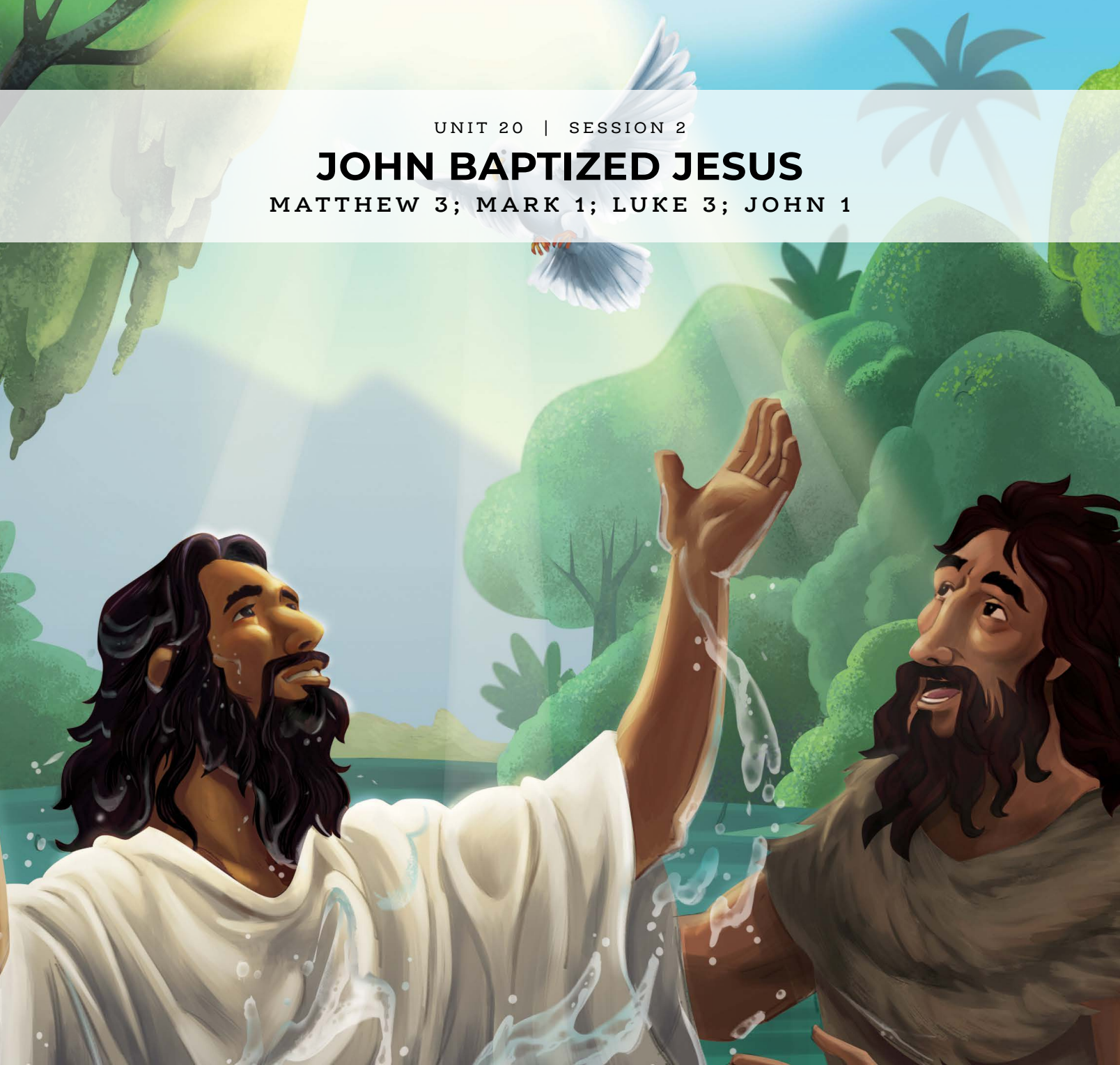


UNIT 20 | SESSION 2

# JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 3; JOHN 1



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** 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.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.

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

**STORY POINT:** John baptized Jesus.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

# LEADER 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.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



## PREPARE

### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



## WELCOME

### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



## LEARN

### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



## LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



## LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



## BONUS

### 60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tip scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

### WELCOME

#### Create a mural

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- JESUS mural from last session
- assorted stickers



### LEARN

#### Find the sticky note

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- sticky notes

#### Tell the Bible story

- "John Baptized Jesus" video (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- sticky notes from "Find the sticky note" activity

#### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Sink or float

- plastic container
- towels
- items that either sink or float such as toy boats, small balls, utensils, crayons, or coins
- art smocks

#### Make a dove

- white construction paper, 1 per child
- blue construction paper, 1 per child
- white feathers



