

JESUS IS GOD'S BELOVED SON

Bible References: Mt 3:1-17; Mk1:1-11; Lk 3:1-22; Jn 1:19-34



ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING (at classroom door):

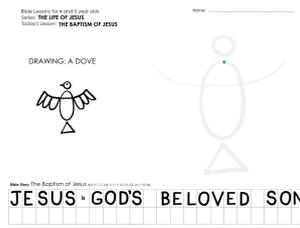
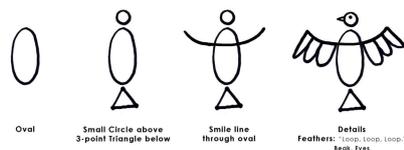
- In today's story, a voice from heaven declares, "JESUS IS MY BELOVED SON!"
- Let's declare together, **JESUS IS GOD'S BELOVED SON!**
- Repeat using ASL for **BELOVED SON**



JESUS
is GOD'S
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WORKTABLES / WORKSHEET PDF:

- Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized, not because He needed to confess sin (Jesus never sinned), but to give us an example of the right thing to do. He showed us how to please the Father in Heaven. God was so pleased with Jesus that He spoke from Heaven and said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased!" (Mt 3:17)
- Printing: JESUS IS GOD'S BELOVED SON
- Drawing: A DOVE [step by step](#)



SONGS AT CIRCLE:

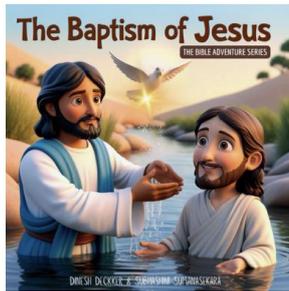
- Transition: [Criss Cross Applesauce](#)
- Year theme song: [God Covers Me in Armor](#)
- Song for January: [Create In Me A Clean Heart](#) /songsheet/ Instrument: Triangle
- Song for January: God's Word Is A Lamp To My Feet / [Tune and words](#)
- Song for January: [I'll Hide God's Word In My Heart, Heart, Heart](#)

BIBLE STORY PREPARATION:

- Song: Holy Spirit Teach Us / [Tune only](#) / [Lyrics and Actions](#)
- Find the story in one of the student Bibles. Encourage the children to read the story with their families at home.

BIBLE STORY:

- Read THE BAPTISM OF JESUS: Bible Adventure Series by Dekker and Sumanasekara



OR

STORYTELLING MAIN POINTS / MANIPULATIVES (Jesus, John, water, children):

- There was a man named **John**. He was getting the way ready for the coming of **The Mighty One** (One mightier than I), **The Messiah** (The Righteous and Good King Forever), **The Savior of the world!**
- John didn't know exactly who the Mighty One was going to be, but God promised to give John a sign: The Holy Spirit would come down like a dove and rest on this Mighty One from God!
- John was not the Mighty One. John was His servant.
- John decided to do everything he could to get ready for the Mighty One. He went to live in the wilderness near the **river** where he could pray and listen to God. He did not live a fancy life. He wore plain clothes and ate simple food. And he called other people to get ready, too. "Make straight the way of the LORD. Get your hearts ready by

telling God you're sorry for disobeying Him. And be baptized in the river. I will baptize you on the outside with water but the Mighty One will change you on the inside by His powerful Holy Spirit! He is MIGHTIER than I am, and He is close by! Come and get ready for HIM!"

- Many people stopped what they were doing and came to the river to repent (say sorry to God) and be baptized (Use *Children's Self Portrait Pieces to give examples of what it means to repent).
- **Girl Self Portrait #1:** "I want to tell God I'm sorry for my sin. My mom asked me to stop playing and put my toys away. I said no. I had to go in time out. God, I'm sorry for disobeying my mom. Please forgive me and help me to obey my parents."
- God forgives you when you tell Him you're sorry for your sin.
- Girl: "Thank you for forgiving me, God. Change my heart and make it new."
- Demonstrate the Girl being baptized. "God loves you. He is pleased with you. Now go and obey your parents!"
- **Boy Self Portrait #2:** "I want to tell God I'm sorry for my sin. I told my parents a lie. I said my brother broke it, but I broke it! God, I'm sorry for telling a lie. Please forgive me and help me always tell the truth."
- God forgives you when you tell Him you're sorry for your sin.
- Boy: "Thank you for forgiving me, God. Change my heart and make it new."
- Demonstrate Boy being baptized. "God loves you. He is pleased with you. Now go and tell the truth!"
- Some of the temple rulers came to the river. But they did not want to say sorry to God for their sin. They thought they were good enough by themselves. John called them poisonous snakes.
- People must tell God they are sorry because everyone has sinned. If we say we have not sinned, we are lying. The temple rulers went away with sinful hearts. They did not get ready for the Mighty One who was coming!
- Then **Jesus** came to the river. But Jesus was the Son of God. He was like us in every way except He had never sinned. He always obeyed His Heavenly Father. So He did not need to say sorry for sin. "Baptize Me anyway, John. I want to show people the right thing to do if they want to please God."
- So John put Jesus down under the water. Something amazing happened when JESUS came up out of the water. The Spirit of God came down out of heaven like a **dove** and rested on Jesus! And suddenly, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son. I am very pleased with Him!"
- Then John realized that **JESUS was the MIGHTY ONE**. Jesus had the power to wash and change hearts by His Holy Spirit. He would make hearts new and help people do what was right. John called Jesus, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- JESUS is the MIGHTY ONE! Only He can wash us on the inside and make us right with God.
- Jesus wants us to be baptized with water (as an outward sign) and by His Spirit (who washes and changes us on the inside).

ADDITIONAL LESSON MATERIALS:

- Play a video of a child from the congregation being baptized; interview a child who has been baptized OR attend a baptism service.
- Play an animated video: [Baptism of Jesus](#)

TRUTH or LIE CHALLENGE:

God spoke from heaven and said, "This is My Beloved Son". Do you think those words were powerful or weak?

PRAYER: [PDF](#)

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



Let's Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father...

Choose one prompt or create your own:

WORSHIP: JESUS IS GOD'S BELOVED SON!

THANKSGIVING: THANK YOU JESUS for showing us the right thing to do.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES: Can you remember a time when you disobeyed?
(give a personal example of confession)

Rev 5:8



in Jesus' name, Amen!

CLASSROOM INVITATIONAL BLESSING:

But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done. 1 Jn 1:9

FREE PLAY IN CENTERS: Release children one at a time, with their play cards, to choose a center.

- **DRY TABLE: Cube Stacking/Counting Center**



- **TRAIN TABLE: Roadway with Cars, Trucks, Buses and Houses/Buildings**
- **KITCHEN: Standard Set-Up**
- **PLAY DOUGH: Assorted Playdough Colors / SHAPE Cutters**

GAME:

If parents have not arrived after 5 minutes of quiet reading, lead the children in a game (such as Bean Bag Toss, Duck Duck Goose, Doggie Doggie Who Has My Bone, I Spy, etc.).

DISMISSAL:

Assign an adult to greet parents/guardians.

Call students ONE AT A TIME when families arrive. Prompt the remaining student to call out, "GOODBYE (student's name)."

Families check mailboxes.

Today's TAKE HOME: dove worksheet / [Baptism of Jesus Booklet](#)