

Jesus is Baptized

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- old pennies, water and vinegar
- white Origami paper (or white paper cut into squares)
- beads or sequins (2 per student)
- needle and thread
- glue



Scriptures

Mt 3:13-17, Jn 1:32-34

Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist

Behavioral Objective(s)

To know that we must be baptized in order to become God's children; to identify the behaviors we should exhibit once we are God's children

Memory Verse

"This is My beloved Son." (Mt 3:17)



Bible Knowledge

Water Baptism

It is important to explain to students that Jesus was sinless, and He did not need to be baptized to wash away His sins. But today's Bible story tells us that He traveled many miles, from Galilee to the Jordan River, to be baptized by John the Baptist. John recognized that he was neither worthy nor qualified to baptize Jesus, but Jesus convinced him that it was only right for him to do so to fulfill God's will. Jesus got baptized to set an example for us, as well as to demonstrate that He was the Son of God. His baptism served "to fulfill all righteousness," which means to accomplish God's mission. Jesus also saw His baptism as advancing God's work.

The word "baptizo" (immersion) first appeared in the Mosaic laws of purification (Ex 30:17-21; Lev 11:25), where it meant a mere washing or purification. But we know that baptism is a thorough change in one's inner being, manifested in repentance. Young students may not understand that Jesus went through baptism for the fulfillment of

all righteousness (Mt 3:15). It was the intention of God to have Jesus baptized before His earthly ministry. Jesus was the perfect man, so He did not need baptism, but He accepted baptism in obedient service to the Father, and God showed His approval.

One of the five major doctrines of the True Jesus Church is water baptism. Notice the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove, showing that Jesus was empowered by God's Spirit. Titus 3:5 tells us that, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

John the Baptist

Born (in 7 BC) to an elderly couple- Zechariah a priest and his wife Elizabeth- John the Baptist grew to manhood in the wilderness of Judea (Lk 1:80), where he received his prophetic call (Lk 3:2).

In the New Testament, John is presented chiefly as the forerunner of Christ. His imprisonment was the signal for the start of Jesus' ministry (Mk 1:14); and his baptismal activity provided a starting point for the apostolic preaching (Acts 10:37; 13:24). Jesus saw John as the promised Elijah. Jesus also regarded him as the last prophet (Lk 16:16).



Understanding Your Students

The purpose of this lesson is to help young children understand baptism better. Why did Jesus get baptized? Why should we do it today and why does God want us to be baptized? These are the questions that should be addressed during the lesson.

Many of the students probably do not remember their own baptism, as they were likely baptized when they were still babies. So a lot of this information may not seem all that relevant to them. But luckily, children at this age are full of curiosity and would love to learn more about details. This will be a good opportunity to introduce how John, step by step, baptized Lord Jesus. If there is a video available from other members who have recorded their family's baptisms

(babies as well as grown ups), work in some time during the lesson to show the footage. It is a good way for the students to really see what is going on. It is also a helpful tool to explain step by step how baptism is performed in the True Jesus Church and why it is so significant.

Also, you might want to take some time to explain to the children that Jesus did not need to be baptized since He was a sinless man. He did not need to wash away His sins through receiving baptism. However, He insisted on doing so to set an example for us. This may help the students to see how important water baptism is. But do explain that everyone else on earth needs to be baptized because we are all full of sin. Only water baptism in the correct mode can wash and cleanse us from our sin and give us a place in heaven.



Vocabulary

Baptize

to be completely covered in water for the forgiveness of sins

Preacher

someone who tells others about God

Honor

a special privilege

Sin

the wrong things we do



Before You Teach

The Lord Jesus was definitely someone who had the foresight to see the significance of Him being baptized by John. He understood that even though He was sinless, He needed to set the example for others. Look at how many different baptism methods are out there in the Christian world today. It can be confusing for our students to understand that there is only one way to receive the true baptism for one's sins to be forgiven. It is possible that in the future, they may have opportunities at school to talk with their Christian friends about how they got baptized. When such a time comes, will their young minds be clear enough to explain to others why they should get baptized the way we do in the True Jesus Church? Therefore, it is important for them to see how Lord Jesus received His baptism to set an example for us.

It is recorded in the Book of Matthew that as Jesus came up from the water, the heavens were opened to Him. The spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him, and God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God clearly showed His approval and declared that Jesus was his beloved Son.

The same applies to us today—in order to belong to Christ, we need to repent and have our sins washed away through water baptism. As teachers, we need to be fully convinced of the effectiveness of the water baptism that is performed in the True Jesus Church so that we can talk to the children about what an effective baptism is and its significant meanings. Then when the time comes, they will not waver but will rather be able to stand up for their beliefs. They need to know that they are not being narrow-minded by insisting on the baptism our church performs, but rather, they are proclaiming the truth as recorded in the Bible.



Bible Story

Dirty and Clean

Before going into the lesson, pass out a dirty and tarnished penny to each student for them to look at. Then bring out a shiny penny and have them compare the differences. Ask the students why they think their tarnished penny lost its shine and became so dirty over time (let them share their thoughts). Once they are done sharing, have the students drop their pennies into a glass filled with water and clear vinegar (1:2 ratio) and stir for 20 to 30 seconds. Take the pennies out of the glass and dry them with a paper towel. Now, the students should be able to see how clean their pennies are. Talk about how shiny these dirty pennies have become. Tell the students that these shiny pennies represent how God wants our lives to be. How are we ever going to be clean in spirit and truly belong to God? In our Bible story today, Jesus is baptized to show us the way.

Jesus Grows Up

Dear children, do you remember the last time we talked about Jesus? He was just a small baby. But Jesus grew and grew. It wasn't long before He was twelve years old. Where did He go when He was twelve? That's right, He went to the temple. He surprised the teachers there with all the things He knew about the Bible. Then He continued to grow and the Bible says that God's spirit was with Him all the time.

After Jesus grew up, He was ready to work for God. First, Jesus wanted to show everyone that He belonged to God. He knew that He had to be baptized. That means His whole body had to go into living water completely. Today, we are baptized because we want all of our sins to be washed away and we can become a new person in Christ. But Jesus Christ did not have any sin. So why did He need to be baptized? He did it because He wanted to give us a good example to follow. So even though He was a sinless man, he walked to the Jordan River to look for a special person to give Him the water baptism.

John the Baptist

There was a man named John the Baptist, who

was like a preacher. Actually, he was Jesus' cousin. He went around telling people about God. He reminded people to ask for forgiveness for the things that they had done wrong. John the Baptist wanted to help people change their lives through water baptism, so that each of them could truly become a brand new person inside.

John didn't have a big house or a comfortable bed to sleep in at night. Actually, he lived outdoors in the countryside. He also chose to live on simple food, like honey and large insects called locusts (which are like grasshoppers). John wore simple clothes, made from animal skin and rough camel hair. He felt that God was all he needed, and nothing else was more important than this. As he traveled around from village to village to preach, he told people what God wanted them to know.

"You need to change," said John to some people. "God wants you to repent and change."

Some people didn't listen to him. But many other people listened to what John said.

"What should we do?" they asked him.

"Stop doing bad things," said John, "Show God that you are sorry. I will baptize everyone who wants God to forgive his or her sins. Then you will be ready to meet the Savior."

This sounded great to many people. They let John baptize them in the Jordan River.

As more and more people came to get baptized by John, they wondered if he was the Savior that they had been waiting for. When John heard them, he said to the crowd, "I am baptizing you now, but very soon someone greater than me will come. He is so great that if He asked me to carry His shoes it would be an amazing honor for me to do so." Therefore, John continued to spread the good news and baptize people.

Jesus Asks John To Baptize Him

Then one day Jesus came to the Jordan River and asked John the Baptist to baptize him.

When John saw who it was, he said humbly, "I shouldn't baptize you, my Lord. You should baptize me!"

John did not think he was good enough to baptize Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God, the Savior who everyone was waiting for.

Then Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now, because it is good for us to fulfill all righteous-

ness." These are hard words that Jesus said to John. But really what Jesus was saying is that it is important that John baptizes Him in the water. Jesus wanted to follow God's will and set an example to show people that it is important to get baptized to truly belong to God.

