



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 35

Get Connected to God

Take Home Point: *In baptism, we are connected to Jesus. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 3:1-22. John the Baptizer and Jesus' baptism

Key Verse: Galatians 3:27, "Clearly, all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ."

We will help kids know:

- The event of John the Baptizer's ministry and Jesus' baptism.
- Repent means to turn away from sin and back to our God.
- Baptism is one of God's ways of connecting us with Jesus. Our lives light up because we are connected to Jesus.

We will help kids feel:

- Eager to be baptized if they have not been and if they have trusted in Jesus as their Savior.
- Appreciation for their baptism as they find security in their relationship with Jesus.

We will help kids do:

- Imagine what it would be like to have Jesus as a friend who played with them.
- Since they are connected to Jesus as their Savior, apply how they might shine with his light.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids play the game <i>Electricity</i> . They imagine what it would be like to have Jesus as a friend who played with them and learn that Jesus wants to be connected to us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no supplies needed
Large Group 	4 7 7 12	<p>Overview</p> <p>Video: “<i>The Miracle Maker</i>,” by Family Home Entertainment, Inc.—animation of Luke 3:1-22; John the Baptizer preaching and baptizing Jesus.</p> <p>Object Lesson: John the Baptizer and Jesus’ Baptism—An amazing illusion is used to teach that John was a light that pointed to Jesus as the light of the world. We are connected to Jesus through baptism so that we, too, can be lights.</p> <p>“Gordy’s Review Questions”—John the Baptizer and Jesus’ Baptism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • props for “Meet the Amazing Jesus” scenery • video, <i>The Miracle Maker</i>, produced by Family Home Entertainment, 1999—order through www.Amazon.com or www.BooksOfTheBible.com • Option 1: magic light bulb (available in novelty stores, magic shops, or internet search) with paper cross taped to it • Option 2: small lamp with lampshade that represents Jesus—with a four-inch tall cross taped to the shade so that it can easily be removed • clear bowl of water representing baptism or a baptismal font • flashlight that will represent John the Baptizer
Small Group Application 	4	Kids simulate the trick done in large group and are reminded of how they can be connected to God through baptism. As a result, they become lights for God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear glass with water in it • penlight • sheet of paper • marker

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Play a game of “electricity.” Have kids hold hands in a circle and pick one child to be “it” in the center. While that person closes his/her eyes, assign another child to be the beginning point for electricity. Once the child in the middle opens his/her eyes, the child with the “electricity” passes the current along by squeezing the hand of either person next to him. The child, whose hand has been squeezed, now holds the electrical current and passes it along to the next child. The current can change directions at any time.

The child in the middle is watching for the hands that are squeezed so that (s)he might point to who has the electrical current before they have a chance to pass it along. Once the child in the middle has stopped the electrical current, (s)he exchanges places with the child who was just stopped.

After playing this game for five minutes, have the children return to their seats. Discuss the Warm-Up questions that follow.

Who is your favorite adult to play with? What games do you play?

If Jesus were here, do you think you would like playing a game with him? Why or why not?

If you were playing this game with Jesus and he was holding your hand, what do you think his hand would feel like?

Today we will talk about how Jesus wants to be connected to us. Jesus no longer walks among us in his human form, but he is right here with us.

Jesus wants to be close to us, even as close as a friend playing with us. Jesus wants us to know that we can get connected to him and become connected to our Father in heaven. One way Jesus connects to us is through baptism.

So today we will learn that **in baptism, we are connected to Jesus.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



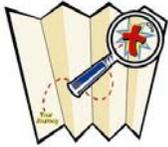
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Video: *The Miracle Maker*, produced by Family Home Entertainment, 1999—order through www.Amazon.com or www.RoadtoGlory.com. Show the animation of Luke 3:1-22; John the Baptizer preaching and baptizing Jesus.

Object Lesson: John the Baptizer and Jesus' Baptism—An amazing illusion is used to teach that John was a light that pointed to Jesus as the light of the world. We are connected to Jesus through baptism so that we, too, can be lights.

“Gordy’s Review Questions” – John the Baptizer and Jesus’ Baptism

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids turn in their Bibles to John 1:6-8.

“God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light.”

What was John’s job? *(He was to point to the Light, Jesus.)*

Have kids refer to Luke 3:1-22.

