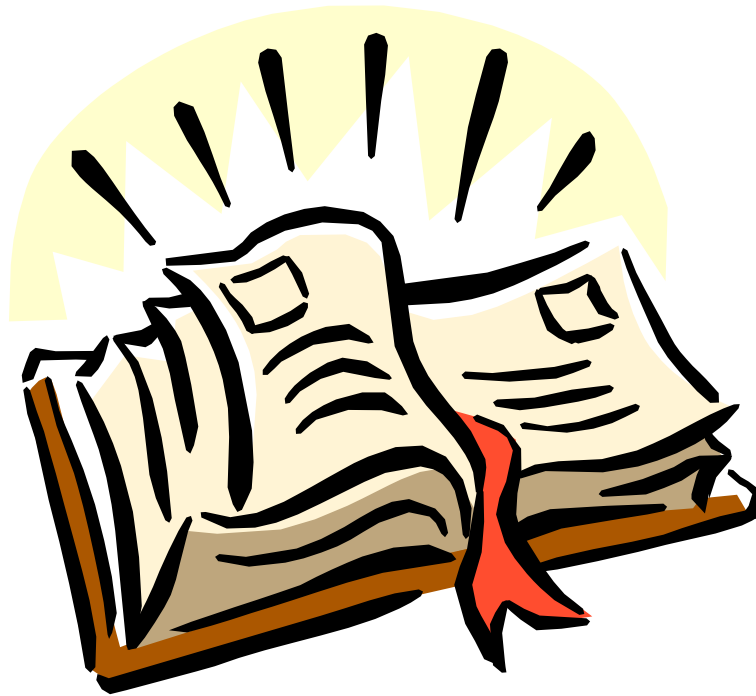


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: John Baptizes Jesus

THEME: Jesus is the Son of God.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-11



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **John the Baptist baptizing Jesus (Mark 1:1-11)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Jesus began his public ministry by being baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness." In other words, Jesus had no sin from which to turn away, yet He was baptized in order to be our example and a pattern we can follow. Jesus gave a new meaning to baptism, as it would now picture His death, burial, and resurrection. After Jesus was baptized, the Father spoke from heaven declaring that Jesus is His Son. The theme of our devotions this week will be "**Jesus is the Son of God.**"

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

Day One

The Voice, the Son, and the Dove

Text: Mark 1:10,11 - "And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

Also read 2 Corinthians 13:14

When you are baptized, the pastor will baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity. There is only one God, but He reveals Himself in three different ways (or persons)—the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, we see all three persons of the Trinity together. Sometimes, looking at pictures, helps us to understand what something is. Let's look at a couple of pictures to see if we can perhaps understand the Trinity a little bit better.

First, think of an apple. All three parts of an apple are an apple—the peel, the flesh, and the core. The three parts of the apple are not considered three apples. They are just one apple. So the three persons of the one true God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—are God, not three Gods, but just one God.

Let's try one more. Think with me if you will about water. Water can come in three different forms, yet each form is still water. The first would be ice. Ice is frozen water. The second is liquid, or just regular water. The last is steam. If you boiled a pot of water, you would eventually see steam come out of the spout of the kettle. All three are equally water, but in three different forms.

We can never fully understand the Trinity, but the Bible clearly teaches it. At Jesus' baptism, we see all three persons in the Trinity come together. Jesus is being baptized, the Father speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends upon Jesus as a dove. God loves us, and He sent His Son to die for us, and He gave us His Spirit to help us to live for Him. Thank You Lord!

- As a family, look up and discuss the following verses on the trinity: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Trinity: The teaching in the Bible that God reveals Himself in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Day Two

Baptized With the Holy Spirit

Text: Mark 1:8 - "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Also read Acts 2:1-4

John baptized people in water. When John baptized people they were showing their friends and family that they were repenting of their sins and turning to God. When we are baptized in water we are showing our friends and family that we have turned away from our sins and are asking Jesus to be the Lord of our lives.

John said that when Jesus came He would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Let's take a look at Acts 2:1-4. Jesus' followers were praying and waiting on the power of God that Jesus promised would come upon them so that they could be witnesses of Jesus to the world. While they were together with one accord, the Holy Spirit came upon them; they were filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit and received power to be witnesses for Jesus.

When you first asked Jesus into your heart through faith, the Holy Spirit came to live inside you. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit overflows you, empowering you to be a witness for Jesus. For example, imagine an empty glass on a table, which represents your life and a large pitcher of water next to it that represents the Holy Spirit. If someone were to take the pitcher and pour the water into the glass until it is full, it would be like being filled with the Holy Spirit—the Spirit now dwelling inside of you. Now, if someone took the pitcher and poured more water into the glass than the glass could hold, causing it to overflow and pour all over the table, that would be like being baptized in the Holy Spirit. You are filled up to overflowing. The Holy Spirit comes "upon" us and overflows us to enable us to live for Him and to empower us to be His witnesses. Others begin to see Jesus working in and through our lives and are drawn to Him. Sounds like an awesome gift, doesn't it? How do we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? The Bible says that we can just ask Jesus to give us His Holy Spirit, and He will do it (Luke 11:11-13).

