

# LESSON 10

## JESUS IS BAPTIZED

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Baptism for the Remission of Sins

Jesus stressed the importance of baptism when He said: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (Jn 3:5). Baptism is an essential requirement to enter the kingdom of God. Therefore, it is vital that one be baptized in order to enter the kingdom of God.

Water baptism has the power to take away sin. When the Holy Spirit first descended on the church during the Pentecost, apostle Peter declared to the crowd: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).

Jesus Christ died on the cross so that His blood could take away the sins of the world. Through His death, all men have been justified and no longer condemned by sin. Whoever believes, repents, and washes in His precious blood receives the forgiveness of sins.

#### Pharisees and Sadducees

The Pharisees were the leaders of modern Judaism. In addition to believing in the written laws given to Moses, they also believed in the oral laws, which were believed to be verbal traditions given to Moses concerning what was written in the Torah. This was later recorded about 300 years later as the Talmud.

The Pharisees believed in an afterlife and judgment. They believed in a Messiah who would usher in an era of world peace. They adhered to tenets after the destruction of the temple, such as individual prayer and assembly in synagogues. The Pharisees were composed of mostly lay people.

On the other hand, the Sadducees were drawn from the families of the chief priests. From their number, the high priest himself was chosen. The high priest was the chief local ruler, though still subject to the Roman governor.

Above all, the Sadducees were interested in keeping their own political and religious positions secure. They rejected the ideas of the oral laws, and literally interpreted the Torah. They did not believe in an afterlife, as it was not mentioned in the Torah. Much of the emphasis of their teaching was based on rituals associated with the temple.

The Pharisees sought to be justified for their actions but lacked initiative and decisiveness. On the other hand, the aristocratic and politically-minded Sadducees were not afraid of acting decisively to defend their position. They demanded to know Jesus’ authority for His actions, which led to several controversies.

### BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:1-18, 21-22;  
John 1:19-34

### BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus set an example for us to be baptized—we need to imitate Jesus’ baptism that is set in the Bible.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To remind students about the importance of baptism, and to live a life of repentance.
2. To understand that we must be baptized in order to wash our sins away and go to heaven.

### MEMORY VERSE

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized.”

(Acts 2:38b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We praise You, O Lord, for all Your wonderful grace and mercy. You came down to earth to die for us so that we could be washed in Your precious blood. By washing in Your precious blood, all our sins can be forgiven. Please let us never forget Your love, O Lord, and help us live lives that are worthy of You. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

In previous lesson, your students have learned about who Jesus is and what He has done for us so that we can be saved. One of the most important truths your students should understand is how we can be saved by Jesus today.

In this week's lesson, make clear to your students the important role water baptism plays in salvation. Jesus Himself stated the importance of being born again through water and the Spirit in order to enter the heavenly kingdom.

For your more precocious students, you may want to explain in greater detail why we must be baptized and how baptism works. You may want to reiterate that all of us are sinners before God. All of us have done wrong, and all of us deserve the punishment due us.

However, God came down in the flesh to die for us on the cross and shed His precious blood. If we are washed in the blood of Jesus today, all of our sins will be washed away. We no longer have to suffer the punishment for our sins because Jesus has already suffered for us on the cross.

Reinforce to the students that in order for us to go to heaven, we must be washed in the blood of Jesus. Explain to your students that we can be washed in Jesus' blood during water baptism.

If your students have already been baptized, it is important for them to begin to understand what Jesus has done for them. Let them realize what a wonderful day their day of baptism was, because on that day, Jesus washed away all their sin. If you have students who have not been baptized, this is a good opportunity to explain to them the importance of baptism and being included in the family of God.

Help your students understand the importance of repentance if they do sin. Teach them that the blood of Jesus continues to wash their sins away if they repent and resolve not to continue in their wrongdoing. Emphasize to your students the preciousness and the great price of Christ's sacrifice—something they ought never to take for granted by deliberately and willfully sinning.

### VOCABULARY

**water baptism:** an act in which one is immersed in living water for the purpose of washing away sins

**locust:** an insect that resembles a grasshopper

**Pharisees/Sadducees:** Jewish religious leaders who regulated Jewish laws

**punishment:** retribution for committing mistakes or wrongdoings

**humble:** not proud; lowly

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Jesus was as a young boy. In the story, He was just a little bit older than some of you. When Jesus was twelve, where did His parents take Him? (They took Him to Jerusalem for the Passover.) They went to Jerusalem for the Passover, just as God had instructed them in the laws of Moses.

After it was over, Jesus' parents left to go home with a big group of their relatives and friends. It was going to be a long journey back. They walked and walked for a whole day, but something was not quite right. Where was Jesus? Joseph and Mary looked high and low and asked everyone if they had seen the Boy.

Can anyone tell me where Jesus was? (He was still in the temple.) What was Jesus doing there? Yes, Jesus was in the house of God listening to the teachers and asking them questions.

When His parents found Jesus at the temple on the third day, He listened to His parents and followed them home, even though He would rather have stayed at the temple. Jesus was an obedient Child. Even though He was only twelve years old, He knew how important it was to follow God's commandments. Jesus is a great example for us to learn from, and He has shown us how we can be good children, too.

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Jordan River                                  | 7. In the form of a dove   |
| 2. repent  | 8. Washes away our sins so we can go to heaven                                       |
| 3. powerful, sandals                             | 9. To be sorry for the wrong we've done and to do our best not to do the wrong again |
| 4. Holy Spirit, fire                             | 10. Answers may vary.  |
| 5. False; He received baptism to set an example. |  |
| 6. True  |  |

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## BIBLE STORY

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**Introduction**

Today, we will study another important thing that Jesus did from which we can learn. Hands up if you have heard of the word “baptism” before. Who knows what “baptism” means? [Wait for students to respond.]

Baptism is something very, very important. Jesus set it as an example for us so that we could become God’s children and go to heaven. Baptism washes away our sins so God no longer looks at the wrongdoings that we have done. We have to be baptized in Jesus’ name so our sins may be washed away.

There is an important character in today’s story that we learned about a few weeks ago. His name starts with a “J.” He was the son of a priest called Zechariah. Can anyone guess who he is? [Wait for responses.] In Lesson 7, we learned about the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was an important worker of God because he helped people get ready for Jesus’ coming.

**John the Baptist Tells About the Coming of Heaven**

[Be ready to act out the story using the diorama.] John the Baptist was called “the Baptist” because he baptized people to prepare them to meet Jesus. He did not live a comfortable life like you and me, with a nice house to go home to, a soft bed to sleep on, or a constant supply of yummy food and treats.

John the Baptist spent his whole life serving God. John the Baptist didn’t live in a nice house, where you can turn on the fan or the air conditioner when it gets too hot. He lived in the desert. Boys and girls, can you tell me what it’s like to live in the desert? [Have students respond.] That’s right—hot and sandy, with the sun beating down on you. And when the wind blows, sand gets blown on your face so you can’t see or breathe properly.

The Bible also tells us about what John the Baptist wore. He didn’t have nice coats to wear or comfy pajamas to slip into before bed. His clothes were made of camel hair. What do you think camel hair would feel like on your skin? Have you ever touched a potato sack? John’s camel hair clothes would have felt a little like that—rough and scratchy. John the Baptist also wore a leather belt tied around his waist.

Guess what he ate? He ate locusts and wild honey. Locusts and wild honey every day—definitely nothing like Mom’s delicious home-cooked meals!

When the time came, God moved John the Baptist to begin his important work—going all around the country to give the people an important message from God. Just what was his message? He told the people: “Be sorry for the wrong things you have done, because the kingdom of heaven is very near.”

People came from near and far, high and low, to hear John the Baptist speak. When they heard his message, many people felt sorry for all their wrongdoings. They

admitted their sins, and John the Baptist baptized them in the Jordan River.

**John the Baptist Rebukes the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law**

Even the teachers of the law came to John the Baptist. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them, “You snakes! Who told you to run from the punishment God is about to bring on you? You must change your lives if you are really sorry for your sins.”

John the Baptist said this because many of the Pharisees and Sadducees taught things God did not command—additional teachings they could not even follow themselves. He continued, saying to the Pharisees and Sadducees, “And don’t think you can say to yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father,’ because God can turn these stones into Abraham’s children. The ax is ready to cut down any tree that doesn’t bear good fruit! Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire!”

The Pharisees and Sadducees thought they were safe because God had blessed Abraham and all his children. They did not realize that God is a fair God who will reward those who do good and punish those who do wrong. They thought God would bless them anyway because they came from Abraham. So John the Baptist sternly warned them to repent for their sins and to change their lives.

**John the Baptist Tells About the Savior**

John the Baptist spoke many things about God’s message, which made the people wonder if he was the Christ who was to save them. But John the Baptist answered them all, “I baptize you with water when you are sorry for your sins. But someone who is more powerful than me is coming. I don’t even deserve to untie the strings on His sandals. He will come after me and baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Does anyone know about whom John the Baptist might be talking? If you know the answer, keep it to yourselves for now. We’re going to see who it is very soon.

John the Baptist preached the good news, which was God’s message, to all the people and encouraged them in many other ways.

**Jesus Is Baptized**

One day, when John the Baptist was baptizing all the people, do you know who also came to him? It was Jesus! Jesus came to receive baptism, too. But John the Baptist tried to stop Him and said, “I need to be baptized by You, not the other way around!” Why do you think John the Baptist said this? Had Jesus done anything wrong? No, John the Baptist didn’t feel worthy to untie the strings on

Jesus' sandals, let alone to baptize Him.

Even though Jesus was God, He knew it was right for Him to be baptized. Jesus didn't require baptism because He had committed a sin. No, Jesus had not sinned before. Rather, He did the right thing in being baptized in order to set the example for us. So Jesus answered John the Baptist, "Baptize Me, because we will be doing what God wants us to do." So John the Baptist agreed.

Right after baptism and as Jesus was coming up from the water, the heaven opened and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. A voice coming from heaven declared: "You are My Son, the One whom I love; I am very pleased with You."

Jesus obeyed what His Father had wanted Him to do. Even though He had no sins to be sorry about, He was humble and allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him. Just like Jesus, God wants us to be humble and obey Him when He tells us to do things. If we humbly obey God, we will please Him.

