

Adventures with GOD!

WHERE IS IT WRITTEN? (A.3.SPRING.9)

Biblical Reference	John 1:6-28
Key Verse	John 1:34
Key Concept	I believe Jesus is the son of God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss what John the Baptist said to Jesus. 2. Learn the story through the illustrations. 3. Give thanks to God for His son Jesus.

Life Application

God spoke to Jesus through John the Baptist. Although Jesus was a cousin of John the Baptist, Jesus was to be baptized by John. John identified Jesus as the Son of God. Baptism is a special moment, because it's a way of showing God that we believe in God's forgiveness. John helped Jesus by preaching to others about being unkind, and the importance of asking for forgiveness. John was preparing others to hear and receive what Jesus would later preach to them. Children need to hear the story of Jesus, as he will be an important part of their lives now and as adults. Today, children hear the truth about Jesus and have the opportunity to express, in their own words that they believe in him.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction		5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	See attached	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Key Verse for the day twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Introduction: Ask children if they have cousins and have them share the names of some of them. Encourage children to share a favorite memory they have of their cousins. Explain that Jesus also had a cousin named John the Baptist. We know that Jesus and John played together as children. Imagine the fun they must have had together.

Bible Exploration: Open your Bible and start telling the story of John the Baptist. Explain why John was a cousin of Jesus and why he had a strange name. He was known as John the Baptist because he baptized many people. Many people heard the message of John the Baptist. He talked about God and when we do wrong (sin) we have to ask God for forgiveness of our sins. People who wanted to receive forgiveness from God would ask to be baptized. They did it in a river back then. Explain or show how we are baptized in the church today. If possible, show the

Adventures with GOD!

place where they make their church baptisms or use the accompanying drawings. Jesus went to his cousin John the Baptist to be baptized, and to be a witness to others that Jesus also loved God. Although Jesus never did anything wrong, never sinned, he showed everyone he was also human. Using illustrations, talk about the day Jesus went to the river to be baptized. Explain what John did when he baptized Jesus. God spoke from heavens and recognized Jesus as the true Son of God. It would be good to dramatize the scene. It could be helpful to use a drama or play to explain the scene.

Craft: Children can make their own paper dove as a reminder of the baptism of Jesus. The instructions are attached on page 8. If there is extra time, children can color illustrations on pages 5-7. Children can also make a dove ornament on page 9. While working, sing and then repeat the Key Verse. The goal is to teach children that John the Baptist was a witness of Jesus, the Son of God. Children may also be witnesses (give explanation of the word) that Jesus is the Son of God.

Conclusions: It is necessary to recognize how much every human being needs to believe in Jesus and receive him as the Son of God and the forgiver of our sins. Ask if some want to pray and ask Jesus for forgiveness of things they have done. Help children to pray for forgiveness. They can repeat simple phrases like:

"Jesus, I've done bad things like lying, fighting, disobeying, etc." I need your forgiveness. Thank God for the children, who have prayed, mentioning their names in the time of prayer. At the end converse with them and encourage them to follow Jesus as a light in their daily walk.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

Adventures with GOD!

W=Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

Adventures with GOD!

