

# DESCENDING DOVE

*A craft where the children can demonstrate how the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down upon Jesus when John the Baptist baptized Him.*

## TOPICS:

Baptism, God's Love, Holy Spirit, Jesus, John the Baptist

## MATERIALS:

Medium card stock  
Picture of Jesus being baptized [ATTACHED]  
Pictures of doves [ATTACHED]  
White feathers (optional)  
Crayons, glue  
Scissors



(EXAMPLE ATTACHED)

## DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

## PREPARATION:

Before class, print out enough pictures of Jesus being baptized for each child. Using medium card stock, print and cut out one dove for each child. You can cut around the oval shape, or, if you have time, around the outlines of the dove.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the children color their picture of Jesus being baptized. Instruct the children not to color inside the small box at the top of the page. This is where they will glue the dove. When finished coloring, help each child fold his or her page along the dotted lines, so the top portion can collapse downward as shown in the example of finished craft.

Then, give the children each one dove. If you have white feathers, help them glue on feathers. Some feathers may need to be broken apart if they are too large. As an alternative, you can use small strips of white material, anything that will make the doves stand out. Finally, help the children glue their completed dove onto their picture.

## WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today, we are going to make a craft to help us remember how the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove and how God told everyone that Jesus was His very own Son. (Read Luke 3:21-22 to the children.)

## Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Holy Spirit come down onto Jesus? (*In the form of a dove.*)
2. What did God say about Jesus? (*You are my Son, whom I love.*)

God said, "You are my Son whom I love." Let's change that around so that we are the ones speaking. I want everyone to repeat after me. "This is God's Son, whom I love." Now, you are the one saying who Jesus is.

Dove





# DESCENDING DOVE



# LOVE OF THE FATHER

*An illustration to show the children the depth of God's love for them.*

## TOPICS:

Family, God's Love, Jesus, Love

## MATERIALS:

Three hearts template [ATTACHED]

Construction paper

Tape, markers



## DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes

## PREPARATION

Before class, cut out three different sized hearts from construction paper using the template provided. Label the large heart "God's Love" and the smallest heart "Our Love." Leave the middle-sized heart blank.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will discuss how much God loves His Son Jesus and how much God loves us. You will then use concentric hearts to demonstrate how God's love for Jesus is the same as it is for us.

## WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today, we are going to learn about how much God loves you and me. First, who is God's only Son? (*God's only son is Jesus.*) So, if Jesus is God's only Son, do you think God loves us more, less, or equal to His only Son? (*Allow for answers.*)

The truth is that God's love is the same for us as it is for Jesus. In John 17:23 Jesus says, "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." Jesus is saying that when we belong to Him, God's love for us is the same.

Let's show this by using three hearts.

(Hold up the large heart.) I have here a big heart. This heart shows how big God's love is.

(Show the middle sized heart) Now let's say that this heart represents Jesus. Will it fit inside God's love? (*Allow children to respond.*)

(Tape the medium sized heart inside the larger heart.) Look, it fits inside God's heart.

(Now hold up the small heart.) Now here is a very small heart. This little heart is you and I. We are so small, yet God's heart and love is the same size as it is for His Son. It is big enough for everyone. It doesn't change. Our heart fits inside of God's heart, and it fits inside of Jesus' heart.

(Tape the small heart inside the medium sized heart.) It fits! This means we are united. We are all part of the family of God, and He loves all of us equally.

