

Sunday, January 10



Jesus was Baptized

Scripture:

Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11

Christ Connection:

Jesus came to do God's work. Jesus taught people, suffered, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead so that we, too, can worship God.

Intro Game: Twist and Turn Relay

Mark two tape lines on the floor about 15 feet apart. Halfway between the lines, mark a turn-around line. Instruct half of your family to stand single file behind one outside line and the other half to stand single file behind the other.

Explain that the first player will walk backwards across the room. When he/she reaches the center line, he/she should turn around and walk forwards quickly the rest of the way. When she reaches the next line, she will move to the back of the line, and the first player there will begin across. Play as time allows.

John the Baptist was baptizing people who repented of their sins. The word repent means to be sorry for your sin, to turn away from your sin, and to turn toward God. When John baptized people, it was a sign that they had turned from their sin and turned toward God.

Baptism is a sign that we have repented and that we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus' baptism reminds us of His death and resurrection. Because Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, we can repent and trust in Him and God will forgive our sins.

- Last time we read about Jesus, He was a boy sitting in the temple learning about God. The next time we read about Jesus is when He is a grown man and goes to be baptized by John the Baptist. Do you remember that name, John the Baptist? Maybe you remember him as John. Back when the angel came and told Mary that she was going to have a baby, the angel assured her she was pregnant by telling her that her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant as well. Elizabeth gave birth to...John!! Remember that John was a relative of Jesus, since Elizabeth, John's mother, was a relative of Mary, Jesus' mother.
- John had a mission from before he was born. In the book of Luke, the angel who announced the coming birth of John to his father, Zechariah, told several things about John. First, his name. Since firstborn sons were almost always named after their fathers, their friends and neighbors were astonished when Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John. Another thing the angel told Zechariah was that John would be great and would "go on before the Lord." John's mission would be to call people to repentance, to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17).
- God has a plan for each of us. One that was decided, like it was for John, before we were even born! You need to know that God has made you for a special purpose. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. How do we know what that plan is? How do we know if we are doing what God has made us for?
- God has blessed us with a guidebook of how to live - the Bible! 2 Peter 1:3 tells us that, "His divine power has given us everything we need for a Godly life through our knowledge of Him." Through our knowledge of HIM. We have got to get into the Word to get to know the God we serve, the God that sent His Son to this earth to live among us, and eventually to die for us. When we get to know our God, then our purpose will be clear!
- Matthew 3:1-6. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. He wore camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. When John was an adult, he began speaking to the people around him. "Repent and be baptized, for God's kingdom is almost here," he said.
- Some of the people asked John, "Who are you?" John said, "I am not the Messiah." John also said he wasn't Elijah, and he wasn't the Prophet. "Who are you, then?" the people asked. John said that he was the person Isaiah the prophet

was talking about when he said, "There is someone shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'"

- John was born with a very important job. He was supposed to get people ready for Jesus, God's promised Messiah.
- Mark 1:5. People started to repent; they turned away from their sins and turned to God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. Baptism was a picture of the people's sins being washed away. John preached: "Someone more powerful than I will come after me. I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandals."
- Matthew 3:11. Then John said, "I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- By this time, Jesus was an adult. He was in Galilee, and He left to see John the Baptist. John was at the Jordan River, and Jesus came up to him. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- Matthew 3:13-14. Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. John the Baptist didn't think he should baptize Jesus, and he tried to stop Him. "I need You to baptize me," John said. "Why do you want me to baptize you?" John was confused because he baptized people who confessed their sins. Jesus never sinned!
- Matthew 3:15. Jesus said, "Allow me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.
- Matthew 3:16-17. Mark 1:9-11. Jesus immediately went up from the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened for Jesus, and He saw God's Spirit coming down on Him. The Spirit was like a dove. And a voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him."
- Jesus never sinned, but He was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life - a life lived for Jesus.
- Jesus is GOD AMONG US - even as a child. He was obedient to His earthly parents; He grew in wisdom and stature to set a good example for each of us to follow.

Hands-On Activities

A Sign of Something Else

- Form three groups and assign each group a Bible passage.
- Group 1: Matthew 3:13-14
- Group 2: Matthew 3:15; Mark 1:9
- Group 3: Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:22
- Provide markers and large pieces of paper. Instruct each group to read its passage and work together to draw a picture that represents what happened in the Bible story. When kids finish, invite them to share their signs.

Talk About It

While your family is gathered around the table for lunch or dinner, talk about the lesson again and talk through these questions:

Who baptized Jesus?

What was special about Jesus' baptism?

What is important that we do BEFORE we are baptized? (Trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior)

Parents, take some time to share with your family about when you trusted in Jesus and were baptized.