

January 16, 2013

Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3:7-22

LESSON FOCUS

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior. Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior. We have been baptized and will want to tell others about Jesus, the Savior.

About thirty years after Jesus' birth, His cousin John began his ministry in Judea. Isaiah had prophesied about John in chapter 40:3, *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD. Make his path straight.”*

John preached in the wilderness, where living off the land was difficult to do. His clothing was camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was simple also-- locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey. He called for the people to repent of their sins, and when they did he baptized them in the Jordan River.

Many people of Judea and Jerusalem came out to confess their sins and be baptized by this prophet of God. His work was to prepare the people for the coming of the promised Messiah and His ministry.

As John's ministry continued he drew not only the attention of the people, but also of the chief religious leaders, namely, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

When he saw them coming he confronted them by calling them a “brood of vipers!” Some Pharisees and Sadducees thought that since they were descendants of Abraham, they were assured of salvation. John warned them that without true repentance for sins they would be like a tree that does not bear good fruit and is thrown into the fire. Many people consulted John on how to bear fruits of faith.

When speaking to tax collectors, John advised them not to collect more than was due them.

John counseled soldiers not to intimidate anyone, falsely accuse anyone, or complain about their wages.

Many people wondered if John was the Christ. John humbly rejected this expectation, preaching that the One coming after him was mightier and greater than he. John believed he was not even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. John baptized with water, but the coming Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus journeyed from Galilee to John at the Jordan so He could be baptized. When John saw Jesus approaching, he declared Him to be “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” At first, John was reluctant to baptize Jesus, thinking that he was not worthy to baptize Him. Jesus told John to baptize Him, and John obeyed.

Immediately after the baptism the *heavens* were opened and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, flew down and landed on Jesus. The Father's voice from heaven declared, *“This is My beloved Son in who I am well pleased.”*

After Jesus' baptism, He began His ministry. Many people listened and believed. As Jesus' following grew, those that followed John became fewer and fewer. King Herod, upset that John had rebuked him for a public sin, imprisoned John. Eventually, as a favor to his daughter, he had John beheaded.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Before you come to your classroom, walk to the Sanctuary to see the baptismal font in the front.

Walk to the baptismal font in the front of the Sanctuary. Point out the bowl/basin.

Say: When someone is baptized the pastor takes water and pours it over the person's head. Is the water he uses extra special water? Not really. It's just plain old water that comes out of the faucet. That's what makes Baptism so amazing – God uses just ordinary water, but not water alone. With the water is God's Word from the Bible and the power of God the Holy Spirit. In Baptism the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, bringing faith and washing away our sins in the name of Jesus.

Return to your classroom.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Water Cross

You'll need:

White tissue paper sheets (one 6x6 inch piece per child)

Colored tissue paper sheets (one 6x6 inch piece per child)

Paint brushed

Water

Plastic table cloths for each table painting with water on – tables must be covered!

Place the white tissue paper UNDER the colored tissue paper. Each child should dip their paint brush into the water and paint a water cross onto their tissue paper squares. Be sure they use enough water to soak the cross. Wait 30 seconds for absorption. Then have children separate the tissue papers. The color of the cross should transfer to the white tissue paper.

Say: You made this mark with water. That reminds me that in Baptism we are "marked" with water and God's Word. In Baptism our sins are washed away because of the forgiveness we have through faith in the cross of Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3:7-22

Open your Bible so children can see you “reading” God’s Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you’re saying is coming from God’s Word. Use Tell the Story idea below.

Jesus is Baptized

Jesus grew from a boy into a man. His cousin, John the Baptist, was living out in the desert. John was a preacher. He preached about people’s need to turn away from their sins (repent) and turn to God. John told people they needed to be baptized as a symbol of their changed lives. He baptized many people in the Jordan River.

One day, as John was baptizing people, Jesus Himself came to the water to be baptized! Wait a minute—did Jesus need to be forgiven of sins? No, Jesus never sinned. But Jesus wanted the people to see His example of following God’s will. Also, this was the time Jesus began His ministry. So Jesus’ baptism was a way of saying that He was ready to follow God’s plan for Him.

After Jesus was baptized, something amazing happened. The Holy Spirit came and rested on Jesus in the shape of a dove! A dove is a small bird. (Make flapping motions with arms.) Then a voice from heaven said, “You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you.” It was God’s voice!

That must have really encouraged Jesus to know that His Father was happy with Him. Everything Jesus did was to obey His Father. He obeyed God’s will for Him, even when He had to die on the cross. He knew He had to die so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have eternal life.

GOD’S WORD IN MY HEART

Read this passage from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn this verse.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

CREATING

Flying Dove Paper Craft

Materials

coffee filter, glue, scissors,

OPTIONAL: wiggly eyes



- Cut out the dove body.
- Glue on a wiggly eye or color in the eye.
- Fold coffee filter, accordion style
- Slip into the slit to make the wings.

The dove patterns will be copied on card stock and put in your classroom for you.

SING

In The River

The chorus is repeated throughout this re-telling of today's Bible lesson. Establish a steady beat and say the words. Add a clap for the words river, water, Jordan and is. Practice the chorus a few times before beginning.

Down by the water, Jesus found John.

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

Baptizing people one by one.

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

Jesus said, "John, baptize me!"

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

"That's how God wants things to be."

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

Jesus was baptized there by John.

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

God said, "This is my own, dear Son."

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

The Spirit of God came like a dove.

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

Jesus knew of God's great love.

**In the river, in the water,
River Jordan that is.**

Jesus Said Please Baptize Me

To the tune of London Bridge

Jesus said, "Please baptize me, baptize me, baptize me."

Jesus said, "Please baptize me; won't you John?"

John the Baptist baptized Him, baptized Him, baptized Him.

John the Baptist baptized him – baptized Jesus!

A dove came down from heaven, heaven, heaven.

A dove came down from heaven. It was the Spirit of God.

God said, "Son, I love you, I love you, I love you."

God said, "Son, I love you. You please me well."

Jesus is Baptized Finger Play

Jesus went to John one day.

He said, "Please baptize me!"

"You are God's Son. Thy will be done."

Said John, on bended knee.

Walk 2 fingers

Clasp hands together

Point away, point up

Bend first finger

Out of the water Jesus rose.

As the heavens opened wide.

This was the Son God loved so much

Sent to be our loving guide.

Raise one finger in the air

Make a fist in the air, then open it

Point up

Hug yourself

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Let's review our Bible story

**Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

**I am baptized. Have you heard?
With the water and God's Word!
Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

**Baptism is God's gift to me,
Blessing me eternally!
Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

**I confess that I do wrong.
Give me faith and make me strong.
Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

**Wash away the wrong I do.
Help me to be true to You.
Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

**Celebrate the promise given,
He will take us all to heaven!
Wash, sprinkle, pour, dip in.
Jesus, clean away my sin.**

Pray: Dear God, thank you for keeping your promises! Help me remember that You are with me always. Thank you for loving me! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.