



JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Young Preschool • #NT5 • December 28, 2025

Concept

Jesus wants to wash away our sins.

Goal

Children will learn that Jesus loves us so much that He chose to be identified with sinners even though He never sinned. Jesus washes us clean of our sins when we choose to accept His forgiveness and admit that we sin.

Passage

John 1:19-34; Matthew 3:1-17

Key Verse: "Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for us so that we can be friends with God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (paraphrased)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Laminated magnet-backed pictures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">John in water3 figures standing3 figures in waterJesus standingJesus in the waterDove	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Color page, 1/childCrayons, markersDove stickers printed on labels, 1/child

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"...Jesus was a model son, and probably a carpenter after Joseph's trade, until, at the age of thirty, He went down to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. The Baptist was a formidable man who wore camel skin and ate locusts and wild honey. He was considered by many a prophet, Israel's first in some four or five centuries, and he stirred up considerable excitement among the common people, many of whom responded to his call for repentance.

"He was also fearless, speaking out against those of the religious and political authorities who were wicked men and declaring God's impending judgment on them. Some of the people even considered him the Messiah, but he denied it, quoting Isaiah to define his mission: [I am] the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare a road for the Lord. See Matthew 3:3." [1]

Jesus came to John to be baptized for several purposes. One was to allow John to publicly recognize Jesus. As God had told John, the Spirit of God would descend on the Christ as a dove. At that moment, a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased" (Matthew 3:17). With the descent of the Spirit, John had seen the fulfillment of the promised sign for the Messiah Redeemer and later said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (see John 1:36). John is the first to recognize the Messiah and direct others to Him.

John exposed people's sin and proclaimed God's requirement for them to repent and turn back to Him. His baptism was for repentance and John himself recognized Jesus had no need of repentance. Why did Jesus insist on this baptism? Jesus' goal in His earthly visitation was to deal with man's sin problem. In order to do so, He had to identify with sinners. He began His ministry at this point, immersing Himself in humanity, laying down His right to exercise godly attributes. In this, His Father was well pleased and affirmed/commissioned Him with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Additional Reading: Matthew 11:7-15; Acts 19:3-5

[1] God's Incredible Plan, McCallum & Hamblin, Fleming H. Revell Co., Tappan, New Jersey, 1978, pp. 70, 71.

Set Up Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class – Cut dove stickers apart for easier distribution.

Activity Stations:

- **Read-Aloud – "In the Jordan River" pp 311-315 OR "John Baptizes Jesus" pp 303-307**
 - **Instructions:** Read the above story from The Beginner's Bible. Discuss the story with the children.

Role-Play – Taking a Bath

Instructions: Go through the motions of taking a bath with the children, pretending to do each step. Have them imitate you. Step in the bathtub, sit down, pick up the washcloth and the soap. Rub the soap on the washcloth and scrub arms, legs, face, hands, etc. Hum it up and have fun with them. Talk about why we take a bath and what happens when we take a bath. The dirt and germs and grime are washed away and we are clean.

Who can tell me why your mommy or daddy has you take a bath? That's right, you take a bath because you're dirty. When you wash, the dirt comes off and you get clean. Today we are going to talk about a special kind of bath God wants to give us. Let's pretend that we're taking a bath. (Go through the role-play.)

Do you remember when we talked about that special baby named John? God sent John to earth to do a very special job. John's job was to tell everyone that God wanted to wash their bad choices and sin away so they could be His friends. (Put John and the three figures on the white board.) When a person said he wanted God to wash away his sin, John dunked him in the river. (Remove the three figures and put up the figures in the water.) When a person was dunked in the river it showed that he or she had asked God to wash his/her sins away. The act of getting baptized itself does not take away sin; it just represents something they have already done. It was kind of like taking a bath.

Wait a minute! Look who came to be baptized by John! (Put picture of Jesus next to the water.) It's Jesus. Why did He come? He never sinned. He didn't have any sins to wash away. He was perfect. He never made bad choices! Jesus wanted John to baptize Him because He wanted the people to know that He had come to earth to wash away their sins.

Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins so we can be friends with God. We aren't friends with God because we sin and make bad choices. The Bible tells us that Jesus wants to wash away our sins. When we tell Jesus we want Him to forgive our sins and to be our friend, He washes all our sins away.

Lesson Lg. Group Continued

When John baptized Jesus, he dunked Jesus under the water. When Jesus came up again the sky opened up, and God's Spirit came down out of the sky. It looked just like a bird. (Put up the picture of the dove, just above Jesus.) And God's voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." God was happy that Jesus was baptized because He was ready to do the job He came to earth to do. Jesus was perfect; Jesus was God. God loves us so much that "Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for us so that we can be friends with God." He did that because He wants to wash away our sins and be our friend.

When Jesus becomes our friend, He helps us to make good choices like He did—good choices to do a hard thing, like be nice to someone who's mean to us or to do what our dads and moms ask us to do even when we don't want to.

Let's pray and thank God that Jesus wants to wash away our sins. He loves us so much that He came to earth to die for us. "Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for us so that we can be friends with God." He came to die on the cross so we can be friends with God.

Transition

Let's color a picture to help us remember that Jesus was baptized to show us that He wants to wash away our sins.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Jesus is Baptized color page

- **Instructions:** Give each child a picture and a dove sticker. Color the picture. Add the dove sticker.