

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

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

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:** The baptism of Jesus is the beginning of his earthly mission and shows that he is both fully God and fully human.
- **Question:** Who can tell me about a time that you needed your parents help to do something?
- **Starter:** Today's lesson center's on Jesus being empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin His mission. You may choose to play this 4 minute [video](#) from the Bible Project as a way to help explain the Holy Spirit.
- **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.

[Some Things to Point Out]

- Ask:
 - What is baptism?
 - Why did John baptize the people who came to him?
 - Why was it important for Jesus to be baptized, even though he never sinned?
 - Why do people still get baptized today?
- 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

- **Prayer:**

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.

- **Craft:**

Here are two craft ideas; one for Jesus' baptism and the other for a dove that represents the Holy Spirit: [Baptism Crafts](#)

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

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.