What did John the Baptizer tell people they must do? *(Luke 3:3. Repent and be baptized.)*

What does it mean to repent? *(Turn from sin back to God.)*

When Jesus was baptized, what was heard over him? *(Luke 3:22. “A voice from heaven said, ‘You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with you.’”)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Jesus was baptized even though he did not have any sin. Why did he do this? *(He wanted to be a perfect example for us.)*

Jesus wants us to be baptized. Being baptized means that we get all the blessings of what? *(The cross – we believe that Jesus lived, died*

and rose again for us. God looks at us and says, "This is my son or daughter with whom I am well pleased."

In baptism we are connected together with whom? (God.)

When we are connected with God, we should let our lights shine so that we can give glory to whom? (Matthew 5:16. Our Father in heaven.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

During the application time, you will show the kids a trick similar to the illusion in large group and let the kids practice it.

Application Activity:

Supplies needed are a clear glass with water in it, a penlight, a sheet of paper and a marker. Though the trick seems very simplistic, it can be fun for the kids to figure out how it is done.

Demonstrate by holding the penlight straight up in your hand with your thumb on the ON/OFF switch. Dip a finger from the other hand into the water. At the very same time, turn the penlight on in your other hand. For the trick to seem realistic, it is important to make as little motion as possible while turning on the light.

Once the children are amazed (or not so amazed) with the trick, point out that this is only a trick. As well, the large group object lesson was also a trick.

Let the children then take turns holding the penlight with one hand while dipping the other hand into the water. They can be coached on how to turn the light on as they do this. Explain that the point of this object lesson is that through the waters of baptism, we can be connected to God. When we are connected to him, we become lights that shine in the world pointing to God.

As each child performs the trick, speak the words that God would speak to them in baptism.

This is my son/daughter, (child's name), whom I love. With (child's name), I am well pleased.

Each child needs to know this is what God says to them when they trust Jesus as their Savior. God is connecting them to himself and he is greatly pleased with them.

Ask the kids:

How does it make you feel that God would be well pleased with you?

Jesus was baptized as an example for us. Now when we are baptized, we are connected to Jesus. Galatians 3:27 says, "Clearly,

all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ."

When we become connected to Jesus, we want to repent of our sins and live more like Jesus as shining lights that bring glory to God.

To illustrate what repentance looks like, take a sheet of paper and draw a three-inch long arrow. Hold the arrow on the opposite side of the glass of water. Hold the paper close to the glass and slowly move it farther away. While looking through the water at the arrow, you will see the arrow literally change directions. This is what repentance is – changing directions. It is changing from our own selfishness and turning to God.

The next topic of conversation is how our lights can shine before others. Go around the group and ask the kids to think of one way they could let their lights shine to others.

How can you let your light shine with your family at home? How can you let your lights shine at school? How can you let your light shine at church?

Help the kids answer very specifically.

In closing the activity, ask if there are any children who have not been baptized and would like to be. Ask them if they know and trust Jesus as their Savior. Assure them that baptism is a way that God wants to be closely connected to them.

Today we learned that **in baptism, we are connected to Jesus.*

Closing Prayer:

Pray for specific ways for the children to let their lights shine to others that came up in the children's conversations. Thank God that through the work of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can be connected to him.

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Large Group Presentation

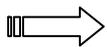
Take Home Point: **In baptism, we are connected to Jesus.*

Set design and props needed for this series will include a large sign that reads “Meet the Amazing Jesus.” In addition to this sign, hang smaller signs in the front of the room with the word “Amazing” printed on each one.

Prompt kids to say, “Simply amaaaazing,” when the presenter points up and says, “And THAT is...,” A sweeping arm gesture by the large group presenter as the kids say, “simply amaaaa-a-azing” will add effect and emphasis. Use this technique as an attention grabber when presenting the main points.

Supplies needed:

- *video, The Miracle Maker, produced by Family Home Entertainment, 1999—order through www.Amazon.com or www.RoadtoGlory.com*
- *magic light bulb (available in novelty stores, magic shops, or internet search)*
- *bowl of water representing baptism or a baptismal font*
- *a four-inch tall cross taped to the bulb*
- *flashlight that will represent John the Baptizer*
- *small lamp with no lampshade. At the bottom of the socket should be placed some aluminum foil. To give it the appearance of being plugged in, you might have an extension cord running up to and under the table cloth upon which the lamp sits.*



Under no circumstances should this lamp be plugged in as it would be an electrical hazard.

