

## Jesus Baptism- Matthew 3:13-17

### THE POINT

Focus:

God proclaimed Jesus as His Son  
Jesus will take away the sins of the World

Application:

We believe that Jesus is God's Son  
We repent from our sins and are baptized

Last Week: Flight to Egypt

2 Weeks Ago: Christmas

---

### **\*\*HEART CONNECTION (5-8 MINUTES)**

MATERIALS (Same for PreK-2nd):

- Bowl of water
- Candle (battery-operated LED works well)
- Oil

\*\*This portion of the lesson is written from an Anglican (ACNA) perspective. You may need to adapt it to your congregation's traditions and understandings of baptism. You can read more about the ACNA understanding of baptism in "To Be A Christian" catechism, questions 102-109 and the "Order for the Sacrament of Baptism" available online.

**Content:**

**Bold type indicate things to say/paraphrase.**

*Italicized type indicates actions.*

**Today in our lesson, we're going to read about Jesus' baptism.**

**Maybe some of you were baptized when you were a baby.**

**Maybe some of you have seen a baptism.**

**Maybe some of you will be baptized as adults.**

*(Touch the water in the bowl. If children are not wiggly/restless, consider carefully passing the bowl around. This will be a brief distraction, so if classroom management is an issue, just have them watch).*

**Baptism is a sign made with water. It shows turning from sin and belonging to God's family. When babies are baptized, their families and churches make a promise to raise them as part of God's family.**

**When a person is baptized, the priest or pastor pours water on their head.**

**Then, they receive anointing oil on their heads, as a symbol of the seal of the Holy Spirit, marking them as Christ's own forever.**

*(Use a finger to trace the oil in a sign of a cross on your hand).*

**Last, they are handed a candle that is lit with fire from the Christ candle.**

*(Light candle).*

**This is a sign of the light of Christ in their life.**

**Jesus' baptism was a sign of his belonging to God the Father. Let's read about it in the Bible.**

---

## STORY CONNECTION (5-8 MINUTES)

PREK and KINDERGARTEN:

MATERIALS:

- large brown felt square
- 4-6 inch wide of blue felt, the length of the brown felt square (will be the Jordan river)
- paper cut-out of a dove (templates available online)
- materials from "Heart Connection" above.

Optional: Pipe cleaners for occupying busy hands.

Instructions: Interspersed in the story.

FIRST & SECOND MATERIALS:

MATERIALS:

- Same as above, plus
- Bibles for every child or pair of children.

Optional: Pipe cleaners for occupying busy hands.

Instructions: Help each child or pair of children look up the story in the Bible and follow along themselves. It's a short story and fairly easily found, so it's great for practicing this skill of navigating the Bible. After that, follow all the instructions below.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

—  
Matthew 3:13-17

13 Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He wanted to be baptized by John.

*Spread out the brown or tan felt square, and lay the blue felt piece in the middle. It will work best if you don't allow "helpers" handle these materials with you- it will become a distraction! Invite them to listen and watch, they can have a chance to tell the story to themselves later during their quiet reflection time. Consider handing out pipe cleaners or cotton balls if they need something small and tactile to keep their hands to themselves.*

14 But John tried to stop him. So he told Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?"

*Place the two figurines on the mat near the water.*

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Then John agreed.

*Touch the baptism water from your earlier explanation.*

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove.

*Place the dove outline on the desert. Touch the oil and lit candle and remind the group that these are our symbols of the Holy Spirit.*

17 A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

*Touch the head of the figurine representing Jesus.*

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

---

## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like that day at the Jordan River

I wonder what it was like for John to baptize Jesus.

I wonder what the voice of God sounded like.

What do you wonder?

---

## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heart. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**