

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 5: Jesus' Baptism (from Luke 3:2-22) Preschool Lesson

To the Teacher:

Our kids may need a reminder where we are in the Story. We left off with the birth of Jesus and now skip ahead about 30 years to the public launch of his ministry. This week starts with John the baptist, but shifts focus from his ministry to Jesus'. His baptism is a pivotal moment which reveals Jesus as the Son of God, fully divine, but also his identification with humanity. Pray that our kids would see the power of God's Holy Spirit who continues to empower the Church as we faithfully trust in God.

Big Idea and Missio Basic: The baptism of Jesus is the beginning of his earthly mission and shows that he is both fully God and fully human. And when we are baptized, we join him in his mission.

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Coloring page: John baptizing Jesus. Picture [here](#).
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. The Dove: Fold a paper plate in half. Glue two feathers on either side of the dove. Put two eye stickers on both sides of the dove. Picture [here](#) for reference. As you are doing this, talk to the kids about a dove coming down from heaven to rest on Jesus when he was baptized. That was a picture of the Holy Spirit coming down to Jesus.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Welcome, [Name]

Welcome, [Name]
Hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
We can trust in Jesus.
We can trust in Jesus.
Welcome, friends.
Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: *God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son! We praise You for the mission that he went on to save all of creation. We ask that You would send Your Spirit to rest on us, so that we can join Jesus on his mission. Amen.*

Story: from Luke 3:2-22

[You may choose to read 'Heaven Breaks Through' from The Jesus Storybook Bible. Please note that the Storybook Bible does not explain that the figure of the dove was the Holy Spirit who came upon Jesus at his baptism, which is an important part of the story and should be incorporated.]

[OR READ]

John, the son of Zechariah, was born around the same time as Jesus. When he was older, John went out into the wilderness and brought a message from God to the people of Israel. Just as one of God's messengers from long ago had predicted, John was sent by God to tell the people that the way they

were living was not good. In fact, it was really bad! He told them that they needed to stop and turn away from the evil things they were doing and to return to God.

To show that they had listened to the message of God, John would cover the people with water as a sign that they had been made clean and that they were choosing to follow God. This is called baptism. Many people came to be baptized by John; common people, tax collectors, and even soldiers.

The people knew that John had been sent by God and many began to wonder if he was the Savior God had promised. John told them that he was not. He told them that the Savior was coming after him and was much stronger than he was. John told them he was only able to baptize them with water, but the One who was coming after him would baptize them with the Holy Spirit!

Then Jesus came to be baptized. When Jesus rose from the water after being baptized he began to pray. And then something amazing happened; the heavens opened up above him! The Holy Spirit came down from the heavens in a body, like a dove, and rested on Jesus. As this happened, there was a Voice that came from heaven. It was the voice of God. God said that Jesus was His Son, that He loved Jesus, and that He was very pleased with him.

Ask:

- What is baptism? (When you go under water. It symbolizes a change. John baptized people that believed in Jesus and they would live differently. They would be kind, serve others, give to others, etc. Jesus would come to baptize with something different-the Holy Spirit.)

[Some things to remember as you are talking to the kids.]

- John the Baptist
 - John was a prophet like the prophets of the Old Testament. He lived a life that contrasted most people. He called people to repent of their sins and return to God.
 - People left their normal lives to go to the wilderness, listen to John's message, and be baptized. Then they would return to their normal lives as faithful witnesses of God's work!
 - John prepared the people for Jesus. He baptized them physically with water in preparation for Jesus to baptize them with the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus' Baptism
 - Jesus' baptism shows his humanity and his submission to God
 - When Jesus is baptized and prays, the heavens open up to the earth
 - The Holy Spirit rests on Jesus and empowers him

- The Father declares from the heavens that Jesus is His Son, showing Jesus' authority on earth
- All three Persons of the Trinity are present at Jesus' baptism

Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity:

Bless - We are able to love others because of the love which God gives us (1 John 4:19). Encourage the kids to join Jesus' mission this week by doing a loving act for someone. Remind them the Holy Spirit gives us the power to do great things for God.

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your word, The Bible.

Thank you for sending Jesus to save the world.

Help us join you in your mission, by your Spirit.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.