Option: *If a magic light bulb is not available, you can create another illusion that might seem amazing. The effect will be that you touch a lamp that is unplugged and it turns on. Use a table lamp that turns on and off by touch instead of a switch. Set this on a table with its electrical cord plugged in, but concealed beneath a table skirt. Cut off another old electrical cord from another old lamp or appliance. Fasten it in some way coming out of the base of the lamp so that the cord looks like it belongs to the lamp. Leave this on top of the table so that it seems the lamp is unplugged. Tape a four inch cross to the shade.*

There are three sections to today’s large group presentation. The first section is a video presentation of the Bible event. The second section is a retelling of the event using an amazing object lesson. In the third section, Gordy, the puppet, helps kids review.

Part One

Begin with the animated video, “*The Miracle Maker*,” by Family Home Entertainment, Inc. Cue the video to start approximately nine minutes from the opening copyright notice. This begins the movie section on John the Baptizer, which lasts two and one half minutes. After showing the video, use this object lesson to briefly review.

Part Two

An object lesson telling of John the Baptizer and Jesus’ Baptism”

IMPORTANT!

The following illusion uses a prop available from novelty stores or magic supply dealers. It is called a magic light bulb and looks like a typical household light bulb. The bulb has a self-contained battery, and it is turned on and off when the base of the light bulb is positioned in the palm of the hand against a ring on the holder’s finger. By contacting the ring finger at two coordinates, the light bulb is easily turned on and off.

This is especially effective since the presenter can control when the light goes on and off in his hand. There is no apparent electrical cord or switch.

*The light bulb can also be turned on and off if aluminum foil is placed in the bottom of an electrical socket. The electrical socket **MUST BE TURNED OFF FROM ANY HOUSEHOLD CURRENT**. When the bulb is screwed in and the two contact points hit the aluminum foil at the base of the socket, the light bulb will turn on.*

CAUTION: Today’s illusion involves electricity and water. Tell the children not to try this at home. This warning is also noted in the script. Again, if you place aluminum foil in the lamp, see that it is NEVER PLUGGED IN.

Kids, here in my hand I have an electric light bulb. This electric light bulb reminds me of Jesus. Let me screw it in this lamp and see what happens.

Screw the light bulb into the UNPLUGGED lamp (*although it will look plugged in*). When the contacts hit the aluminum foil, the light bulb will light up. (*For the option: The touch lamp WILL be plugged in, but not look like it.*)

Jesus came as light to the world, much like a light bulb.

Pick up flashlight and shine it at the kids.

When John the Baptist came, he was like this flashlight. He wasn’t the light but he pointed to the light.

Point the flashlight to the light.

He said, “This is God’s Son who came to take away the sin of the world.” When John baptized Jesus, he heard the voice of God the Father saying to Jesus, “You are my Son whom I love. I am well-pleased with you.”

Turn off the flashlight. Refer to the bowl of water.

I will now place this light bulb into the bowl of water to remind us that Jesus was baptized. He did not need to have his sin forgiven because he never sinned. But, he wanted to be a perfect example for us. He wanted us to be baptized, too, so that we would hear God’s word just as it was spoken to Jesus.

When we are baptized, God is saying to us, you are my special child whom I love. I’m well pleased with you. It’s a way we are connected with him.

Take light bulb and place it in a hand without a ring. Then transfer it to the other hand with a ring it into the water of baptism. Then say:

Just like Jesus showed them he was connected to his Father when he was baptized, when we are baptized, guess what happen? We’re connected to Jesus, as well. See the light shine?!

Turn the light on and dip the hand in the water at the same time.

See how Jesus shines in our life? Do we hear the heavenly Father say to us, “You are my child whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

So let’s remember—we are connected to Jesus. Also, remember the way I made the light bulb work was because it is a trick light bulb. Don’t ever try playing with water and electricity at home. It can be very dangerous.

Option:

Turn on the lamp representing Jesus. Have it positioned right next to the bowl of water. Taking flashlight in hand, read John 1:6-8. As you do, turn on the flashlight and point it to the lamp representing Jesus.

“God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light.”

Take the flashlight and shine it into the eyes of the audience, as if they were there listening to the message of John the Baptizer.

John told the people to turn from their sins and turn back to God. He pointed people to the Promised One, Jesus.

Turn light to the Jesus lamp for this point. Then shine the flashlight back at the audience.

John baptized them in the Jordan River, which means they got wet with water. They were connected to his message that said we should turn from our sin and turn to God.

Some people wondered if John might be the Messiah.

Hold up the flashlight.

John the Baptizer said that he was just pointing to the Messiah who was still to come.

