



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is God's Son
Winter Year 2, Lesson 34

Jesus is Baptized

Bible Event: Matthew 3:13-17

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS GOD'S SON – *I love Jesus.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: I love Jesus because he first loved me.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn just how special Jesus is to us. He is God's very own Son sent to live as a person on earth. Jesus was baptized just like many of us are baptized. He grew up here on earth and died on the cross so that our sins would be forgiven. All of this is because God loves us so very much. Kids will take home the point: ***JESUS IS GOD'S SON – *I love Jesus.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Introduce the video by explaining that Jesus was born on this earth as a baby and grew up into a boy and then a man. On earth, he was baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. Being baptized is one special way that God wraps us in his love. Here is what Jesus' baptism was like.

Show a segment from the video *Animated Stories from the Bible: John the Baptist*, Nest Family Entertainment., 1990, starting at 21 minutes 50 seconds. The clip only lasts a few minutes.

Recap the event by using a children's picture Bible and asking some simple questions such as:

Who baptized Jesus? (John.)

Did John want to do it at first? (No.)

What flew out of the sky after Jesus was baptized? (Dove.)

Who was the voice from heaven? (God.)

Close by explaining that baptism is one way God shows his love for us. Ask and prompt the kids to think of ways we can show Jesus how much we love him. (For example: praying, singing praise songs, coming to Kids Church, being nice to others, following directions, telling friends about Jesus)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child a graham cracker square. Let them frost it with blue frosting to make the sky and provide Cool Whip or Reddi Whip to add clouds. Another option: blue Jell-O jigglers.

Drama Zone: Practice sharing toys and being kind to others.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to talk about ways they can show Jesus' love to others at home. *(For example: sharing with siblings, listening to parents, helping a neighbor.)*

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show today's Bible event of Jesus' Baptism. *(For example, use Lesson #101, "John Baptizes Jesus," from Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.)*

Craft Zone: Using the dove template copied on white card stock, have children trace the outline of their hand (fingers touching, facing the top of the page) in the middle of the dove to create the wing. Have children glue crumpled white tissue paper or feathers to the "wing" or the entire dove, if desired. Attach a google eye and color the beak orange. Attach a pre-made label "Jesus is Baptized."

Play Zone: Provide a tub of water with cups, toys that sink, toys that float, etc.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus' Baptism.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "Jesus' Baptism" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out very confused. He knows that today's take home point says that Jesus is God's Son, but he knows that during Christmas time, Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph. How can Jesus be God's Son and Mary and Joseph's son?

The large group presenter tells Bubba that that is a very good question. The presenter explains that before Jesus was ever born on earth, he was in heaven with God. Jesus didn't have a body in heaven; just his spirit was there with God. Then God decided to send Jesus to earth to help the people. God decided to send him down as a person, so he gave Jesus a body and sent him to earth as a baby. God sent him to Mary and Joseph and they raised him from a baby to a boy and finally to a man. But he was still God's Son from heaven.

Bubba thinks it's amazing that Jesus could be God's Son AND Mary and Joseph's son. The presenter wraps up by explaining that it is amazing. God loved us so very much that he sent his Son to be born to Mary and Joseph on earth. The whole reason he did it was for us! He knew Jesus would grow up on earth and go to the cross to forgive our sins and to fill us with his love. It is amazing! Remember: ***JESUS IS GOD'S SON – I love Jesus.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- *Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist*, Nest Family Entertainment, 1990—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=JBD
- children's picture Bible

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham cracker squares
- blue frosting
- Cool Whip or Reddi Whip
- *Optional:* blue Jell-O jigglers

Drama:

- toys and puzzles

Craft:

- white card stock
- dove template
- white tissue paper or white feathers
- google eyes, one per child
- orange crayons or markers
- pre-made label: "Jesus is Baptized"

Play:

- tubs for water
- various cups and water toys

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #101, "John Baptizes Jesus," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)
- "Jesus Baptism"

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