### Jesus Is the Son of God

The next day, John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, this is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I talked about when I said, 'The One who will come after me is greater because He was before me.'" John the Baptist said this because, even though Jesus started His work after John the Baptist had done his, Jesus was in the world before John was because Jesus was God Himself.

John the Baptist continued speaking: "I saw the Spirit of God come down from heaven as a dove and stay on Him. I would not have known who the Son of God was, except that God the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit come down and stay on this Man, this is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Surely I have seen this and I know that Jesus is the Son of God." After these things, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. What happened to Jesus in the desert? You'll find out in the next class.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Where did John the Baptist live?** He lived in the desert.
- 2. What did John the Baptist wear and eat?** He wore clothes of camel hair and a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild honey.
- 3. What did John the Baptist preach to the people?** He warned them to repent for their wrongdoings because the kingdom of heaven was coming.
- 4. What did John the Baptist tell the Pharisees and Sadducees to do?** He told them to be truly sorry and change their lives.
- 5. Where did John the Baptist baptize people?** He baptized them in the Jordan River.
- 6. True or False: John the Baptist came to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.** True.
- 7. What happened right after Jesus was baptized?** Heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove, and a voice from heaven said: "This is My Son, the One whom I love; I am very pleased with Him."
- 8. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ (the Son of God).**
- 9. John the Baptist baptized with water, but Jesus was going to baptize with the \_\_\_\_\_ (Holy Spirit).**
- 10. True or False: It's okay to do wrong on purpose after we're baptized because God will still forgive us.** False.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized." (Acts 2:38b)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### Spiritual Teaching

Water Baptism performed according to the Bible carries the tremendous power to remove all sins, for the precious blood of our Lord Jesus is present in the water and the Holy Spirit is witness. "This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one" (1 Jn 5:6-8). With the presence of the Holy Spirit, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus is in the water during baptism.

**Why should I be baptized?**

1. To be cleansed (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
2. To be saved (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)
3. To enter God's kingdom (Jn 3:5)
4. To receive a new life (Rom 6:4)
5. To put on Christ (Gal 3:27)

**Life Application**

The Lord Jesus Christ paid a great price for the purchase of those He loves. We should never take this great sacrifice for granted by willfully and deliberately sinning (Heb 10:26).

Repentance is not only about saying sorry for our wrongdoings, but also about making changes in our lives so we do not repeat them again.

Apart from humbling ourselves before God and acknowledging our sin, repentance entails bearing fruits of repentance. Teach your students that true repentance means resolving not to do the wrong again. Just as the Pharisees and Sadducees couldn't simply lay claim to salvation by saying that Abraham was their father, we cannot lay claim to salvation by washing in Christ's blood alone without practicing works befitting repentance (Mt 3:7-9; Lk 3:7-8). Just as Jesus humbly received baptism from John the Baptist, our lives ought to reflect humility and obedience to God.

**Testimony: "I Witnessed the Lord's Blood"**

I've been a long-time follower of Confucius and Buddha since my childhood. I once considered every god of every religion to be a kind of "genie in a lamp" who answers people's wishes and addresses their physical needs. But after suffering many trials in my life, and as I grew old, my perspective on life took a different turn—to the pursuit of truth. I began to ponder the end of life. Where did life come from? Where do you go after death? What is the purpose of life?

**Searching for a Church**

In 1989, I began to study the truth in the True Jesus Church. I had visited churches of almost every Christian denomination near my home. I even had remained at one church for a few years, but because I had witnessed how the members there fought with one another over power struggles, I had decided to leave and look elsewhere for a better church.

I had long heard of the True Jesus Church and also from other pastors who claimed that when the True Jesus Church conducted baptism, the baptist would release red ink into the water to turn it red. Upon reflection, it seemed less and less believable. How could a little red ink possibly turn all the flowing water of the baptism site crimson red?

**The Truth Revealed**

April 9th, 1989 was a day in my life that I'll never forget. That afternoon, the True Jesus Church in Ma-Dou prepared to baptize 14 truth seekers at the conclusion of an evangelistic event. The baptism would be held in the ocean, at a beach nearby. Because I had heard about the trick of using red ink, I tagged along out of curiosity to watch the baptism. When everyone had finished singing hymns, I left the group and went further up shore. I found a nice open spot where I could closely observe their every move.

After those who were to receive baptism changed into white robes, they began to walk into the sea one by one. The baptist, Pastor Chen, was holding a brand new white towel without any sign of red ink in his hands. As the first sister began to be baptized, the seawater around her suddenly changed into a deep shade of red. Were my eyes playing tricks on me? The rest of the ocean appeared a deep turquoise blue against the vast blue sky. How strange—how was it that only the waters surrounding the baptized remained crimson red?

I rubbed my eyes and watched intently as the second, third, and succeeding persons were baptized. Remarkably, this vision continued just the same. Even funnier still, when an infant was immersed in the sea, the color turned into a lighter shade of red. It then immediately changed back to deep red when it was the adults' turn. After the fourteenth person was baptized, the crimson color disappeared and the water was restored to its former turquoise blue.

At that moment, it dawned on me that the Lord Jesus had opened my eyes and allowed me to witness how His precious

blood cleanses away all our sins in order for us to inherit God's kingdom. Then I lifted up my head and cried out to God, "Oh, Lord, forgive me! I now know You love the people of the world deeply. For our sake, You were crucified and bled to wash the world's sins away. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved." On the way home, I couldn't help shedding many tears of thanksgiving. On the thirtieth day of the same month, I received the baptism of regeneration in Tainan, Taiwan.

Since then I've come to realize that the key to the grace of the Lord is whether one believes. It is my sincere hope that through this personal experience of mine, everyone will come to know that the True Jesus Church indeed has God's abidance. May all the glory be given to the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. Amen.

## ACTIVITIES

### 1

#### Diorama of Jesus' Baptism

**Objective:** To allow students to reflect on Jesus' baptism.

#### Materials

Multiply quantities by the number of students in your class, plus one for the story.

- Cutouts from this lesson printed on cardboard for the diorama
- Popsicle sticks x 4 (can be painted sky blue to match background)
- Razor (for teacher use only)
- Tape
- Paint (optional)
- Wood glue
- Scissors
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Empty tissue boxes

[Note: Teacher can make a diorama prior to the lesson to use when telling the story.]

#### Instructions

1. Color the cutouts then cut out.
2. Popsicle sticks can be painted to match the background of the diorama to hide them better.
3. Tape one end of the popsicle stick on the backside of each of the following cutouts:
  - John the Baptist
  - Jesus
  - Multitude
  - Dove
4. Make cuts in the tissue box as shown in the diagram.
5. Glue the foreground and background cutouts onto the tissue box.

### 2

#### Water Baptism

**Objective:** To reinforce that baptism washes away our sins so God no longer remembers them.

#### Materials

- Scissors
- Small dish of lemon juice
- Toothpicks
- Small dish of water
- Toaster
- Activity template

#### Instructions

1. Relate something similar to the following to your students before you begin: "Boys and girls, do you know what sin is? That's right, sin is when you do something wrong. Sin is something God sees that you, your neighbor, or I sometimes might or might not see, just like what I'm about to show you. What are some examples of sin?" [Get answers from students. On the sinner figure, write down these examples with a toothpick dipped in lemon juice. On the baptized figure, write the same examples with a toothpick dipped in water.]

"Can you see what's written? Just like what I wrote, sin is something we do not always see. But watch what happens now..."

2. Rest both figures over a heated toaster. Within a few minutes, the words on the sinner figure should turn brown. Continue speaking with the students: "Even though we can't always see sin, God sees it, just like what we see here. But when you're baptized, the blood of Jesus washes away our sins, so God no longer remembers our sin and we can enter heaven."

## 3

**A Dove Comes Down**

**Objective:** To illustrate how a dove descended upon Jesus at His baptism.

**Materials**

- Dove pattern
- Tin can
- Cloth tape or masking tape
- Yarn
- Blue tempera paint
- Glue (waterproof)
- Can opener
- Scissors
- Shallow pan or dish
- White cardboard paper, two sheets per student

**Preparations**

1. Use the can opener to cut off both ends of the tin cans, and then tape the edges with cloth tape or masking tape for safety.
2. Cut out the dove pattern.

**Instructions**

1. Glue the yarn around the can, crossing over occasionally for a variation in pattern.
2. Put the tempera paint in a shallow pan or dish.
3. Dip the can in paint to saturate the yarn, and roll the can over one sheet of the white paper. When you come to the bottom of the paper, go back to the top and start over until the sheet is covered.
4. Give each student a copy of the dove pattern to cut out.
5. Glue the dove on the painted sheet.

**Optional**

- Write at the top of the picture, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- Trace the dove shape on the sheet to be painted and color with white crayon. The crayon will resist the tempera paint.

