



JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Preschool-K • #NT5 • January 7, 2024

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 when 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"> • Dishpan (or something to hold water) • Dial soap, 1-2 small bars/room • Paper towels • Bath towel* (teachers provide) • The Rhyme Bible, L.J. Sattgast <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminated, magnet-backed color pictures of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ John in water ◦ 3 figures standing ◦ 3 figures in water ◦ Jesus standing ◦ Jesus in the water ◦ Dove <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's puppets from Learning Activity #1 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed puppet heads, 2/child • Small wooden spring clothespins, 2/child • Glue sticks • Crayons, markers

*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

The day of class – Cut around the outside lines of the puppet heads for Learning Activity #1.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Washing Hands**
 - **Instructions:** Fill the dishpan half full with warm water and put it on a table with a towel underneath to catch the spills. Put the soap and paper towels on the table for the children to wash/dry their hands. Let each child use the soap to wash his/her hands and rinse them in the dishpan. Talk about why we wash our hands and what happens when we wash our hands. The dirt and germs and grime are washed away and our hands are clean.
- **Read-Aloud – "Jesus is God's Son"**
 - **Instructions:** Read pages 274-285 of The Rhyme Bible. You will need to define the word "repent" for the children. It means to change your mind, to decide you want to do things God's way. Discuss the story with the children. Tie the story to the Washing Hands activity station.

Introduction Lg. Group

Some of you washed your hands in the dishpan. Who can tell me why we wash our hands? That's right, we wash our hands because they are dirty and need to be cleaned. When we wash, the dirt comes off and they are clean. Today we are going to learn that Jesus wants to wash away our sins.

Lesson Lg. Group

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 away their sins 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 had asked God to wash his sins away.

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 didn't need to have any sins washed away. He never made bad choices! He was perfect. Why did Jesus want John to baptize Him? Jesus told John it was right for Him to be baptized because it would show that it was time for Him to start the work He came to do.

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. That's why "Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for us so that we can be friends with God."

Lesson Lg. Group Continued

Jesus died on the cross to take our punishment. When we tell Jesus we want Him to forgive our sins and to be our friend, He washes all our sins away.

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 dove. (Put up the picture of 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 take care of our sin. 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.

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

Transition

Let's make some puppets to help us remember that Jesus wants to wash away our sins. You can use your puppets to tell others about how Jesus came to "wash away our sins."

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Puppets [1]

Instructions: Allow each child to choose one or two puppet heads to color. To make the mouth, fold the top of the head back on the top dotted line. Next, fold the chin back on the lower dotted line. Then put the top and the bottom folds together so the mouth is shut and crease the flap that sticks out the back so the top and bottom work like a puppet mouth. On the back of the puppet, rub the glue stick on the upper and lower back flap and a little beyond the upper and lower fold. Clip a clothespin on the flap and press the head and the chin to the ends of the clothespin. Let the glue dry. When the clothespin is pinched, the mouth opens and closes.

[1] Adapted from Fran Rothman, *Easy-to-Make Puppets*, © 1995 Gospel Light, p. 35.

Use the puppets to tell each other that Jesus will wash away our sins when we ask Him to forgive our sins. When demonstrating the puppet have the puppet say, "Wash away my sins."

- Why do we need Jesus to wash away our sins?
- After He washes away our sins, does He become our friend?

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups