

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1



Day after day, John was leading people to confess their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. One day, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptized in the Jordan River by John.

When John saw Jesus, he said, “Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I have been telling you about, the one who is greater than me, because he has always existed. I have been baptizing you with water to prepare the way for him, so that he might be revealed to all God’s people.”

When John realized that Jesus wanted to be baptized by him, John tried to stop Him. John said, “I need to be baptized by you! Why do you come to me to be baptized?”

Jesus answered him and said, “Allow me to be baptized by you. This is the way it must be for us to fulfill all righteousness, by obeying God’s plan.” So, John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened up for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove onto Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Christ Connection: Jesus obeyed His Father by

being baptized. Later in life, He obeyed His Father by dying on a cross for our sins and rising again, so that all who trust in Him will receive eternal life.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **Have you ever swam, floated, or tubed on a river? How did the water feel; was it refreshing?**
- **Would you rather swim in a river or in a pool?**

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: UP OUT OF THE WATER

Prior to the session, print a copy of the “Jesus’ Baptism” printable for each kid. Cut a slit in the bottom of each paper cup big enough for two craft sticks to slide in and out. Give each kid a cup, a piece of blue paper, two craft sticks, and the printable. Demonstrate how to cut a piece of blue paper to look like water and attach it to the outside of their cups. Lead them to color the pictures of Jesus and the dove and then cut them out. Once they have colored, cut out, and taped the pictures to the craft sticks, show them how to slide them into the slit in the cup. Show them how they can move the craft sticks up and down to make Jesus “come out of the water.”

SAY “ These crafts can be a visual reminder of what we’re going to learn about today. In today’s lesson, we will hear about how **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.** ”

OPTION 2: HIS PRESENCE

Before class print a copy of the “Dove Pattern” printable for each kid. Pass out white paper and pencils. Instruct the kids to trace one of their hands and cut it out. Show them how to glue their cutout hand to the dove image to look like a wing. Once the hand is glued down, demonstrate to the kids how to stretch a cotton ball out and glue it to their paper hand to create feathers.

SAY “ In our lesson today we will hear that all three persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, were present at Jesus’ baptism. **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.** ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about when John baptized Jesus. Today we will see that **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED**. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Matthew 3.**•What does this story teach us about God?**

Jesus obeyed His Father's will by being baptized, and all the people who witnessed it heard a voice from heaven say that Jesus is the Son of God. Like the answer to our big picture question says, **Jesus is fully God and fully man**.

•Why did Jesus have to get baptized?

From the beginning of creation, God's plan was for Jesus to live as a human, perfectly without sin. Jesus baptism was one of the many ways He lived among humans as one of them. It was also an example of how we should act in our faith. John had been baptizing people and calling them to repent and believe. It is important to note that the act of baptism doesn't save us; we are saved by faith through grace from Jesus alone. Baptism is an outward, public display of the inward cleansing of our hearts. Believers experience salvation first, and then follow with baptism as a symbol to show others the decision they have made.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Kansas City, Missouri, is a city known for good barbecue, but it is much more than that. In years past, it was known as The Most American City due to the number of native-born people who lived there. Now, people born in other countries make up about six percent of the population, and the number is rising. Almost two million people live in the metro area around Kansas City, and they all need to know about Jesus. Four out of five people living there say they are not a Christian.

Luis and Nohemi Sanchez saw a need for a Spanish ministry in the Kansas City metro area. Luis and Nohemi were born in Mexico and raised in the United States. Their heritage allows the Sanchez family to connect to first- and second-generation Hispanic immigrants. The couple started Primera Iglesia Bautista de Independence Church in Independence, Missouri. While Luis was pastoring this church, they started another Hispanic church on the north side of the city. They partnered with Northland Baptist Church to start Northland Baptist en Español.

Pray for the Sanchez family as they minister to people in their church. Pray that Northland Baptist Church en Español will continue to grow.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Jesus came to show us how to live righteous lives in obedience to God and died on a cross in our place so we can be saved and have eternal life. Salvation through Jesus is a free gift, not something that can be earned by good behavior. We each have to make the decision to follow Him or continue to live in our own sinful flesh. Have you considered salvation through Jesus and following Him instead of your own desires?






4 PRAY

God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to show us how to live righteous lives in obedience to You, and for dying on a cross in our place so we can be saved and have eternal life. You are the perfect example for us. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	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.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	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.	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.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **If I am saved, do I need to get baptized? Is it OK not to?**
- **When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, why is baptism important?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Matthew. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 3:13.

Remind preteens that in our lesson today, and the verse we just read, we learned that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. This was the town Mary and Joseph lived in when they learned that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, Jesus. Jesus walked from Nazareth all the way to the Jordan River to show obedience to His Father by being baptized.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Matthew 3:13 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What does baptism symbolize?

Baptism is representative of Christians dying to their old selves and being raised again with Christ. This is mirrored in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 9:23.)

2. Why do you think John thought he was unworthy to untie the sandals of Jesus or to baptize Him?

Our sin makes us unworthy to be in the presence of God, but God made the way for us to have a right, loving relationship with Him through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 3:10.)

3. The word "Trinity" describes how God is one God who exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see all three persons of the Trinity in this story. Where else do we see the Trinity in the Bible?

We see evidence of the Trinity in the very first chapter of the Bible. When God created humans the word "us" was used to include God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Genesis 1:26.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is Jesus God or a human?
Jesus is fully God and fully human.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to John 1:14. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Lead kids to stand in a circle. Have the first kid say the first word of the verse. Then the second kid will say the second word, and so on until the entire verse has been said. Repeat the activity, this time challenging the group to see how fast they can correctly say the verse.

Explain that when Jesus came to earth and lived as a human, people observed Him, His actions, His teachings, and His glory as the Son of God.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, praising God for sending His Son to be our example of faith and obedience.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

OBEDIENCE CHARADES

Before class, write on strips of paper different tasks, actions, and situations where kids would need to obey. For example, brushing their teeth, doing a chore, completing a school assignment, etc. Fold the strips of paper and place them in a bowl. Tell the kids that they will take turns illustrating or acting out the words they chose from the bowl. This can be played competitively on teams or as a large group.

Remind preteens that obedience is not something that comes easy, but is a necessary behavior to learn. **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.**