

# JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

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

**Date:** *5/3/26*

**Grade:** *PreK /Kindergarten*

**2nd 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
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....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
- **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 the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Before the session, refer to the JESUS mural from last session on the wall along with the Bible Story Picture Poster. Add the letter E, so that the mural now reads JE. Place a variety of stickers near the mural. Encourage kids to use the stickers to decorate the letter E.
- SAY I am so glad that you are at church today. Our big picture questions asks, Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human. We are creating a mural with a special message. The first letters are J and E. J and E are the first letters in Jesus' name. In our story today, we will learn that John baptized Jesus. When Jesus went up from the water, the heavens opened. A voice came from heaven that said, 'This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him!'

## Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

### Thinking Activity

- Write the letters J, E, S, U, S on individual sticky notes. Create a second set or draw hearts on additional sticky notes so there is one for each child in the class. Post the sticky notes throughout the classroom. Invite kids to find the notes and bring them to group time. Arrange the sticky notes on the Bible Story Picture Poster so that the picture is covered and you can read the word JESUS.
- SAY We arranged the sticky notes to read the name Jesus. When Jesus had grown up, He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him. Listen to the story to learn more

### Bible Story

- When Jesus had grown up, 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 wanted John to baptize Him. But John tried to stop Jesus. John said, "I need You to baptize me. Why do You want me to baptize You?" John was confused. He baptized people who turned from their sins. Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, "Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John baptized Jesus. When Jesus went up from the water, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. A voice came from heaven that said, "This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy 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

- Invite each child to remove a sticky note from the Bible Story Picture Poster. Talk about what you see in the picture and review the Bible story as each sticky note is removed.
- **SAY** Jesus went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. John was confused because he baptized people who turned from their sins, but Jesus never sinned. John baptized Jesus. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He was baptized like sinners are baptized. People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus.

### Movement Activity

10 minutes

Invite kids to help you think of all the different ways we can use water. Ideas might include drinking, swimming, washing hands, cooking, or playing. As a group, act out the different ideas. Older children may enjoy acting out an idea and asking the group to guess what it is.

**SAY** There are so many ways we can use water. You did a great job acting them out. People can also be baptized in water. John baptized Jesus. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him in the Jordan River. John was confused. He baptized people who turned from their sins, but Jesus never sinned. When Jesus came up from the water, a voice came from heaven that said, 'This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him!'

### Craft

5-7 minutes

Place the chenille stems and pony beads on the table. Demonstrate for kids how to shape the chenille stem into the letter J. Once kids have formed the letter, encourage them to thread beads onto the chenille stem to decorate the letter J.

**SAY** I like how you decorated your letter J. The letter J is the first letter in the name John and in the name Jesus. John baptized Jesus. John was confused at first because he baptized people who had turned from their sins, but Jesus had never sinned. When Jesus went up from the water, a voice came from heaven that said, 'This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him!' Jesus never did anything wrong, but He was baptized like sinners are baptized. People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus





### **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.

### **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 sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for us and save us from sin. Help each child turn from their sins and trust in You, so one day they can be baptized too. We love You. Amen.

#### **Bible Verse**

- Say the Bible Memory Verse together. Invite kids to stomp to the beat as you say the key passage phrase together several times.
- SAY The key passage phrase tells us that God became a human and lived on earth. Jesus is fully God and fully human. John baptized Jesus when he lived on earth.

### **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.





### Snack and Discussion Time

Continued

**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.

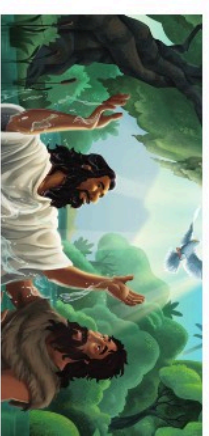
### Additional Activities

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.





### 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!



# Follow the Path

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Jesus went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. He wanted John to baptize Him. Follow the path from Jesus to John.



