

Life of Christ

Jesus is baptized

Matthew 3:13-17

Younger Verse

“This is my Son, whom I love.” Matthew 3:17

Older Verse

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

Lesson Goals

Understand why people are baptized
Describe what it means to be baptized
Help the children understand how to follow Jesus Christ

Welcome Time

Open your Bible and show the students where Matthew is in the Bible. Explain that Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. It tells us about the life of Jesus. Today we will learn about Jesus’ baptism.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it.. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

God sent a man named John the Baptist to help the people be ready for Jesus’ coming. John told them to turn away from their **sins (bad things people do)** and turn to God. After they had made a decision to follow God, John would baptize them in the Jordan River.

One day Jesus came to the river and asked John to baptize *him!* At first, John did not want to do this because Jesus was perfect and did not do anything wrong. John said that Jesus should baptize him. But Jesus explained that being baptized was something that God wanted Him to do. It was a way to show everyone that Jesus was obeying God and following God.

So John took Jesus into the river and **baptized Him. This means that he put Jesus’ head under water and then lifted him back up above the water.** When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened and God’s Spirit came down in the form of a dove. Then a voice from heaven spoke and said, “This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with Him.”

Jesus continued to obey God all his life. We can follow Jesus’ example by obeying God in our lives.

Let’s talk a few minutes about what it means to be baptized...

Baptism is a picture that tells a story. Romans 6:4 tells us that baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. As a person goes down into the water, it shows us how Jesus died on the cross and was buried for our wrongs. When a person comes up out of the water, it reminds us how Jesus rose again.

Baptism is also a picture of what happens in our hearts. Before we believe in Jesus, our hearts are dirty because of the wrong things (sin) we have done. Then when we invite Jesus into our heart, he comes into our heart and washes away the sin!

Being baptized is a way we obey God, just like Jesus did. God tells us in His Word, the Bible, that we are to be baptized when we believe and trust Jesus. Romans 10:9 says that “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” An important way to show the world we believe in Christ is by being baptized. It is the next step of obedience after accepting Christ into your heart.

If time permits, share your personal testimony (how you accepted Christ and were baptized, and how God has changed your life).

Review Questions

1. Who did God send to get the people ready for Jesus to come? (Answer: John the Baptist)
2. Why did John say that he should not baptize Jesus? (Answer: He said that Jesus should baptize him because Jesus had never sinned.)
3. What happened after Jesus was baptized? (Answer: The Spirit of God came down on him like a dove; God said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”)
4. What is one thing a person must do before they are baptized? (Answer: A person must ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins and come into their life.)
Explain that they can do this right now.

Prayer Time

Pray with and for the students, that each student will understand what it means to follow Christ and be baptized.

Life Application

What are some ways we can obey God in our lives: at home (obey our parents, be helpful); at school (listen to teachers, work hard, get along with others); with friends (be kind, share Jesus with them)?

Note: Teachers, this lesson speaks about **baptism**. Please be sensitive to the needs of your children. When sharing the lesson, please do not coax children into the desire for baptism. Let the Holy Spirit do what He does best! When teaching, be sure to help the kids understand that baptism is a picture of what Jesus did, and that it tells others something about us; it is a promise to God, and it is an act of obedience to God.

Planning for Lesson 2
Jesus is tempted
Matthew 4:1-11

**Preschool Lesson
for
Jesus is baptized**

Tell students they will use motions during the story.

Let's hear about something special that happened when Jesus was a grown-up man.

Jesus was walking near a river (**Let your fingers make walking motions**). The river made splashing noises as it traveled through the country (**Make splashing noises**).

Jesus knew that one of His friends named John was down by the river. He listened to God and went down to the river. Jesus saw His friend John baptizing people. That means that he was carefully helping people go under the water and come up again. It was not a game. It was a way they could show other people that they wanted to follow God and do what He wanted.

Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. So, John baptized Him (**Make a splash noise**). When Jesus came up from the water, a special bird flew down (**wrap your thumbs together and flap your fingers like a bird**). Then, God said in a loud voice, "This is my Son, Jesus, whom I love and am very pleased with."

When Jesus was baptized, it was a way to show everyone that He was obeying God and following God.

John told the people that Jesus was God's Son. He knew this because of what he saw that day.

Jesus obeyed God. He did everything that His Father told Him.

Pray and thank God for loving us. Ask Him to help us do the right things.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus is baptized

Get some dirt and put it in a cup or bowl. Take a small basin and fill it with water. Put some dishwashing liquid in it. Let the kids help you wash the cup/bowl. After it is clean, ask the kids if getting clean on the *outside* changes our hearts. Tell them only **Jesus** can clean our hearts from sin. Baptism shows what happens in our hearts—Jesus makes them clean! Sing “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus.”

The Bible tells us that John the Baptist wore clothing made of camel’s hair. Have kids make a puppet of John using paper lunch bags and brown yarn for his clothing. The Bible also says that John ate locusts and honey. Bring honey for the kids to taste.

Bring colored construction paper—black, red, white, blue, green and yellow. Go through the plan of salvation with them. Black represents the sin in our hearts. Red stands for Jesus’ blood shed on the cross. White shows our clean hearts after Jesus comes into our hearts. Blue is for baptism (water). Green is for how we grow to know God better, and yellow stands for the streets of gold we will see in heaven one day. You can also make salvation bracelets using beads and bracelet material.

Back in Jesus time, the fabric merchants would dye fabric by dipping it in a dye. When it came up out of the solution, it was a different color. When we are baptized, it is a picture of the change that already took place in our hearts. Like the fabric is changed, our lives are changed by Jesus. He cleans out all the sin and helps us live for Him and do things His way. (Teachers, you may want to illustrate by dipping a paper towel in food coloring and show how it is changed.)

Teach the kids how to make an origami bird. Tell the story again and let the kids use their birds to fly down when Jesus is baptized.