

## JESUS WAS BAPTIZED | Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

**Bible Story:** Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

**Memory Verse:** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

**Big Picture Question:** Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

**Bottom Line:** We follow Jesus because He is God.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, we start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.*

### Leader Notes:

#### CONTEXT

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 kids to ask questions about 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 believe in Jesus, we die to sin and come into a new way of life—a life lived for Him. (See Rom. 6:3-4.)

## TEACHING FOCUS (Jesus' Baptism)

As we teach kids about Jesus, lead them to see that Jesus was baptized so that the world would know that He was God's Son and so that we could follow Jesus by doing what He did. When Jesus was dipped back and raised out of the water by John, He set an example for us to follow. We are baptized to show our relationship with Jesus just like Jesus was baptized to show His relationship with God.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, we start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.*

**Bottom Line:** *We follow Jesus because He is God.*

### Today's Takeaways:

- John the Baptist told people to repent and be ready for the kingdom of God.
- Jesus asked John to baptize Him.
- At first, John did not think it was right for him to baptize Jesus.
- Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.
- We follow Jesus when we obey Him.
- **Bottom Line:** We follow Jesus because He is God.

## PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

### Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

**What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"John the Baptist was a special messenger for God. John told people to say they were sorry to God for their wrong choices, and John baptized them in the Jordan River. When the people went under the water, they showed that God had forgiven them. One day, Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John was confused! John said, "Jesus, You never make wrong choices!" John obeyed, and he baptized Jesus. When Jesus came out of the water, God's Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son. I am very happy with You."

### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

## Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. **Dunk objects in water**

**What You Need:** Plastic tub with a small amount of water, craft sticks, pencils, small people figures, towels

**What You Do:**

- Set out a plastic bin with an inch of water.
- Demonstrate how to dunk craft sticks, pencils, or small people figures into water.
- Keep towels handy to clean up spills.
- Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

**What You Say** " God wanted John to baptize Jesus. Jesus obeyed God's plan. John put Jesus under the water and He came up again. Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.

2. **Practice signing the Memory Verse**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "**In the beginning** (draw world in air) **was the Word** (open book), **and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was with God, and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was God. He** (sign Jesus) **was with God**(sign God) **in the beginning**(draw world in air). **John 1:1-2**

**What You Say** "When the verse says Word, it means Jesus. The Word, Jesus was God. They are the same! People knew Jesus was not an ordinary baby. They knew He was the Savior who had come to save people from sin. Help me with the Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. We worship Him because He is God.**

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray: "Jesus, we want to follow You in everything we do. Help us to search for you every day and to follow You with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen."
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall.