

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

Bible Reference: *Matt. 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1*

Date: **5/3/26**

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

1st Service

Memory Verse:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14

Big Picture Question:

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

Christ Connection

- Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus should be baptized too.

Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
 - Kindergarten in Large Group Lesson @ 9:20.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Friends from Afar.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Group Game.....10 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

Happy first Sunday of May! After this week there are only two months left in our ministry year before Summer Sundays begin. This means you only have three more Sundays left of serving with this group of children! We pray that this year would end with as much strength and intention as the rest of the year has gone!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

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.



JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

At first, it might seem confusing that Jesus wanted to be baptized. Even John the Baptist was surprised and tried to stop Him. Jesus had never sinned, so He didn't need to be forgiven. But Jesus wanted to obey His Father's plan completely, and that included being baptized. His baptism also showed others how His followers should publicly show their faith. It was also the beginning of His ministry, because right after this, Jesus started calling people to follow Him.

Jesus' baptism is a picture for believers. It shows turning away from sin and starting a new life. Just as Jesus died and came back to life, believers are given new life through Him.

As we learn about the life of John the Baptist, we can reflect on the ways we are living. The instructions that he gave people about how to live still apply to us today!

How do you love others? Are you showing them patience when you get frustrated? We can share what we have when someone else needs help. Maybe this is something as small as sharing a pencil with someone who forgot theirs, or something bigger like sharing lunch with someone who has none!

No matter how you are loving and caring for other people, we must be content in our actions. We shouldn't do these things and feel bitter about them because we are losing something- we should celebrate because we are helping someone else! We must remember that without the love of Jesus and the redemption we experience from him, we are no different than anyone else because we are sinners too. We can only share love with other people because Jesus first showed his love to us.



OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome each child and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Lay out several Bibles. Encourage the kids to examine the Bibles and see what they notice. As the kids are exploring, cut strips of construction paper to use as bookmarks. Help children find all four Gospels—**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John** and place a bookmark at each one.
- **SAY** Today's Bible story is found in all four of the Gospels—**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**. Can you say those with me? [Encourage the kids to say the names together.] The Gospels are four books in the New Testament that tell the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Tape the piece of bulliten board paper to the wall. Ask the children to tell you all the things you can do in and with water. Using a marker, make a picture list of the children's responses.
- **SAY** You can drink and freeze water. You can also go swimming in water. We use water when we take a bath or shower. When people believe in Jesus and follow Him, do you remember what they do in water? (They get baptized.) Baptism is when someone is lowered under water and brought back up. This is to show others they have confessed Jesus as Savior, and He has washed away their sins. Last week we learned that John baptized people and got them ready for Jesus. This week we will hear the story of when Jesus was baptized.

Bible Story

- While John was teaching people and baptizing them in the Jordan River, Jesus was in Galilee. Jesus was grown up now, and He went to visit John. 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, and he tried to stop 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, but Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, "Allow me to be baptized. God says this is right." So, John agreed, and he baptized Jesus. Jesus immediately went up from the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened for Jesus, and He saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him. The Spirit was like a dove. And a voice came from heaven. "This is my Son," the voice said. "I love him, and I am very pleased with him!"





Christ Connection

- Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus should be baptized too.

Review Activity

- Pass out a small ball of play dough to each child. Lead the children to use the play dough to form answers to questions such as:
 - 1. Who were the two men in today's Bible story? (Encourage the children to form a J for John and Jesus.)
 - 2. Where did the Bible story take place? (Encourage the children to form waves for the Jordan River.)
 - 3. What came down from heaven after Jesus was baptized? (Encourage the children to form a dove.)
- SAY In today's Bible story, Jesus obeyed His Father by getting baptized. John baptized Jesus. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. Jesus died for our sins. When people trust in Jesus, they should get baptized too.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Demonstrate how to move around the room by flapping your arms like a dove. Encourage the kids to pretend they are flying like doves when the music plays. Instruct them to freeze in place when the music stops. Continue the activity as long as the kids remain interested.

SAY Who was baptized in today's Bible story? [Allow responses.] Yes, John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up from the water the heavens opened, and He saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus should be baptized too.





Craft

5-7 minutes

Trace each child's hand on a piece of white construction paper. Guide each child to cut out his traced hand and glue it on a piece of blue construction paper. Assist younger children with scissors as needed. Encourage the children to use markers to add eyes and a beak to the thumb to make a dove. Lastly, instruct children to glue white craft feathers to the hand. Review the Bible story as children work. (Note: To save time, trace each child's hand as they arrive and set it aside until it is time for the activity.)

SAY In our Bible story, John baptized Jesus. What happened next? [Allow responses.] Jesus immediately went up from the water. The heavens opened for Jesus, and He saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him. What was the Spirit like? [Allow responses.] The Spirit was like a dove. And a voice came from heaven. 'This is my Son,' the voice said. 'I love him, and I am very pleased with him!' Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus should be baptized too.



Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.





Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, thank You for the example of Jesus' obedience to You in being baptized. Thank You for baptism and the picture it is of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. I pray that each child will one day know You, follow Jesus, and be baptized. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Lay the laminated verse on a towel. Line up the children and give the first child a spray bottle with water. Say the key passage together as the child sprays each phrase of the verse. Give each child a turn spraying the words as you say them together. Wipe up excess water when you are finished.
- **SAY** In John 1:14, our key passage says, 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' You did a great job practicing and spraying each word! When Jesus came to earth, He was baptized in water in obedience to God. When people trust in Jesus, they should get baptized too. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life.

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who did Jesus ask to baptize Him? (John)
4. What is baptism? (Baptism is when a person is lowered under the water and brought back up to show that he or she has chosen to turn from sin and follow Jesus.)
5. What did the voice from heaven say about Jesus? (This is my Son, I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him.)
6. Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.

SAY In our Bible story today, Jesus asked John to baptize Him. At first, John did not want to do this because he knew that Jesus was greater than him. However, God said it was right, so John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. God's voice came from heaven. God said He was very pleased with His Son, Jesus.





Group Game

10 minutes

- Cut puddle shapes from blue construction paper before the session. Write one word of the story point on each puddle. Tape the puddles to the floor in order. Invite children to jump from one puddle to the next. Prompt them to say the word on each puddle as they land on it. Reinforce the story point by repeating it together after the activity.
- **SAY** Great job jumping the story point puddles! In our story today, John baptized Jesus. John lowered Jesus under the water and then brought Him back up. When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened, a dove came down, and a voice came down from heaven, saying 'This is my Son, I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him.' Whose voice came from heaven? (God)

Additional Activities

As Needed

Explore the Map

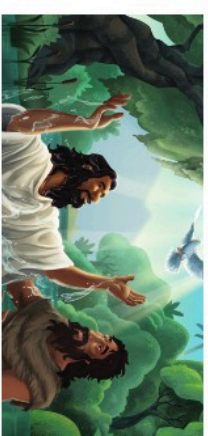
- Examine the map in your room together. Ask the kids what they see or notice. Point out where they live, different countries, and bodies of water.
- **SAY** It is so interesting to look at a map or globe. Maps show us so many places. What were some of the things you noticed? [Allow responses.] Different people live all over the world. Do you remember what John said to Jesus when he saw Him? John said, 'Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' People from all over the world can turn from their sins and trust in Jesus. When they do this, Jesus takes away their sin.



Connect the Dots

INSTRUCTIONS: John baptized Jesus. Connect the dots to show what came down from the sky after Jesus was baptized.





John Baptized Jesus

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John

STORY POINT:

John baptized Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus should be baptized too.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

Scan the QR code
for resources to
use at home!



The Gospel Project At Home

