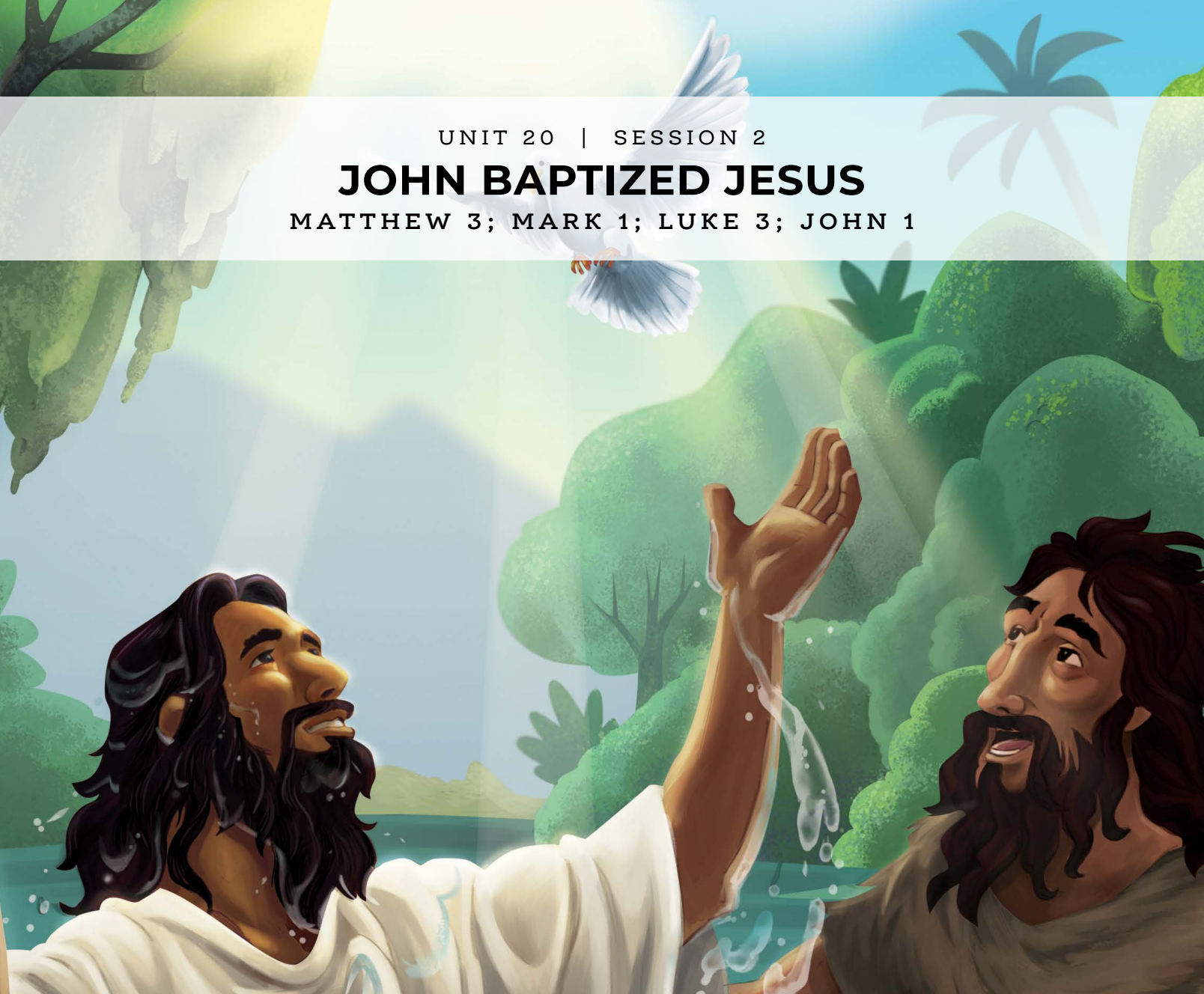


UNIT 20 | SESSION 2

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 3; JOHN 1



CHRIST CONNECTION: People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus went to see John at the Jordan River to be baptized.
- John baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus from heaven like a dove.
- A voice from heaven said, “This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him.”

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: When Jesus had grown up, He went to see John 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 said, “Why do You want me to baptize You?” John baptized people who turned from their sins, but Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, “God says this is right.” 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!”