John knew that Jesus wanted him to do it, so he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Jesus came out of the water after John baptized Him. God was pleased with Jesus. As He came out of the water, an exciting thing happened. God spoke from heaven!

God said, "This is my Son. I love Him. And I am very pleased with Him."

At this time, God sent His Holy Spirit down. It came like a white dove and landed on Jesus.

John the Baptist was very excited to know that Jesus really was God's Son. This is the Savior he had been telling everyone about! John kept on telling many people about Jesus. He talked about Jesus' baptism and that God was pleased with Jesus. He told everyone, "I know, and I want all of you to know, that Jesus is the Son of God."

The Importance of Water Baptism

We can learn many things about water bap-



Check For Understanding

- 1. Where did Jesus get baptized by John the Baptist?** (He was baptized in the Jordan River.)
- 2. What was John doing before He met Jesus?** (He was preaching everywhere. He reminded people to ask for forgiveness for the things that they had done wrong through receiving water baptism.)
- 3. What did John eat and wear and where did he stay?** (He ate honey and locusts; he wore camel hair and had a leather belt; he stayed in the wilderness.)
- 4. How did John feel when Jesus asked him to baptize Him?** (John felt very humble. He knew that he was not worthy.)

tism from Jesus' example. We know from the story that Jesus came up from the water. That means His whole body had to be completely in the water during the baptism in order for Him to come up from the water again. That is why when the True Jesus Church baptizes a person, the person's body has to go into the water and be completely covered by the water. We are following the example of Jesus. And when we are completely down in the water we are getting rid of all the bad things that we have done. Our sins and mistakes are buried in the water. And as we come up from the water, we are a brand new person who truly belongs to God.

Water baptism is very important, because Jesus made sure that this was the first thing He did before He started His service for God. This is also the last thing He reminded us to do before He went up to heaven. Students, let's be determined to be God's wonderful children. Once we receive water baptism, we belong to God. Our whole body is cleansed and we are a new person. So we have to always remember to ask for God's help every day to make us strong and able to walk away from all the bad things that are going on around us.

- 5. Why did Jesus want to get baptized since He did not have any sins?** (He wanted to do His Father's will and to set an example for us.)
- 6. What did God say and do after Jesus got baptized?** (God was very happy, and said, "This is my Son. I love Him. And I am very pleased with Him." God also sent down His Holy Spirit to be with Jesus.)
- 7. How are we different after receiving water baptism?** (Our sins are forgiven. We become a brand new person who truly belongs to God.)
- 8. What does Jesus want everyone to do so that they can become a new person who belongs to God?** (He wants us to repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit and trust Him.)



Life Application Story

The Baptism

It is a beautiful, sunny Monday morning. John and Michelle Marsh are walking to school with their mom. Being the big sister, Michelle always likes to hold 5-year-old John's hand on the street to make sure that he is safe. Mrs. Marsh is glad to see how helpful Michelle is and usually, she stays back a bit as they walk to let Michelle guide her brother. Michelle and John also love to talk to each other. Yesterday, Michelle and John were at church all day attending the Spiritual Convocation. It just happened that John's best friend, Austin, was getting baptized with his family yesterday. So Mr. and Mrs. Marsh decided to take their children to the water baptism site for John to be a part of this special occasion for his friend.

As Michelle and John walked to school, they started to talk about what they saw at the baptism site yesterday. John was amazed to see how a baptism was performed.

He asked Michelle, "Do you remember what it was like when you got baptized? Did the pastor walk into the water like he did yesterday?"

Michelle smiled and said, "I don't remember, John. We both got baptized when we were babies. Maybe Mom can tell us later. But it was really interesting to see how Austin got baptized."

She continued, "I remember my RE teacher told us about how Jesus got baptized by John the Baptist. I think it was in the Jordan River. So, I know that Pastor Chen was following Jesus' example when he went into the river to baptize people."

John asked, "Do you think Austin was afraid of the water? It looked so cold, and his whole body was covered in the water. I was scared that he wasn't going to get up."

"But he did within seconds, John! And remember Austin's big smile after he got up from the water? My RE teacher said that through water baptism, our sins are washed away. So we can truly be God's children and make good choices every day," Michelle added.

