

4 year olds, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade

Bible Lesson

4-5-20

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3 (Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1)

Story Point: John baptized Jesus.

Memory Verse: "He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30

Gospel Gems: Jesus always obeys God perfectly.
Everything Jesus does makes God happy.

PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study Guide

Zechariah's son, John, grew up in the wilderness. His ministry began when God's word came to him, and he began preaching near the Jordan River. John worked to get people ready for the coming of Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, "A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness" (Isa. 40:3a).

John called people to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John also instructed people on right living. (See Luke 3:10-14.) Some of the people suspected that John might be the Messiah, but John insisted, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming" (Luke 3:16).

Before His ministry began, Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan River. But John was calling people to a baptism of repentance. Jesus never sinned (see Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21), so why did Jesus come to be baptized? John recognized this when he said, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?" (Matt. 3:14).

Commentators' ideas vary about why exactly Jesus was baptized. Perhaps He was affirming John's work. Maybe He was identifying with sinners or showing them how they would be saved—through His death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus answered John, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). Jesus completely obeyed God, and God audibly confirmed His sonship.

As you teach, allow time for preschoolers to ask questions about repentance, salvation, and baptism. Emphasize that baptism is not what saves us; baptism is a way we show that we have been saved. Baptism reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we die to sin and come into a new way of life—a life lived for Him. (See Rom. 6:3-4.)

Bible Review:

"We have been learning about Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem and then dedicated to God in the temple as a baby. At twelve years old, He was found in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Today, we will learn how Jesus obeyed God and was baptized by John the Baptist.

Bible Story: Jesus' Baptism • Matthew 3; (also found in: Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1) NIV

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with ^[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with ^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Review Questions:

- Who baptized Jesus? (*John the Baptist*)
- Why was Jesus baptized? (*To obey God*)
- What symbol showed that God was pleased with Jesus' baptism? (*God's Spirit came down from heaven as a dove.*)

Christ Connection – (all stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus)

“God sent John the Baptist to tell people the Messiah was coming. Jesus asked John to baptize Him and he did. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He was baptized like sinners are baptized. Today, baptism reminds us that Jesus died and came back to life. People who know and love Jesus are baptized to show they are following Jesus.”

Bible Activities pages:

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Activity pages 4-5-20** online.
- Choose one or both pages to work on.
- Follow the directions on the Activity page.
- There is no answer key for this week.

Activity Resource pages:

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Activity Resources 4-5-20** online.
- These are supplemental activities you can do with your child/children.

Craft:

- Access the craft page: **4 years – 1st Grade Craft 4-5-20** online.
- Follow the directions on the craft page.

Missions Moment:

“Did you know there are missionaries who fly airplanes? A group of missionaries called Mission Aviation Fellowship, or MAF, serve God by flying airplanes to places that are too hard to get to by walking or driving. Many people have trusted in Jesus and chosen to be baptized because of MAF.

- Access the **4 years – 1st Grade Missions video** online.
- Pray and thank God for missionary pilots.

Prayer

“Thank You, God for all the things we have learned and discovered today. Thank You for sending Jesus to us. Help us to remember to obey You just like Jesus obeyed You. We love You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”