

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (C.1.Spring.2)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
Key Verse	Matthew 3:16-17
Key Concept	Following Jesus' example, I too can be baptized.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the importance of baptism during the times when Jesus was alive on earth</li> <li>2. Tell what happened when Jesus was baptized</li> <li>3. Express what baptism means for us as believers today</li> </ol>

### Life Application

The life of Jesus Christ is a model that God has given us and we can follow his example. As we study the life of Jesus, the children will learn Jesus' priorities, his attitudes and his actions. Jesus' baptism was an event that began his three years of public ministry. Through baptism, Jesus identified himself with humanity, even though he was sinless. Today, baptism identifies us with Jesus and shows that we have recognized our need for him to be our Savior and Lord. Today they will be challenged to follow Jesus' life and the example he set, both in the way he lived and in his baptism. The Covenant has great resources on baptism that can help you prepare for this lesson. Visit [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org) (search: infant baptism)

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Big pieces of paper, markers, paper, pens	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Dialogue	Bible, white board, markers, paper, illustrations	20 minutes
Conclusions	Paper, pens, Bible verse	20 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Introduction:** Before the class begins, hang a large, long piece of paper on the wall. With this paper make a timeline. When the children arrive, begin to make a list (either individually or in groups) of some of the most important moments or events in our life. (It can include things like: birth, first steps, school, first job, marriage, etc).

When the majority of children have arrived, ask them to go up to the wall with the time line on it. With a marker they can begin to put key points on the timeline. For example, they can write “birth” to the far left. Then another person can write another phrase on another point in the line. Do this until you have various points on your timeline.

Then, give each person a piece of paper where they can write their own timeline. Have them include some points that communicate events they’ve already lived, and others that they imagine in the future.

To wrap up the introduction, explain that over the course of the next few weeks you’ll be studying the life of Jesus. The focus will be on his first year of ministry.

**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 on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**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 as we read the Bible we do that 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 Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

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**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?

**Dialogue:** The lesson today focuses on the baptism of Jesus, the fact that it really began his public ministry on earth. Either as a class or in three groups read the three passages and record a summary of what they find in the passage (make sure the summary is only based on what they read).

On a piece of paper make three columns. Group A can write their summary (key words or phrases or drawings). Group B can add information that Group A didn't include. Group C can do the same. Help them to see how the details in the passages are similar and what differences they find.

Once they have compared the three passages, orient them to two things: Jesus' baptism and baptism today. Ask, what was Jesus' baptism like? What was the reason to get baptized in Jesus' time? Why did Jesus do it? Why do you think he began his ministry with this specific event?

Baptism today: what does it mean? How does it happen? Why does it happen? What influence does it have in a person's life? What would it like for them to be baptized if they aren't already?

Talking about... **Baptism**

First ask what the child thinks it means. If they need some help understanding then here are more suggestions.

We baptize because Jesus tell us to. (Matthew 28:19)

Through baptism we are reminded that:

1. We are loved by Jesus.

When do you feel closet to Jesus and experience his love?

2. Our sins are washed away by Jesus.

Have there been times you have asked Jesus to forgive you? How do you think the water symbolizes Jesus washing away your sin?

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3. We are welcomed into the church (which is not the building but the people).

Together we:

Love each other, teaching and trying to do all that Jesus says.

Who have been some of the people in the church who have cared for you and taught you?

4. There is a mystery of God's presence in Baptism.

What does mystery mean to you? (something not fully understood)

I wonder what it means that Jesus is with us in a special way at baptism?

Some of them may be baptized and others no. Help those who haven't been baptized recognize that together with their parents they can make the decision to be baptized.

**Conclusion:** Take advantage of time to do a few different activities: sing, memorize the bible verse, etc. On another piece of really long paper begin to make a timeline of Jesus' life. Some of the kids can draw pictures of the different events that were important in Jesus' life before his public ministry (birth, travel to Egypt, working with Joseph, his baptism) or use some of the illustrations included in this lesson. Put them up on the timeline. Explain that over the next few weeks they will talking about the first year of Jesus' ministry.

To end your time together, spend time praying. You can pray in groups (3-4 kids) or with one other person. Express through prayer your desire to imitate Jesus, not only through baptism but in the way you live life.

## **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 and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

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**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)

**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? How would you like to respond to 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, it 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



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## ILLUSTRATION

### Jesus preparing for ministry

When Jesus was 30 years old he began his public ministry. He began by identifying himself with the people of Israel, and with all of humanity, as he was baptized by his cousin John in the Jordan River.



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## CRAFT

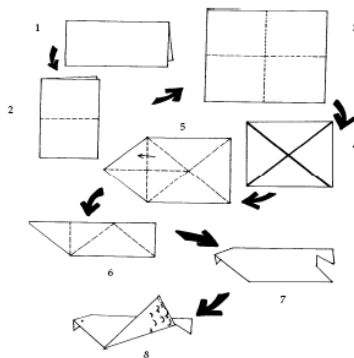
### The Holy Spirit as a dove

After Jesus was baptized the Spirit of God descended upon him in the form of a dove (Matt. 3:15, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:32). The Holy Spirit came to prepare Jesus for the work that God had for him. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Materials: White paper cut into a square, 2 small beads or beans, glue, hole puncher, thread

Instructions:

1. Fold the square in half and open it (illustration 1)
2. Fold it again in the opposite direction and open it. You should have 4 squares that are the same size (illustration 2)
3. Fold the corner towards the center (illustration 3)
4. Without opening the square, turn the square so that the lines form an X and not a cross (illustration 4)
5. Fold the lower corner and the upper left corner towards the center (illustration 5)
6. Fold the upper part down (illustration 6)
7. Fold the triangle part down to make a beak (illustration 7)
8. Cut the section shown in illustration 7
9. Fold up the wings on both sides (illustration 8)
10. Glue beads or beans to the head for eyes
11. Make a line with glue on the border of the body and wings of the bird, sprinkle on salt and let it dry
12. Make a hole using a hole puncher in the top of the body and put a string through, so you can hang the bird from a window or some other place in the home.



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## ILLUSTRATION

Materials: blue colored poster board, white paper, illustration, markers

Instructions:

Use this illustration to make a big poster for the classroom that will serve as a reference point for the Bible story today.





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## ILLUSTRATION

John the Baptist



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ILLUSTRATION