- What happened when Peter preached after being baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41)?
- What do we need to do to receive the awesome gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Baptism with the Holy Spirit: When the Holy Spirit comes "upon" us to empower us for service and to live for Jesus.

Day Three

Why Do We Do What We Do?

Text: Mark 1:10 - "And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove."

Also read 2 Kings 5:1-17

Have you ever been to a water baptism service? Or have you been baptized in water? What did you see at the baptism? It is a joyful occasion where people go out into the water—the ocean, a river, a formal baptismal, or even a swimming pool—and pastors or church leaders dip them down under the water and then bring them back up. John the Baptist baptized in the Jordan River. Wherever people are baptized, there are two common elements of baptism—water and that of people being immersed or dipped under the water. Have you wondered why we use water? And, why are we immersed or dipped under water? Why do we do what we do?

The Bible often refers to the Holy Spirit as being like water. Water represents cleansing. Just as we use water to wash our bodies on the outside, the Holy Spirit washes us on the inside. When we are baptized, we look at the water as an example of God washing our sins away. In the Old Testament (2 Kings 5:1-17), a commander in the army of Syria, Namaan, had leprosy. Leprosy is a physical picture of sin. He was told that if he went and washed in the Jordan seven times, God would heal him. He did as he was told, and God healed his leprosy. Baptism in water is like Namaan washing in the Jordan. It is an outside picture of what God has done for us on the inside through accepting Jesus into our hearts.

As we see people get immersed under water and brought back up, it is a picture on the outside of what God has done on the inside. When we go down under the water, the picture is that of being dead in sin, identifying with the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins; when we come out of the water, the picture is that of being resurrected into new life, identifying with the resurrection of Jesus. If you have asked Jesus into your heart and have never been baptized, pray and ask the Lord about being baptized when the next opportunity comes.

- What does the water in baptism picture?
- What does going under and coming back up out of the water picture?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Baptism: To be immersed in water, identifying with Jesus' death and resurrection and showing others that Jesus is your Lord.

One Sunday Night

Text: Acts 8:36 - "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'"

Also read Acts 8:26-39

One Sunday night, many years ago, I put on a white robe, and stood in line with a few other people whom I can't remember. I stood waiting for my name to be called. When I was asked to come forward, I stepped down into a large tank of water. The water was comfortably warm so I had no problem with it lapping up against my chest. When I went into the water, a pastor greeted me. The pastor asked me a few questions about being a Christian. After answering the questions, I closed my eyes and put my hand over my nose. Then the pastor leaned my body backward until my whole body went under the water. Then he brought me back up into the standing position. As I came out of the water I could hear the clapping of hands for a brief celebration. I had just been baptized in water. It felt good to tell the church and the world of my joy in being identified with Jesus.

Water baptism is usually one of the first things we learn about when we become a Christian. It was the first thing that the Ethiopian Eunuch did after he received Jesus. He wanted to find some water and get baptized as soon as possible to show his new faith in Jesus.

People have been gathering together for water baptism for two thousand years. As we have read, John the Baptist began baptizing people during the time of Jesus. In fact, John baptized Jesus. There have been thousands or maybe even millions of people who have been baptized in water over the years. As we identify with Jesus Christ in baptism, we also identify with the body of Christ, the church, sharing in the celebration of our newness of life in Christ. Have you taken a public stand for Jesus?

- What was the first thing the Ethiopian Eunuch wanted to do after being saved?
- What is one very important way you learned that you can make a public stand for Jesus?

Kid's Bible Challenge



If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, but you have not yet been baptized in water, pray and see if this is what the Lord would have you to do.

Day Five

Bird Dog for Jesus

Text: John 1:7 - "This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe."

Also read Matthew 5:16

One hunting season, my father and I decided to go bird hunting. Though we had spent many days looking and looking for birds, we found only a few. We would look in the grass, and they would hide from us. We would walk right by them and not see them. As the season approached an end, we decided bird hunting was just too hard, and we needed help to succeed. We hired a man who had some trained bird dogs who would search and find the birds and point them out to us. The dogs had a keen sense of smell. They would sniff their way to the birds and when they found them in the grass, they would freeze and point their nose at the birds. In one day, we were more successful than we had been in an entire season. The birds, once hidden from our view, were easy to find when they were pointed out to us.

John the Baptist was like a bird dog. He was a pointer to Jesus. John 1:7 says John came for a witness, to bear witness to the light, that all through Him might believe. Remember it was very important to John that people realized there was nothing special about him (John 1:22-30). His purpose was to point them to Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Jesus tells us to be pointers for him. We are not to hide the truth about Jesus, but to let His light be seen by our good works and bring glory to Him. In Matthew 5:14-16 we read: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The world lies in darkness. What a privilege it is to be pointers. As a pointer, we like John the Baptist should be careful not to take any attention ourselves, but to help people see the true light—Jesus, the Light of the world.

- Have you ever seen a bird dog?
- How was John the Baptist like a bird dog?
- How can we point others to Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



If you have never been water baptized, first make sure that you have asked Jesus to come into your heart, then pray and ask the Lord to show you about being water baptized. God Bless You!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’”

Third Grade and Above

“Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’”

Mark 1:11