Shine the flashlight at the Jesus lamp. Point to the water in the bowl.

When all the people were coming to John to be baptized, Jesus came also. John knew Jesus was the light of the world. It did not seem right that he should baptize Jesus. Jesus asked John to baptize him so that he would be a perfect example for us.

We, too, need to be baptized. Even though Jesus was perfect and did not need to repent from sin, he wanted to show that he was one of us and we should turn to God.

Point the flashlight towards the ceiling.

While Jesus was praying as John baptized him, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

Turn off the flashlight and take the cross off of the Jesus lamp.

Jesus came to give his life for us and to have his life live in us. Jesus wants us to be connected closely to him so that we can be connected to God. How does Jesus do this?

Take the cross and lay it in the bowl of water.

Jesus said, "...make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Take some water in your hands and go towards the audience. Flick droplets of water on them.

How many of you have been baptized? Do you know what happens when you are baptized? You are getting connected with Jesus.

See the cross in the water? You receive all the blessings that Jesus won on the cross by giving his life for you. Because of what Jesus did for us, he gives us a way to get close together with God.

Baptism shows you are connected with God. It is like God saying, "This is my child whom I love. With him/her I am well pleased." God says that to us because of Jesus' connection to us when we trust and believe in him. Look what happens.

At the very time you dip your hand into the water and touch the cross, activate the touch lamp with your other hand so that it turns on.

Point to an "amazing" sign and prompt kids to say, "Simply amaaaazing."

This is like God making a promise to us in baptism. This light is like the light of Jesus and his promise connected with this ordinary water.

When we have faith, we put our hand in the water and get connected with God because of the cross. Look what happens to us.

Jesus says, "Because you are connected to me, you too will have a light that shines." When people are baptized, we often read the Bible verse, "...let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Are you letting your light shine? When you remember your baptism, you remember that you are connected to God through what Jesus has done for you. He is the light of the world and he can shine through your life now to help others.

Next, call Gordy out and ask that he would come back after the lesson has been taught. Gordy will help with the review questions. Adlibbing these conversations is most effective if it is kept brief.

Part Three.

Gordy is invited to answer the questions along with the children.

Gordy's Review Questions John the Baptizer and Jesus' Baptism

The following questions can be used for review of today's Bible event. This will be a contest between Gordy and the kids. Gordy assigns a scoring value to each question before that question is read. That number is in parenthesis at the beginning of the question. What makes it fun is that Gordy finally gets one correct at the end and that number helps him make a dramatic comeback. The kids typically win, but it might be interesting if, from time to time, Gordy wins. Adjust to your preference. One thing is important and will be vital to this script: move through your material quickly. By this time, the kids' attention spans are short. You may even want to delete some of the questions if it is feeling a bit long.

After each question, the first parenthetical remark is Gordy's response. The second parenthetical remark is the correct answer from a child.

Kids might even bring their Bibles to large group to search for answers as they listen to the following questions.

1. (10 points) **When John the Baptizer came, was his job to be the light of the world or to point to the Light?**
(His job was to eat bugs and wear a camel hair coat.)
(He was to point to the Light.)
2. (20 points) **What did John the Baptizer tell people they must do?**
(Repaint their houses.)
(Repent and be baptized.)
3. (30 points) **What does it mean to repent?**
(Paint something again.)
(Turn from sin back to God.)
4. (50 points) **Jesus was baptized even though he did not have any sin. Why did he do this?**
(The water looked cool and refreshing.)
(He wanted to be a perfect example for us.)
5. (60 points) **When Jesus was baptized, what was heard over him?**
(“Water fight!”)
(“This is my Son whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”)
6. (70 points) **Jesus wants us to be baptized. Being baptized means that we get all the blessings of what?**
(A bath.)

(The cross – Jesus lived, died and rose again for us.)

7. (290 points) In baptism we are connected together with whom?
(God.)

8. (9 points) If we are connected with God, we should let our lights shine so that we can give glory to whom?
(Our light bulbs.)
(Our Father in heaven.)

Presenter: Well, I think the kids get the idea. Maybe you need to think about it a little more, though, Gordy.

Gordy: I think I get it now!

Presenter: Great, Gordy, will you say a closing prayer for us?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus, the Light of the world, to us so that we can be connected to you. Thank you for the gift of baptism that shows us we are connected to you. Help us to be like John the Baptizer—to shine our lights to the world, reflecting the light of Jesus. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.