

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 - Mirror Art



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 - Splash and Order
- 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:

Have you ever swam, floated, or tubed on a river? How did the water feel; was it refreshing? Would you rather swim in a river or in a pool?

Invite kids to complete the “John Baptized Jesus” activity page.

Good job unscrambling those names. Be listening carefully for those people during our story today.

WELCOME

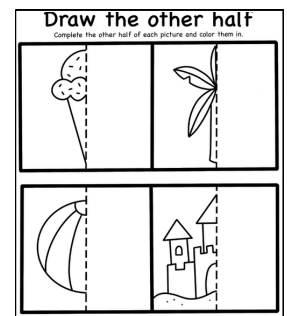
John Baptized Jesus

- Activity page
- pencils
- markers

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. In today’s story, we will learn that Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.



STARTER Mirror Art

- “Draw the Other Half” sheet
- Pencils
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K - 4th 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

**

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!

**

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.

Jesus obeyed His Father's will by being baptized, and all the people who witnessed it heard a voice from heaven say that Jesus is the Son of God. Like the answer to our big picture question says, Jesus is fully God and fully man. When Jesus first approached the Jordan River, **John the Baptist called Jesus by a special name; what was that name?** [Allow responses.] John called Jesus 'the Lamb of God.' In a previous lesson, we learned that this name was referring to Jesus as the perfect sacrifice that covers the sin of His people and protects them from the penalty of their sin, just like the blood of a perfect lamb covered and protected the homes of God's people during the last plague. John also said that Jesus was 'greater than him, because He always existed.' Jesus is the Word that became flesh (John 1:14).

Why did Jesus have to get baptized? [Allow responses.] From the beginning of creation, God's plan was for Jesus to live as a human, perfectly without sin. Jesus' baptism was one of the many ways He lived among humans as one of them. It was also an example of how we should act in our faith. John had been baptizing people and calling them to repent and believe. It is important to note that the act of baptism doesn't save us; we are saved by faith through grace from Jesus alone. Baptism is an outward, public display of the inward cleansing of our hearts. Believers experience salvation first, and then follow with baptism as a symbol to show others the decision they have made.



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page.. 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:

Splash and Order

- Key Passage Poster
- 4 plastic tubs
- Rocks with words from verse
- Towels
- (Water - from your sink)

SAY: Through Jesus’ baptism, God confirmed His identity as the only Son who was sent by the Father to call us to repentance. Let’s review this idea more through our key passage.

Divide kids into 4 teams and have them gather around a table. Give each team one tub filled with rocks and water. (Add the water from your sink before you give it to them.)

On “Go,” kids take turns (one at a time) reaching in to grab ONE stone. Have them place the stone on the floor or a towel in front of their team.

Once they have all the rocks out of the water, have them work together to put the words in the correct. order.

When they are done, have the whole team raise their hands. Then have everyone read the verse out loud together.



Jesus Obeyed Perfectly

- Bibles
- Worksheet
- Pencils

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?
Look up the verses and fill in the missing words.

John 4:34
"My _____ is to do the _____ of Him who sent Me and to _____ His work."

John 6:38
"For I have come down from _____ not to do My own _____, but to do the _____ of Him who sent Me."

Luke 22:42
"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My _____, but _____ be done."

John 8:30
"I can do _____ by Myself; I judge only as I hear. And My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own _____, but the will of Him who sent Me."

SAY: When Jesus came to the Jordan River, He wasn't coming because He had sinned. Jesus wanted to obey His Father completely. Jesus' whole life was about doing His Father's will. When He said He came to "fulfill all righteousness," He meant, "I will do everything the Father wants, fully and gladly." Jesus always lived to please His Father (John 8:29). He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me" (John 4:34), and even before His death He prayed, "Not My will, but Yours" (Luke 22:42).

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.

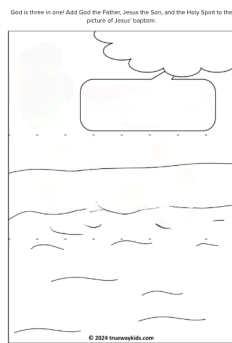
Pass out the "What Did Jesus Say?" worksheet and have the children get their Bibles.

- Have them look up their verses with their table groups and fill in the missing words.
- Once everyone is done, talk about the verses together as a class. Emphasize that like Jesus, we can trust that God's way is always right, always wise, and always good.



God is Three in One

- Drawing worksheet
- Colored Pencils
- Markers



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.

Pass out the drawing worksheet. Have them use pencils or markers to add God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to the picture of Jesus' baptism.

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

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.