"Then maybe we should get baptized every time we have a spiritual convocation," John said

excitedly.

"Um, I don't think we are supposed to," said Michelle, unsure of herself.

Mrs. Marsh had been listening to their conversation from behind as they walked.

"You know what, John, your sister is right. We only need to get baptized once in our lifetime. Once is enough for everyone. That's why it's important to do right things every day and not make Jesus sad," said Mrs. Marsh.

"But what if I forget and do something wrong?" asked John in a worried tone.

"Well, we can ask Jesus to forgive us. We need to tell Him that we are sorry for what we did and try our best not to do it again next time," answered Michelle. John nodded his head to show that he understood.

"Oh, one more thing. We can also help each other by reminding each other to be good all the time," added Michelle.

"That's right," said Mrs. Marsh. "That way, we can all be God's wonderful children. And you know what? We can go home after school and watch the baptism video. Then you will both know how you got baptized."

"That's a good idea," said Michelle as they turned to the school entrance. "Let's walk faster now. We don't want to be late for school today."

Mrs. Marsh smiled and kissed them both goodbye as they headed to class.

Questions to Think About

1. **What were Michelle and John talking about when they walked to school together?** (They talked about water baptism, and how it was done.)
2. **Do you remember what it was like when you got baptized? If not, have you ever seen others being baptized? How did you feel?** (Encourage children to share. Answers may vary.)
3. **How did Austin feel when he got up from the water?** (Austin was very happy and had a big smile on his face.)
4. **How are we different after being baptized?** (Our sins are washed away, and we become children of God.)
5. **How should our behavior change after we get baptized?** (We should make good choices and do the right things every day.)



Activity 1

John Baptizes Jesus Christ

Look at the picture. Answer the following questions and color the picture.

1. Which one is John the Baptist?
2. Which one is Jesus?
3. What happened after Jesus came up from the water?
4. Can you draw a picture of a dove coming from the sky?



Activity 2

Following God

John the Baptist taught people to follow God and change their bad ways. In the pictures below, which ones are following God and which ones are disobeying God? Put an "X" over the bad examples. Then talk about what they can do differently next time.

1. Two children are playing ball and break a window. They think it is funny and run away (X). They should be more careful where they play ball. If it happens again, they should apologize and ask what they can do to help.
2. A girl cuts in the line at the bus stop even though there is a really long line (X). She should wait her turn at the stop like everyone else. She can pray to God to ask for more patience.
3. There is only one Bible left in the room so the two children share the book.
4. The two friends share the big chicken drumstick with each other at dinner time.



Activity 3

White Doves

Materials:

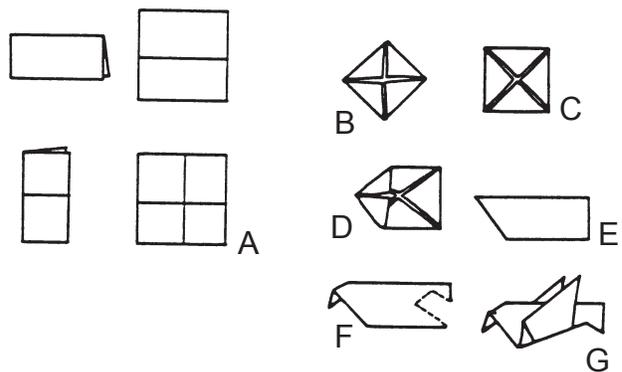
1. white origami paper (or white paper cut into squares)
2. sequins or beads for eyes (2 per student)
3. glue
4. thread and needle

Directions:

1. Provide each student with a piece of origami

paper.