## 4

**My Baptism Day**

**Objective:** To allow students to share about their day of baptism.

**Materials:**

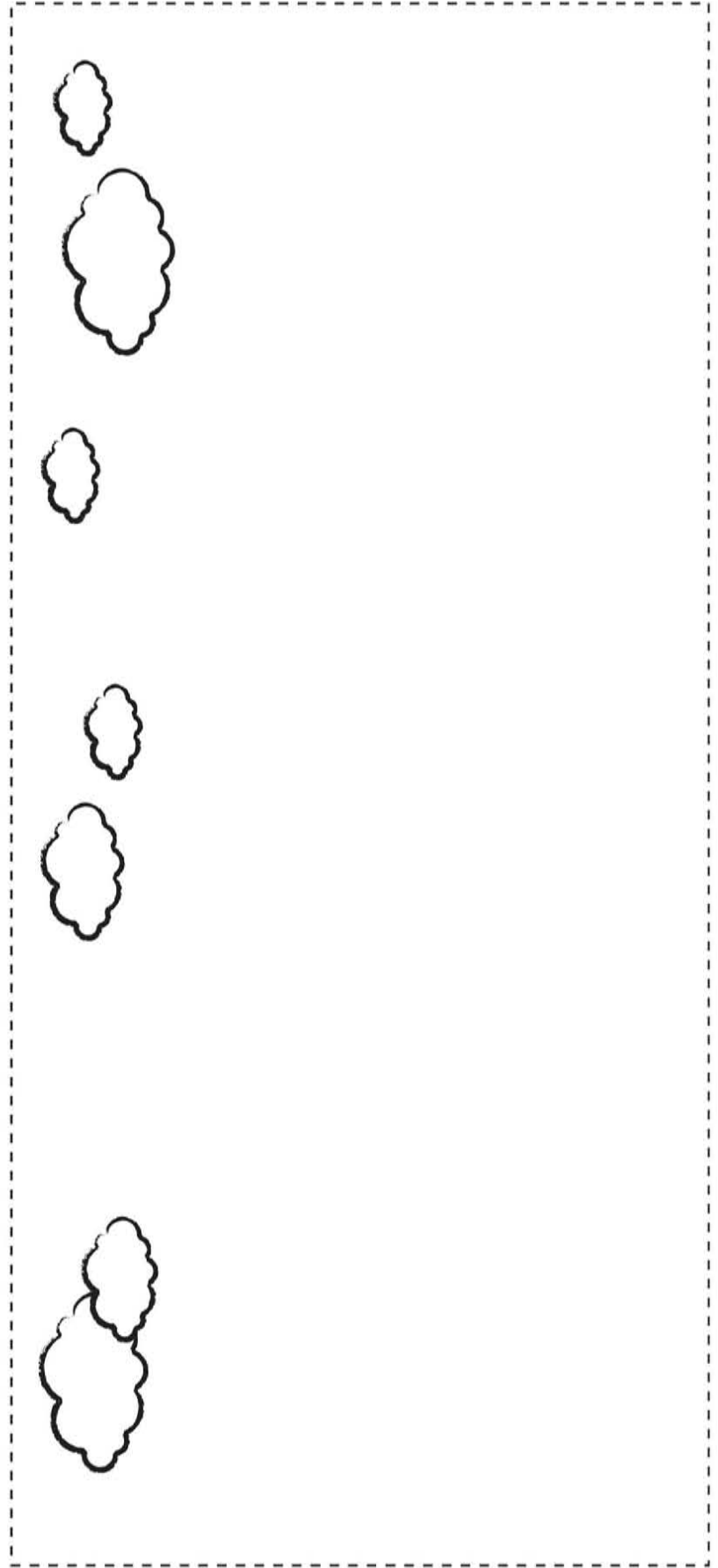
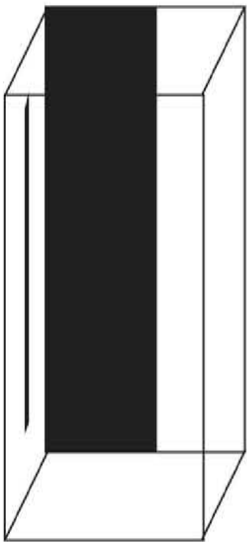
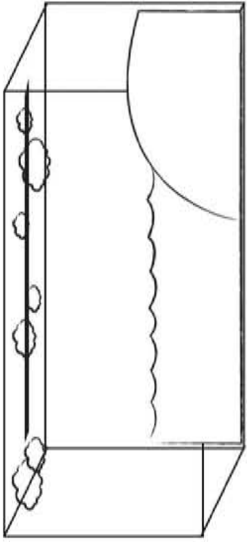
- (Optional) Video recordings of your students' baptisms, paused at the point just prior to the recorded baptism.