### LIVE

#### Reveal the hidden message

- "Key Passage Phrase Label" printable
- white construction paper
- white crayon
- watercolor paints
- cups of water or spray bottles with water
- art smocks

#### Missions activity

- map of the United States

#### Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Follow the Path" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



### BONUS

#### Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

#### Complete people puzzles

- puzzles with people
- pictures of people printed on heavyweight paper (optional)

#### Make the letter J

- chenille stems
- pony beads



## WELCOME Preschoolers

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Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers opportunities to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, the story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### CREATE A MURAL

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. Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Greet kids as they come to the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question Poster. 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!’ ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## LEARN the Bible Story

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### 1 FIND THE STICKY NOTE

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. ”

### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

#### JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

**SAY** “ 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 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.



### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

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. ”

### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
The Word became flesh,  
And lived among us.  
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 1:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. 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. ”

### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for Jesus who was willing to be baptized, even though He had not sinned, in order to show us what we can do when we choose to follow Him.





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 SNIP PAPER

Cut construction paper into ½-inch thick strips. Use blue construction paper if available. Place the strips of paper and blunt-tip scissors on the table. Demonstrate how to use the scissors to snip the paper into small pieces. Assist children as needed with using the scissors.

**SAY** “ The paper you cut reminds me of drops of water. When Jesus had grown up, He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him in the water. John was confused. He baptized people who turned from their sins. Jesus never sinned! 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. ”

### 2 SINK OR FLOAT

Cover the table or floor with a towel. Fill the container halfway full with water. Place a variety of items that will either sink or float near the water. Assist children with placing a smock over their clothing. Demonstrate how to gently place an item in the water and watch for it to either sink or float. Encourage children to guess what they think will happen with each item.

**SAY** “ Some of the items we placed in the water sank to the bottom of the container, and some of them floated to the top. Water is used in many different ways. We can drink it, play in it, and even clean ourselves with it. People are baptized in water, too. People are baptized to show they have turned from their sins to follow Jesus. John was confused when Jesus asked to be baptized by him. John baptized people who turned from their sins, but Jesus never sinned. Jesus told John to baptize Him because God said it was right. So, **JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS.** ”

### 3 MAKE A DOVE

Trace each child’s hand on a piece of white construction paper. Guide the children to cut out their 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 section of the handprint outline to make a dove. Lastly, instruct children to glue white 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 the tracings 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. A voice also 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. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

#### 1 REVEAL THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

Before the session write JESUS in white crayon on the white construction paper. Print the “Key Passage Phrase Label” printable. Place the construction paper, watercolor paints, and cups of water on the table. Assist children with placing art smocks over their clothing. Demonstrate how to paint over the construction paper to reveal the hidden message. Place a Key Passage Phrase Label on the completed artwork.

**SAY** “ You revealed the word JESUS on your paper. The water you used reminds me of when **JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS** in the water. The key passage phrase is about Jesus too. It says, ‘The Word became flesh and lived among us.’ God became a human and lived on earth. ”

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Point to the state of Missouri on a map of the United States. Invite children to touch the map. Pray for the Sanchez family as they work in Kansas City to help more people know about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Almost two million people live in the metro area around Kansas City, Missouri, and they all need to know about Jesus. Luis and Nohemi Sanchez saw a need for a Spanish ministry in Kansas City. Luis and Nohemi were born in Mexico and grew up in the United States. The couple has started two churches in the area. ”

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

**SAY** “ 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. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



## TEACHING HOUR

# BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

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### 1 FOLLOW THE LEADER

Invite kids to follow you on a path around the room, ending at the group-time area. Tell kids that Jesus traveled to see John at the Jordan River.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

#### JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

- Jesus 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 tried to stop Jesus. John said, “Why do You want me to baptize You?”
- John was confused. He baptized people who turned from their sins. Jesus never sinned! Jesus said, “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!”

### 3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
The Word became flesh,  
And lived among us.  
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

### 4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 1:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Tell kids that God became a human and lived on earth. Encourage the boys to say the key passage phrase. Then encourage the girls to take a turn saying the phrase. Continue alternating between the boys and girls until you have said the key passage phrase several times.

### 5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins and taught us about baptism.



## TEACHING HOUR

# BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

### 6 PLAY OUT USING WATER



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!” ”

### 7 COMPLETE PEOPLE PUZZLES

Place puzzles on the table for children to complete. Puzzles can be made by printing pictures of people on heavyweight paper and cutting the paper into pieces. Encourage preschoolers to complete the people puzzles. As children work, talk about the people on the puzzles. For an added challenge, mix the pieces of two different puzzles together and encourage preschoolers to work both puzzles at the same time.

**SAY** “ You did a great job completing the puzzles. Tell me about the people in each puzzle. John baptized people who turned from their sins. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him. John was confused because Jesus had never sinned. 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. ”

### 8 MAKE THE LETTER J

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. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.