

Jesus Was Baptized

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34

MAIN POINT: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

“This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them.” (CSB)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

THE RESCUE BEGINS
God the Son
Unit 19 Lesson 5
March 29, 2020

Pre-K & K Small Group

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Zechariah’s son, John, grew up in the wilderness. John’s ministry began when God’s word came to him, and he began preaching near the Jordan River. John worked to get the people ready for the coming of Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, “A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness” (Isa. 40:3).

John called the people to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John also instructed the people on right living. (See Luke 3:10-14.) Some of the people suspected that John might be the Messiah, but John insisted, “One is coming who is more powerful than I” (Luke 3:16).

Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan River. Wait a second. John was calling people to a baptism of repentance. We know Jesus never sinned (see Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21), so why did Jesus come to be baptized? John was right when he said, “I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?” (Matt. 3:14).

Commentators’ ideas vary about why Jesus was baptized. Perhaps He was affirming John’s work. Maybe He was identifying with sinners or showing them how they would be saved—through His death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus answered John, “Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15).

As you teach, allow time for kids to ask questions. Emphasize that baptism is not what saves us; baptism is a way we show that we have been saved. Baptism reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we die to sin and come into a new way of life—a life lived for Jesus. (See Rom. 6:3-4.)

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Welcome

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. As kids arrive ask them if they know what *baptism* means. Ask if they have been baptized.

SAY **Baptism is a special event in the life of a believer. Today we will learn about a baptism that was different from all other baptisms. Who do you think might have an extra special baptism?**

Activity page

Help kids trace his or her hand to complete the dove.

SAY **In today's Bible story, God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very happy with Him!"**

Water Play

Fill a few shallow tubs with water. Provide water-friendly toys and allow the kids to play in the water. Keep towels close by to wipe up spills and dry kids' hands.

SAY • **We use water in baptism to show the world that Jesus has saved us and given us new life. Although our shallow tubs are for playing in the water, baptism is not a game. Baptism is a serious event where believers show the world an outward sign of the change God has brought to their lives. We'll learn more about baptism soon.**

TRANSITION TO LARGE GROUP

Walk across hall and sit as a group on risers.

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Jesus Baptism Craft

Pass out a paper plate, blue paper semi-circle, and John and Jesus. Glue or tape the rounded edge of blue semi-circle to the edge of the paper plate, forming a pocket. Tuck the John cutout behind the blue paper and tape it to the plate so that it appears he is standing in the water. Do the same with the Jesus cutout, but use a brass fastener instead of tape so that He can rotate to be dunked below the surface of the water.

SAY • We use water to make things clean. When people turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we say Jesus has cleansed them from their sin. That does not mean that Jesus washed them with water on the outside, but that Jesus has forgiven their sin on the inside. Baptism shows on the outside what Jesus has done on the inside. John baptized Jesus even though He never sinned. Baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life.

Pray

Take prayer requests. Pray, thanking God for baptism and asking Him to bring your group to faith. Ask Him to help them treasure baptism as a special symbol of what Jesus did on the cross to pay for sin.

JOIN WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY

When prompted wrap up and line up in to get ready to enter the sanctuary.