**Instructions**

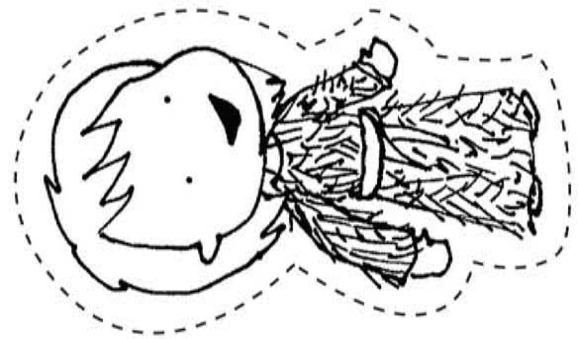
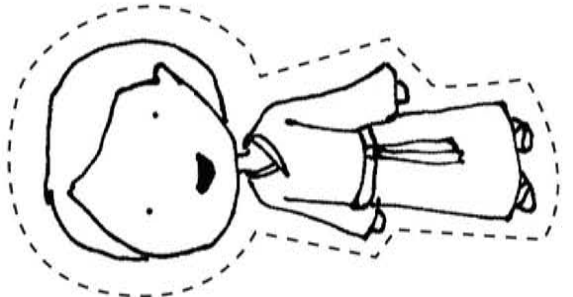
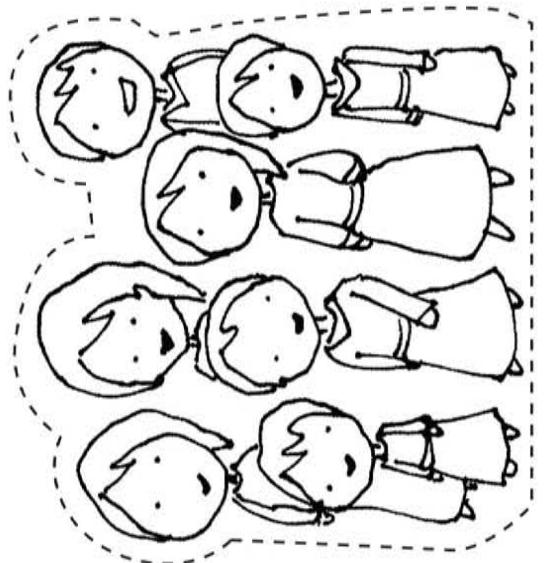
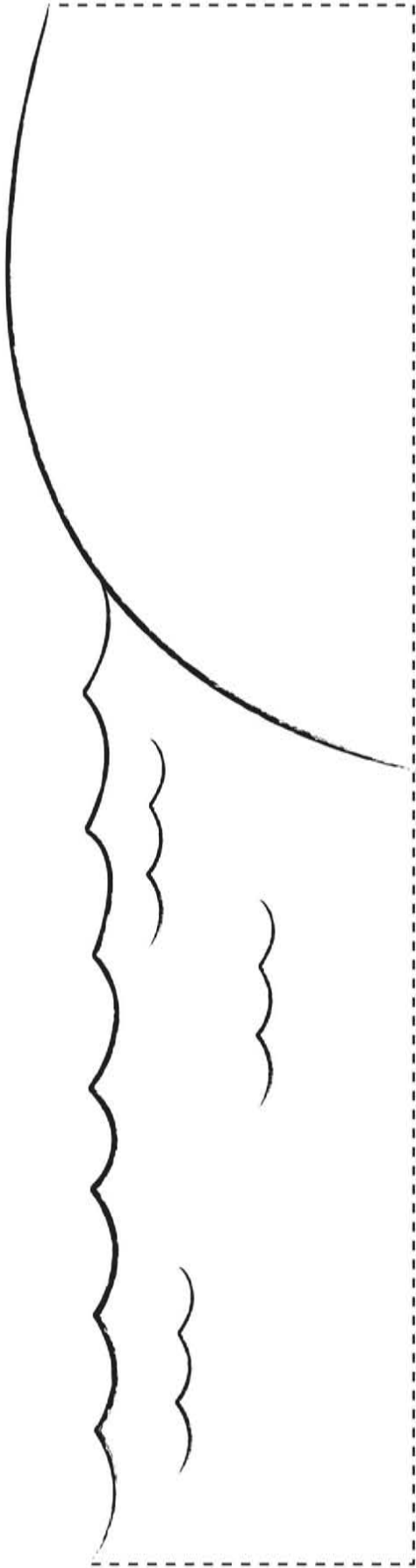
Hold a short sharing session, allowing the students to share their day of baptism. If a student was an infant when he was baptized, encourage him to express his thanks. Ask him how he should live his life, knowing that Jesus took away all of his sin. If the student remembers his baptism day, allow him to share what happened during his baptism, how he felt, etc. You may begin or end with your own testimony of your baptism.

**Optional**

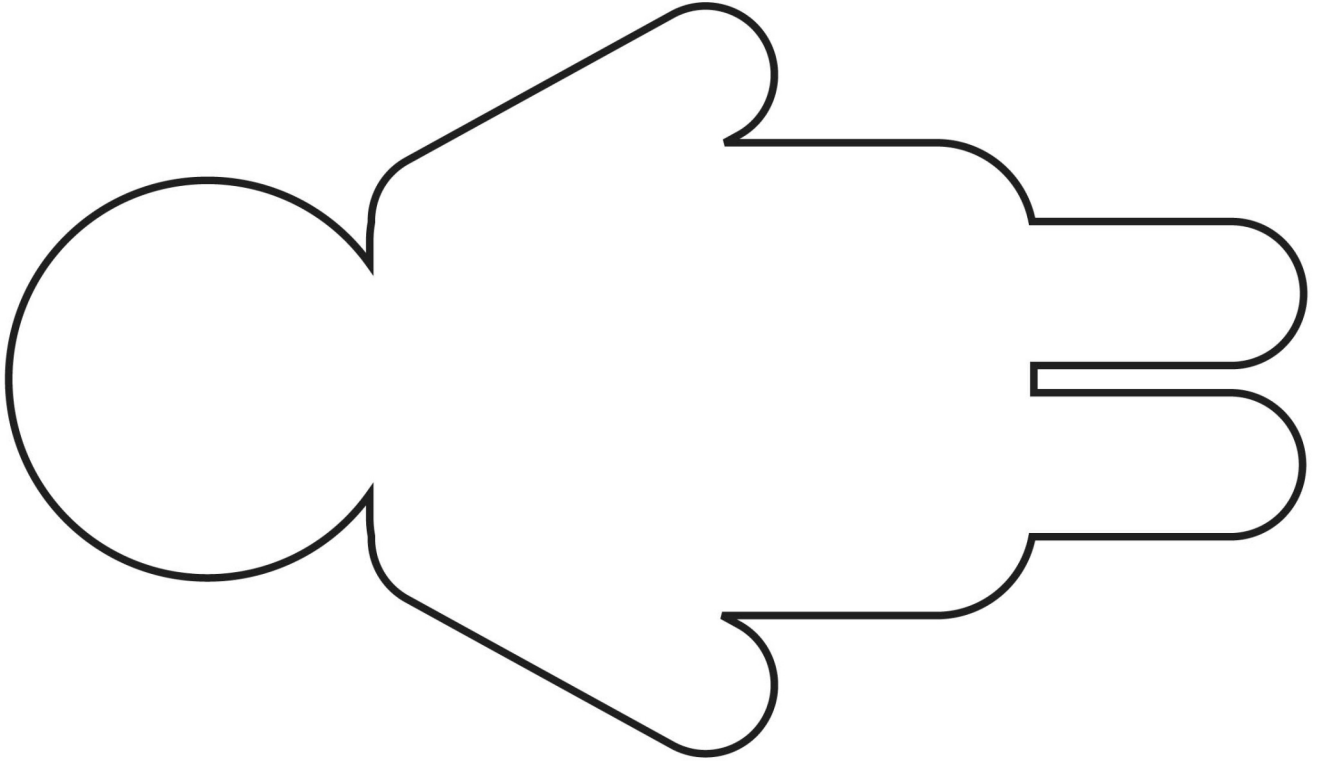
To add variation and a touch of nostalgia, you may want to ask parents for videotapes of their child's baptism if they have them. Of course, the tapes should be set to the exact spot of baptism coverage so the lesson will flow smoothly.



