John realized that Jesus wanted to be baptized by him, John tried to stop Him. John said, "I need to be baptized by you! Why do you come to me to be baptized?"

Jesus answered him and said, "Allow me to be baptized by you. This is the way it must be for us to fulfill all righteousness, by obeying God's plan." So, John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened up for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove onto Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Later in life, He obeyed His Father by dying on a cross for our sins and rising again, so that all who trust in Him will receive eternal life.



### REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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Blank paper, Bible Story coloring page, colored pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

As John was baptizing people, Jesus came to be baptized also. **What did John say when he saw Jesus coming toward him?** [Allow responses.] The Lamb of God is a title for Jesus that shows that He is like the Passover lamb in the Old Testament, whose blood was shed so that God's judgment would pass over sinners. John recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God, whose death on the cross would pay the penalty for sin once and for all. John also told the people about Jesus' power and authority. Jesus has always existed because He is God.

**Why did John try to stop Jesus from being baptized?** [Allow responses.] John rightly understood that Jesus is the one who should be baptizing him. Jesus is the Messiah who had come to bring sinners like John to repentance. But Jesus told John that His baptism was in obedience to God's plan. By being baptized, Jesus identified with the sins of the people He came to save, even though He was not guilty of sin.

**When Jesus came up from the water, what did the voice from heaven say?** [Allow responses.] God the Father made it known that Jesus is more than just a man, He is the Son of God. God the Spirit also came down on Jesus. This picture of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God The Holy Spirit) confirms what John had spoken: that Jesus is God who came to save His people from sin.



## Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

*That God is three persons in one - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are called the Trinity. Jesus is fully God and fully human. He perfectly obeyed His Father.*

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

*That I can listen and obey God and His ways. That I need His help to love and know Him more.*

**Prayer:** *Jesus, thank You for showing us what it means to follow God. Help us remember we belong to You. Fill our hearts with Your love and truth so we can live for You every day. We love You. Amen.*



## Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 20, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- If I am saved, do I need to get baptized? Is it okay not to?
- When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, why is baptism important?



## ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:14.

### Key Passage Activity:

**SAY:** When Jesus came to earth and lived as a man, people observed Him, His actions, His teachings, and His glory as the Son of God.

### Ball Pass

Lead kids to stand in a circle. Give one of the kids a ball. Have that kid say the first word of the verse and pass the ball to the second person.

- Ball

Then the second kid will say the second word while passing the ball and so on until the entire verse has been said.

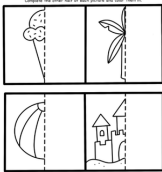
Repeat the activity, this time challenging the group to see how fast they can correctly say the verse.



## Jesus Obeyed Perfectly

- Draw the Other Half worksheet
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers

Draw the other half



**SAY:** When Jesus came to the Jordan River, He wasn't coming because He had sinned. But Jesus wanted to obey His Father completely. Jesus' whole life was about doing His Father's will.

Give each kid a "Draw the Other Half" paper and a pencil. Encourage them to complete the other half of the pictures and color them in.

**SAY:** You had to follow the example of the drawing to complete it. You paid attention to what had been drawn before and then tried to draw the same thing on the other side of the paper. Jesus set the perfect example of obedience for us to follow.

Play "Follow the Leader"

Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to be the leader. Have the leader do simple actions (clap twice, spin once, hop on one foot, etc.). The group must copy exactly what the leader does. Switch leaders every minute or two.

Talk about how Jesus obeyed His Father perfectly. Like Jesus, we can trust that God's way is always right, always wise, and always good.



## God is Three in One

- Playdough

The Bible clearly tells us that there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). But this one God has always existed as three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each of them is fully God, yet God is still one Being.

Talk about how we see this clearly at Jesus' baptism: Ask the children to help.

Ask:

- Where do we see Jesus? (standing in the water)
- Where do we see the Holy Spirit? (he comes down like a dove)
- Where do we see God the Father? (he speaks from heaven)

All three of them are acting at the same time, yet they are one God. This is hard for our minds to fully grasp, but that doesn't make it untrue.

Give each child a lump of playdough. Have them divide it into three pieces. Have them use the playdough to sculpt the following items:

- Dove (representing the Holy Spirit)
- Water (representing Jesus in the water)
- Cloud (representing God's presence and how he spoke from Heaven)

Option: Talk about how they formed the playdough into three different shapes, but they are made of the same dough and are the same color. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are different persons, but they are the same God.

Emphasize that the trinity is something only God fully understands. Our example can help us think about it but it still doesn't fully make sense. It's ok that it's a mystery. We don't have to understand everything about God to trust that what he says about Himself is true.