

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:

John prepared the way for Jesus.



PREPARE HEARTS

- Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- 11:00 - Kids Worship**



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- Lesson Review - John Baptized Jesus
- Discussion Questions
- Share and Care Prayer Time



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Group Activity: Baptism
- Group Activity: Popcorn New Life Game
- Group Game: Hula Hoop Bean Bag Challenge

SHEPHERD GUIDE

In a world that's constantly telling kids to "be true to yourself" and "follow your heart," the story of Jesus' baptism points them to something far more solid—following Him. Our culture celebrates self-expression and independence, but Jesus models something different: humble obedience, identity rooted in God, and a life marked by purpose.

Our obedience honors God. Obedience is one of the clearest ways we show God that we love and trust Him. When we follow His Word—even when it's difficult or goes against what's popular—we are saying, "God, I believe You know best." It's not about earning God's love; it's a response to the love we've already received. Each time we choose to obey, we're offering our lives as worship and showing others what it means to walk in God's ways. Obedience brings God glory, shapes our character, and leads us closer to His heart.

Baptism has shown that a person has chosen to follow Jesus. Baptism is a powerful picture of what Jesus has done in someone's life. It shows that they've turned from sin, trusted in Jesus, and now want to live for Him. Going under the water represents dying to the old way of life, and coming out shows being raised to new life in Christ. It's not what saves us, but it's an important step of obedience—a way to tell others, "I belong to Jesus." It's a joyful declaration that a person has started their walk with God.

God affirms our commitment to Him. When we take steps of faith, God meets us there. At Jesus' baptism, God declared His love and approval: "This is my beloved Son." In a similar way, when we commit our lives to Him, God affirms us too—not always through a voice from heaven, but through His Word, His Spirit, and the encouragement of His people. He reminds us we are His, that He is pleased when we follow Him, and that we are never alone. God honors our devotion and continues to shape us into who He created us to be.

As you teach kids, help them see that following Jesus means choosing to obey Him, showing our faith through actions like baptism, and trusting that God sees our commitment to Him. These choices aren't just one-time decisions—they're part of a growing relationship with God. Encourage kids to see that their obedience matters, that baptism is a way to show others they belong to Jesus, and that God is delighted when they follow Him. Remind them God is with them every step of the way.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

May 3, 2026
2nd Service

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 you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. 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 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Have you ever played a sport or an instrument? How about spending time getting to the next level in a video game?

These are things that require commitment. What is commitment? It means being dedicated to something or someone. We can be committed to practicing for an upcoming recital or competition. We can also be committed to people.

Are there people in your life you are committed to? Probably your family members and close friends? Are there ways you show them you are committed to them? [Allow responses.] You may prioritize spending time with them, doing kind things for them, and offer encouragement when they need it. Did you know that Jesus is committed to us? It's true! We'll hear a story today that demonstrates His commitment to being the Savior of the world. We'll learn that Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

John Baptized Jesus

Bibles,
Review Video -
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

Our obedience honors God (Matt. 3:13-14): Jesus' baptism was an act of obedience to God.

Baptism shows that a person has chosen to follow Jesus (Matt. 3:15): Jesus asked to be baptized by John the Baptist to fulfill all righteousness.

God affirms our commitment to Him (Matt. 3:16-17): When Jesus was baptized, God spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.

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.

What did you hear in the story? Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist) John knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Rescuer God had promised to save His people. John wanted Jesus to baptize him! **So why did Jesus ask to be baptized by John?** [Allow responses.] (Read Matthew 3:15.) Jesus said being baptized would fulfill God's plan, so Jesus obeyed God by being baptized. Jesus showed His commitment to His heavenly Father by obeying His plan. Jesus also showed His commitment to us. He came into the world, taking on a human body, so He could be the perfect sacrifice, or substitute, for all human wickedness and sin. 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. Jesus is fully God and fully human, and that's super important! When we believe in Jesus, He makes us part of God's family. We're not guilty anymore—we get to live in freedom and follow Him!



Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

What does baptism symbolize? Baptism is representative of Christians dying to their old selves and being raised again with Christ. This is mirrored in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 9:23.)

Why do you think John thought he was unworthy to untie the sandals of Jesus or to baptize Him? Our sin makes us unworthy to be in the presence of God, but God made the way for us to have a right, loving relationship with Him through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 3:10.)

The word 'trinity' is a word created to describe how God is one God, and He exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see all three persons of the Trinity in this story. Where else do we see that in the Bible? We see evidence of the Trinity in the very first chapter of the Bible. When God created humans the word us was used to include God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Genesis 1:26.)



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Roseman Family**)
- Specific prayer requests from any of the kids about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Roseman Family.



Baptism

- Baptism worksheet
- Pencils
- Sticky Notes



Pass out pencils and the baptism worksheet to each child.

Talk about how John baptized Jesus. Even though Jesus never sinned, He chose to be baptized to show us how to obey God. Remind the children that baptism is a way to outwardly show that a person has chosen to follow Jesus. It shows that they've turned from sin, trusted in Jesus, and now want to live for Him.

Give each table (or groups of 4) three sticky notes and as you ask each question, have them work together to write down a few words or sentence about each. Collect their ideas and share some with the class. Then have them look at their worksheet and fill in the blanks for that question. Then, move on to the next question and repeat.

What is baptism? Allow responses and then fill in the blanks together:

- It is a symbol of the NEW life a person has in CHRIST. It doesn't save people, but it shows others that a person has DECIDED to commit their LIFE to CHRIST.

Why do Christians get baptized?

- To SHOW other people they LOVE Jesus, they want to OBEY His commands, and they have asked Him to FORGIVE them.

At our church, people are baptized.....

- AFTER they accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and when they are ready to PUBLICLY PROCLAIM they want to LIVE for Jesus by TURNING from their sin and by TRUSTING and OBEYING Him and His Word.



Popcorn New Life Game

- None

Have all the kids spread out on the floor. Tell them: "Right now you are corn kernels." How to Play:

- Kids start curled up small like kernels in a pot.
- You slowly pretend to turn on the heat.

Say things like:

- "The pot is warming up..."
- "The kernels are starting to move..."
- "I hear a tiny pop!"

Kids begin doing small wiggles.

- As the "heat" increases, they start popping up one by one.

Each time a kid pops up they must jump and shout: "New life!"

- Soon everyone is jumping and popping like popcorn.

After about 20 seconds yell: "The popcorn is ready!"

Everyone freezes.

SAY: "Before popcorn pops, it looks like a small hard kernel. But when it pops, it becomes something completely different! When we follow Jesus, He changes us too. Baptism is an OUTWARD expression of something that happens INSIDE our hearts - that our old life is gone and we are raised to a new life with Jesus." Baptism isn't what "pops" the popcorn; deciding to follow Jesus and letting Him give us new life is what "pops" and changes us.

Ask:

"Can popcorn turn back into a kernel?"

Kids yell NO!

Then say:

"Right! When Jesus makes us new, we don't go back to our old life. We are His and He helps us through the Holy Spirit to love, follow and obey Him and His Word.



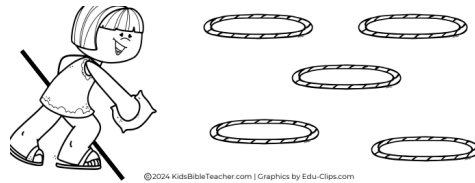
Hula Hoop Bean Bag Challenge

- Review Questions
- 5 Hula Hoops
- Point Cards
- Bean Bags
- Masking Tape

Place the hula hoops on the floor. Mark a “start line” for the kids to throw from. (If your kids are young, place the hula hoops fairly close together, and close to the start line. If your students are older, move the hula hoops farther apart and farther from the start line.) Place one point card inside of each hula hoop or ring.

To Play: Divide the class into two or more teams. Give each team the same number of bean bags. Ask the teams questions, alternating between teams. When someone answers a question correctly, they will stand at the start line and throw the bean bag into a hula hoop. If they get their bean bag into a hula hoop, their team is awarded the number of points indicated on the point card.

If you have a couple of students who like to answer ALL the questions, limit the number of times they can answer / throw OR encourage them to pick a teammate to throw after they have answered.

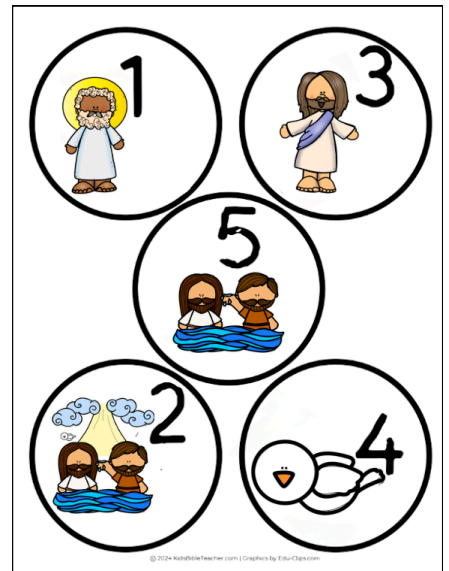


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Pray together: Dear God, Thank You for showing us who Jesus is - Your beloved Son. Help me trust Your way, and to obey You with a willing heart, and to listen for Your Spirit's help each day. Thank You that You are always with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus want to be baptized?
a. He had sinned
b. He wanted to obey His Father
c. He wanted to show off
2. Why did John hesitate to baptize Jesus?
a. He knew Jesus was greater
b. He didn't like baptizing people
c. He didn't know who Jesus was
3. What happened when Jesus came up out of the water?
a. The Spirit came down like a dove
b. Everyone went home
c. A giant storm started
4. What did the Father say from heaven?
a. "Try harder!"
b. "This is My beloved Son"
c. "Be quiet, everyone"
5. What does this moment show about God?
a. God is one God in three Persons
b. God is three separate gods
c. God changed into three persons
6. Who are the three persons of God that were all at Jesus' baptism?
a. The Grandfather, the Father, and the Son
b. Bob, Joe and Bill
c. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
7. What do we call the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are three in one and are called the:
a. Trinity
b. Infinity
c. Triplets
8. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized, even though He had never sinned?
9. How do you think John felt when Jesus came to him and asked to be baptized?
10. What do you think it means to repent?
11. Why was John telling people to repent?
12. John told the people to prepare their hearts for Jesus. What is one way we can prepare our hearts for Jesus?



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