2. Guide the students to fold the dove. Diagrams are included below.
3. Fold the square in half, and then open it.
4. Fold the square in half again the other way. When you open it, you should have four equal squares (A).
5. Fold each corner toward the center (B).
6. Without unfolding the square, turn the paper in such a way that shape made by the flaps looks like an "x" shape (C).
7. Fold the top left and bottom left corners so they meet in the middle (you will need to pull out the corners a bit, D).
8. Fold the top section down so the flaps are all on the inside (E).
9. Fold the left tip down to form a beak (F).
10. Cut out a section as shown (F).
11. Fold a wing up. Turn the bird over and fold up the other wing (G).
12. Glue a sequin on each side for eyes.
13. Use the needle to poke a hole in the dove's back and push a thread through it. Knot thread.
14. Hang the dove in the classroom or on a bedroom ceiling to remind the students about this story.
15. As the students are engaged in this activity, talk about the importance of being baptized and the receiving of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove. The Holy Spirit came to prepare Jesus for the work He was to do. The dove was a symbol of the gentleness and the purity of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the Holy Spirit, it is our guarantee that we will go to heaven.



Activity 6:1

John Baptizes Jesus Christ

Look at the picture. Answer the following questions:

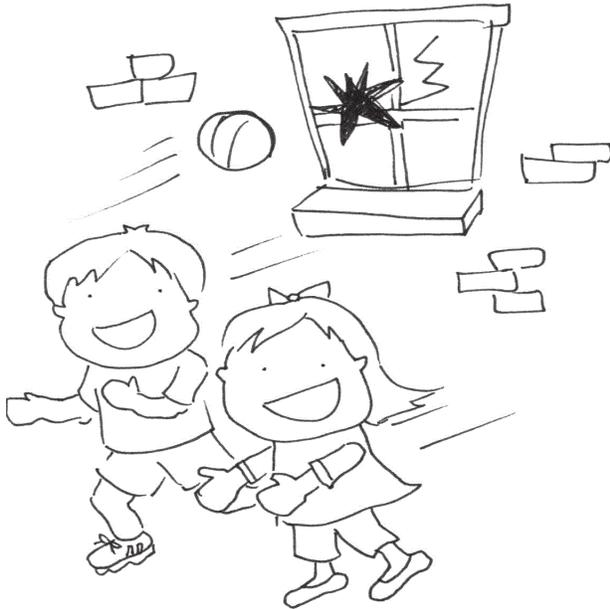
1. Which one is John the Baptist?
2. Which one is Jesus?
3. What happened after Jesus came up from the water?
4. Can you draw a picture of a dove coming from the sky?



Activity 6:2

Following God

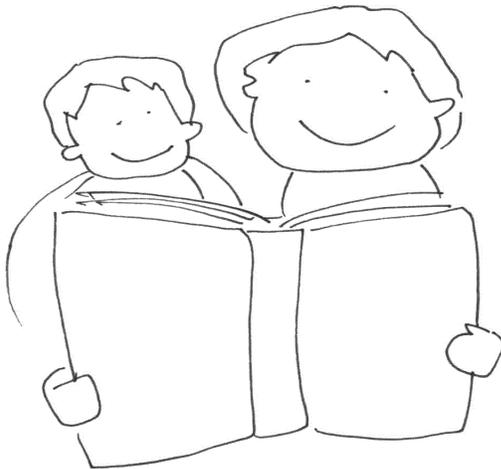
John the Baptist taught people to follow God and change their bad ways. In the pictures below, which ones are following God and which ones are disobeying God? Put an "X" over the bad examples. Then talk about what they can do differently next time.



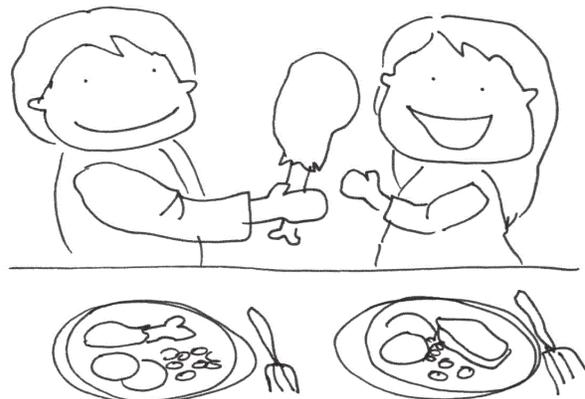
1. Two children are playing ball and break a window. They think it is funny and run away.



2. A girl cuts in the line at the bus stop even though there is a really long line.



3. There is only one Bible left in the room so the two children share the book.



4. The two friends share the big chicken drumstick with each other at dinner time.