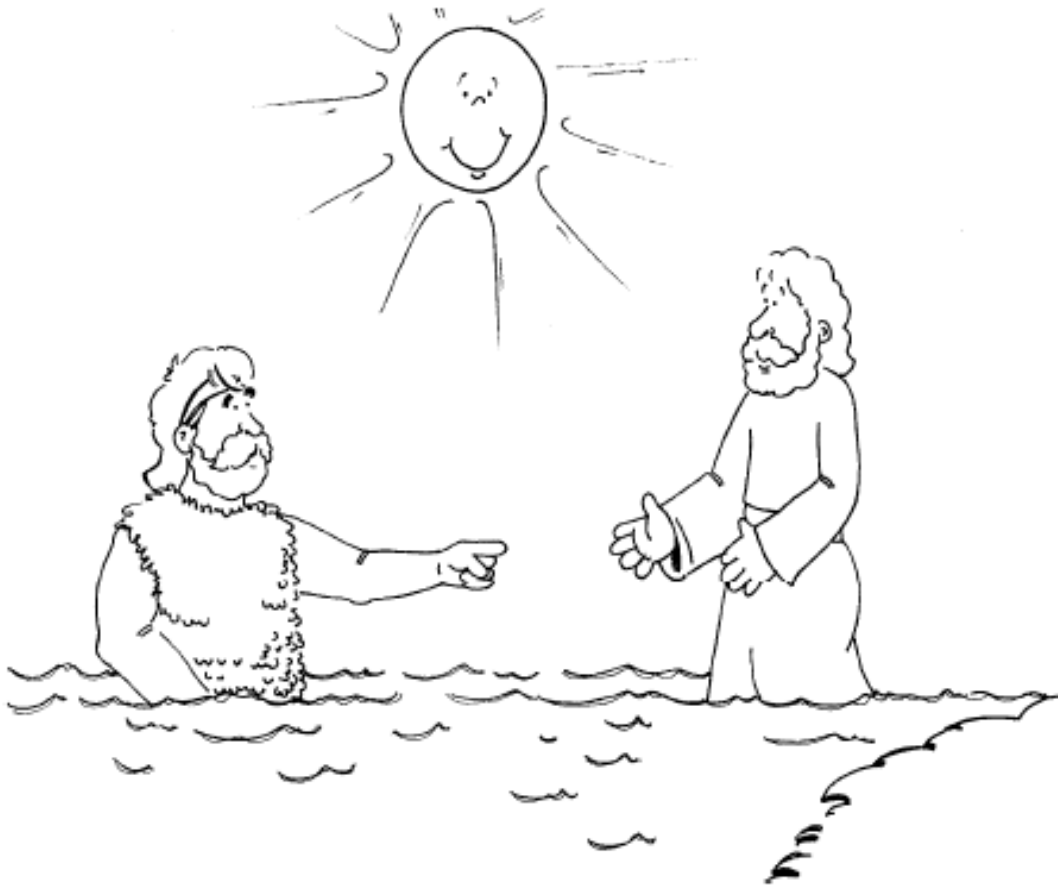
Illustrations

John the Baptist



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Jesus in the river



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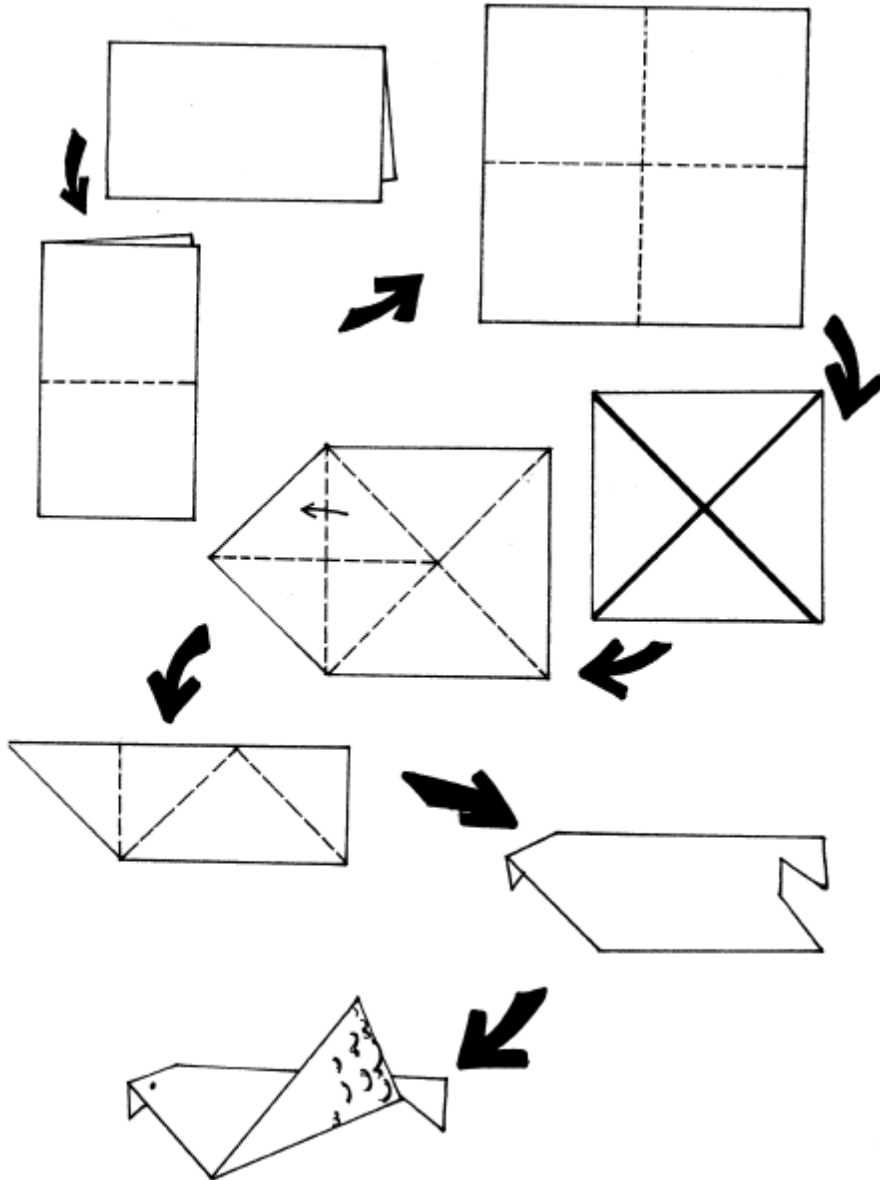
John baptizes Jesus



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Craft

Dove - Follow instructions below



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Craft