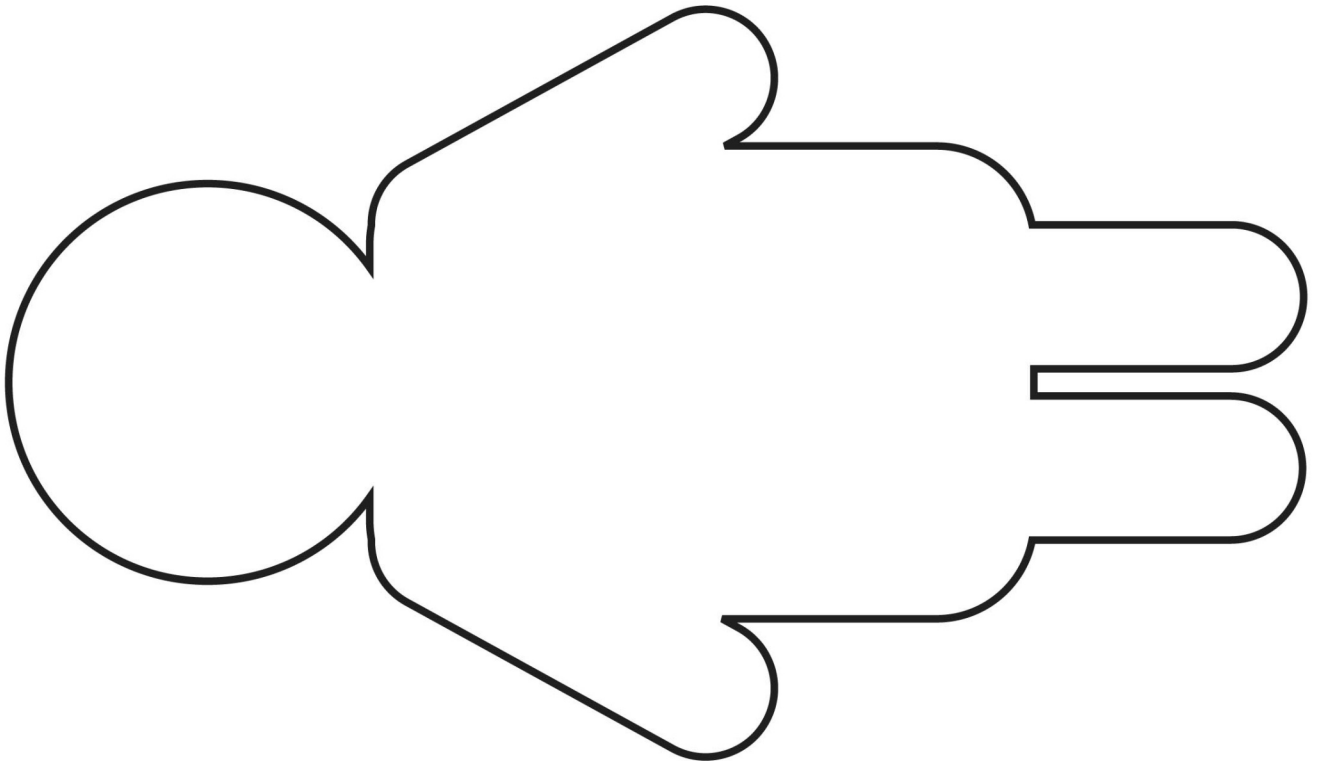


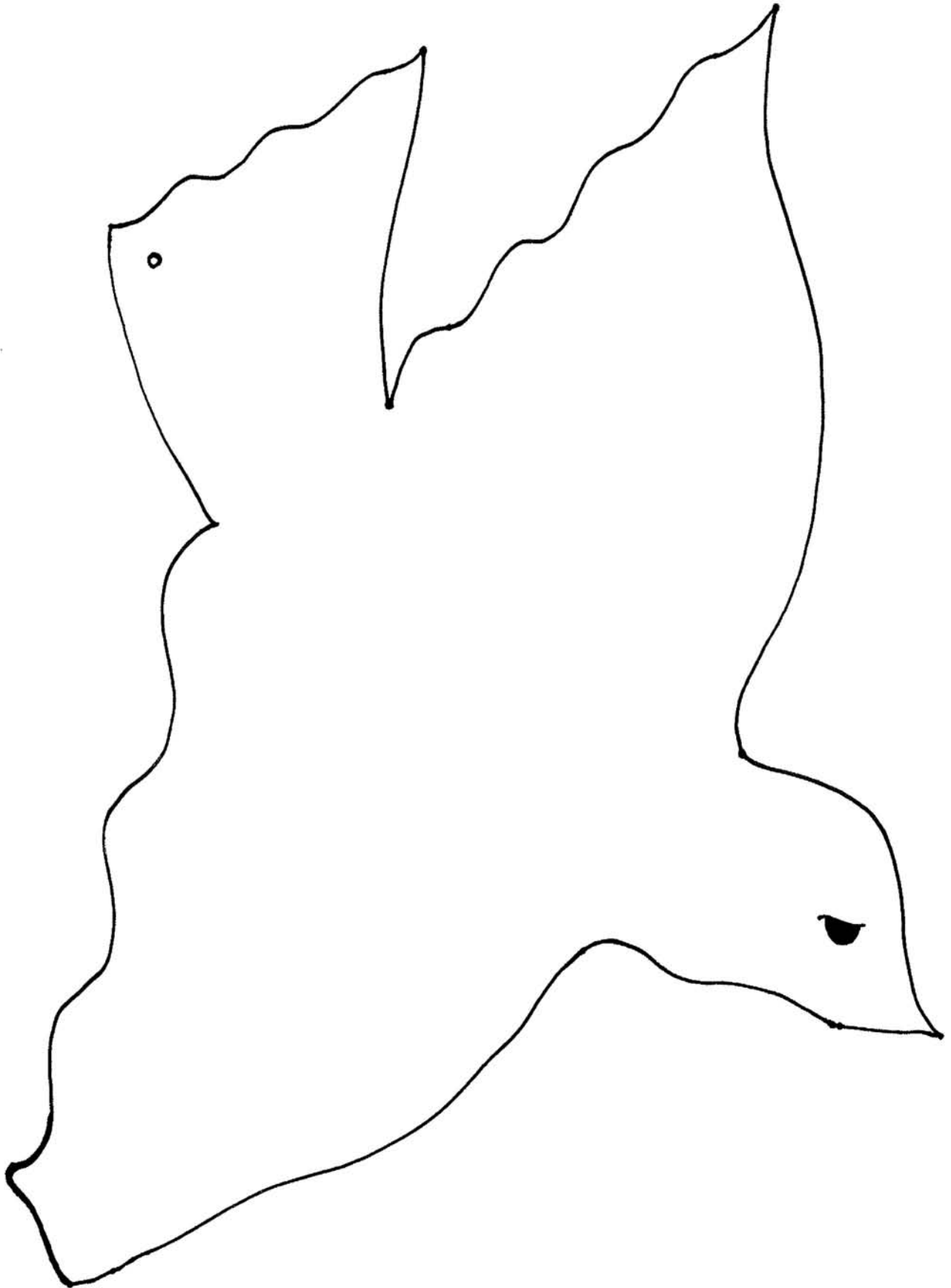


Baptised



Sinner





E1 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 10—Jesus Is Baptized

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** Jesus set an example for us to be baptized—we need to imitate Jesus’ baptism that is set in the Bible.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To remind students about the importance of baptism, and to live a life of repentance.  
 2. To understand that we must be baptized in order to wash our sins away and go to heaven.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

|               | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bible Reading |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Prayer        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 2:38b)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

## Fill In the Blank

|      |          |             |        |              |         |
|------|----------|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| fire | powerful | Holy Spirit | repent | Jordan River | sandals |
|------|----------|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|

1. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The teachers of the law came to receive baptism from John the Baptist, but he warned them because they would not \_\_\_\_\_ of the wrong things they had done.
3. John the Baptist told the people about Jesus: "Someone more \_\_\_\_\_ than I is coming. I do not even deserve to untie the strings of His \_\_\_\_\_."
4. John the Baptist baptized with water but Jesus was going to baptize with the \_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_.

## True or False

5. Jesus needed to be baptized by John the Baptist because He had sinned. \_\_\_\_\_
6. John the Baptist eventually baptized Jesus even though he tried to stop Him at first. \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

7. In what form did the Holy Spirit come on Jesus when He was baptized?

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8. What does baptism do?

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9. What does it mean to repent?

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## Life Application

10. Write about a time when you did something wrong and repented. What did you do? How did you feel?

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