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 3. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE KEY PASSAGE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh (clap),
And lived among us.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Word became flesh. Jesus lived among us and died so that we can believe in Him and have life forever! ”

2 MAKE WATERCOLOR ART

Write Jesus went to see John at the Jordan River to be baptized on construction paper. Provide blue watercolor paint, paper towels, and cups of water. Provide painting smocks and dip the babies’ fingers in the blue watercolor and guide the babies to “draw” swirls on the paper that resemble water or waves. Read the gospel gems aloud as the babies paint.

SAY “ Our first gospel gem says Jesus went to see John at the Jordan River to be baptized. People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus. ”

3 EXPLORE UP AND DOWN

Tape a picture of a dove on the wall at babies’ eye level. Assist babies in standing and trying to touch the dove image. Say, “Up” and “Down” as the babies stand and sit. When the babies touch the dove, bring the dove down to the babies and say, “The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus from heaven like a dove.” Continue to allow the babies to explore up and down.

SAY “ Who did John baptize? Yes! John baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus from heaven like a dove. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 3. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 CREATE A DOVE

Precut paper plates in half, one half for each toddler. Glue on googly eyes as the eyes, small construction paper triangles for the beak, and white artificial feathers for the body of the "dove." Supply crayons for the toddlers to color their doves. Review the Bible story as toddlers decorate their doves.

SAY “ What happened when Jesus went up from the water? Yes, the heavens opened. How did the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus? Yes, like a dove. ”

3 SING THE KEY PASSAGE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”: “The Word became flesh / The Word became flesh / The Word became flesh (clap) / and lived among us.” Use hand motions such as hold your hands together to make a V for “The Word.” For “flesh,” point to the flesh on your arm or hand. On “among us,” point to each toddler. Repeat, using the hand motions as you sing.

SAY “ Who came to live among us? Yes, Jesus! Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Word became flesh and lived among us. ”

4 PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY

Fill a plastic tub with a small amount of water. Lay the tub on a dry towel for easy cleanup. Provide people figures for toddlers to explore the water. Allow toddlers to act out the story as you read the Bible story.

SAY “ John baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus from heaven like a dove. A voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him.’ ”

5 MAKE A RIVER

Lay out a blue sheet or tablecloth. Gather the toddlers in a circle and encourage the toddlers to grab a piece of the sheet or cloth and shake it in an up-and-down motion. Instruct the toddlers to make slow and fast movements, like moving water. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ In our Bible story, was Jesus a grown-up or a baby? Yes! A grown-up. Did Jesus go see John at the Jordan River? Yes. When John saw Jesus, he said, ‘Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ ”

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 3; JOHN 1

CHRIST CONNECTION: People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: FOLLOW JESUS

Gather the toddlers and lead them to follow your movements. Suggest movements for the toddlers to follow, like clap your hands, stomp your feet, lift your hands, and so forth. Guide the toddlers to repeat and follow your movements. Then say, “We are to follow Jesus!” Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “Who are we supposed to follow? Yes! Jesus! We are to follow Jesus. When people are baptized, they show they have turned away from their sins to follow Jesus.”

2 SING THE KEY PASSAGE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh (clap),
And lived among us.”

SAY “Who came and lived among us? Yes, Jesus! Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus, the Word, became flesh and lived among us!”

3 PAT A PHRASE

Lead the toddlers in patting their legs and saying, “We turn from our sins.” Then move your hands in a horizontal, criss-cross, outside-to-inside motion and say, “but Jesus never sinned.” Encourage the toddlers to repeat in loud and soft voices.

SAY “Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned. John baptized people who turned from their sins, but Jesus never sinned! Even though Jesus never sinned, Jesus told John to baptize Him.”

4 PLAY “WHOSE VOICE IS IT?”

Guide toddlers to sit on the floor in a circle. Invite one toddler to turn away and close his eyes. Invite another toddler to say one of the phrases, “This is My Son,” “I love Him,” or “I am very happy with Him.” Instruct the first toddler to open his eyes and guess who said the phrase. Allow the toddlers to take turns.

SAY “In our Bible story, where did the voice come from that said, ‘This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him’? Yes, the voice came from heaven. Who should we follow? We should follow Jesus.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card** to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.