



PRAY *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, we thank you for our families. We thank you that you became human to rescue us from sin. Help us now to learn more about You ,with open hearts. Amen”

OPENING ACTIVITY

Paper Doves

Provide each kid with a sheet of paper. Challenge the kids to make paper airplanes that will stand in for doves. The goal for each kid is to make an airplane that takes longest to “float” to the ground.

Say: Great job on the paper doves. Today we will hear about a time the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and rested on Jesus!.

Say: For the next few weeks, we’ll be looking at a big picture question that will help us better understand the stories we learn. Our Question is: **Why Did Jesus become human?**

Say: *(someone else can read the answer)* Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners. We’ll see in today’s story that everything Jesus did was to obey and glorify God. Jesus stepped down from his rightful place in heaven to make a way for humans to live forever with God! Let’s read.

READ

optional: have different people read the parts for narrator, Jesus and John.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made out of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John began telling people, "Repent and be baptized because God's kingdom is almost here."

Some people asked John, "Who are you?"

John said, "I am not the Messiah."

John also said he wasn't Elijah, and he wasn't the Prophet that God had promised to send after Moses.

"Who are you, then?" they asked.

Long before John was born, the prophet Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'" Isaiah was talking about John. John had a very important job. He was supposed to get people ready for Jesus—God's promised Messiah.

People started to repent; they turned away from their sins and turned to God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. Baptism was a picture

that the people's sins had been washed away.

John preached, "Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will



baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

By this time, Jesus was an adult. 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 told John that He wanted to be baptized. But John didn’t think he should baptize Jesus. “I need You to baptize me,” John said. “Why do You want me to baptize You?” John was confused. He baptized people who confessed their sins; Jesus never sinned!

Jesus said, “Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right.” So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

Jesus immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God’s voice came from heaven. “This is My Son,” the voice said. “I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!”

Christ Connection: Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus’ death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use gestures:** Hold up your arms when speaking John’s dialogue.
- **Display art:** Show the Bible story picture and point to elements of the scene at appropriate points in the story.

Take to Heart

*As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks!
Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!*

"He must become greater; I must become less."

— John 3:30

LEARN *Take turns reading as parents, OR have kids read parts of the lesson.*

Say: Back in the days of John the Baptist, baptism was used as a symbol to show that you needed to be cleansed of your sinful choices so that you could obey God better. John told people to repent, or turn away from their sin to be baptized.

Say: John's preaching reminded people that the Messiah would be coming soon. He knew that Jesus was the most important, and John wanted people to know that too. When Jesus showed up, John knew exactly who He was.

Ask: How did John respond to Jesus' request for baptism?



Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1) • Unit 20, Session 1 • © 2019 LifeWay. OK to Print

Say: At first John was shocked! Jesus was perfect, and he had no sin to repent of. But Jesus knew that this was a part of God's plan. Jesus's baptism was a necessary

thing for Him to obey God's plan. And it led to something huge!

Ask: What happened after Jesus was baptized?

Say: Jesus' baptism led to God's announcement that Jesus was God's Son! The Holy Spirit came down from heaven and rested on Jesus. God's voice spoke and said "this is my Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!" God tells us here that His plan to rescue sinners is coming together and that we should listen to Jesus to follow God's plan.

Ask: Why is baptism important?

Say: Baptism is important because Jesus commands us to be baptized, and as we learned today, we need to listen to Jesus! Jesus provides for us an example, and since Jesus was baptized we too should be baptized. Baptism doesn't save us. Jesus saves. He is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," said John the Baptist. But baptism is a beautiful picture of dying to our sins and finding new life in Jesus.

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

If you have baptized your children, tell them about it! If you have never been baptized, or you would like your child to be baptized, reach out to our elders to find out more about being baptized!

Ask: Who should be baptized?

Baptism is a sign of God's promise that He is the one who rescues us from sin. We are not saved when we "choose" God but we are saved when God "chooses" us. When God chooses us, the Holy Spirit leads us to repent and ask for forgiveness for sins. Someone should be baptized when they come to faith. But God's promise is for adults and children (Acts 2:39), that is why we baptize babies. So if Christian parents have babies, they should be baptized as a sign that God promises to save us.

PRAY *Have someone in the family volunteer to read the closing prayer*

“Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us. Thank You that He perfectly obeyed you in all things, from baptism even to death on the cross. Help us to obey You through our love for you. Amen”

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: “Who is in charge at home?” Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: “What is the best gift you’ve ever received?” Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: “Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus.” Read Romans 10:9-10.