



Life of Christ

Jesus is baptized

Matthew 3:13-17

Younger Verse

Change your ways and be baptized. Acts 2:38a

Older Verse

Change your ways and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a

Lesson Goals

Understand why people are baptized
Describe what it means to be baptized
Help the children understand how to follow Jesus Christ

Welcome Time

Ask the kids if they have ever seen someone baptized. Explain that today's lesson will focus on Jesus' baptism. Challenge them to listen. (little ones may make a splash noise at the appropriate time)

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

When Jesus was 30 years old, He went from his home to a river that was close by. There He met a man named John who was telling the people to change their ways and do what is right because the Lord was coming soon. John baptized the people who decided they wanted to change and follow God.

Jesus came to John and asked John to baptize Him. At first, John did not want to do this because Jesus was perfect and did not do wrong. Jesus then explained that being baptized was something that God wanted Him to do. It was a way to show everyone that Jesus was obeying God and following God.

So John took Jesus into the river and baptized Him. (splash, splash) When Jesus came up out of the water, the Heavens opened and God's Spirit came down like a dove. Then a voice from Heaven spoke and said, "This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with Him."

John told the people that Jesus was God's Son. He knew this because of what he saw that day.

Jesus obeyed God. He did everything that His Father told Him.

Let's talk a few minutes about what it means to be baptized...

Baptism is a picture that tells a story. Romans 6:4 tells us that it is a picture of what Jesus did for us. As a person goes down into the water it is a picture of how Jesus died on a cross and was buried for our wrongs. When a person comes up out of the water, it is a picture of how Jesus rose again. (Please explain that the water doesn't save them, Jesus does. There is nothing magical about being baptized. It is a picture telling people that we trust Jesus and want to follow Him.)

Baptism tells people that we believe in Jesus and trust Him in our hearts. It also tells people that we have been changed and are ready to do what God wants.

Being baptized also is a way we obey God, just like Jesus did. God tells us in His Word, the Bible, that we are to be baptized when we believe and trust Jesus.

What is one thing a person must do before they are baptized? (Listen carefully to the answers because they will tell you what the children believe.) Explain that a person must trust Jesus and ask Jesus to come into his life. Explain that they can do this right now.

Share how you (the teacher) trusted Jesus and was baptized.

If someone is interested in being baptized, ask these questions:

What must a person do before they are baptized? (Ask the person to tell you about their experience. Try not to use yes or no questions.)

What does baptism tell about Jesus?

What does baptism tell others about you?

What do we promise when we are baptized?

Set up a time to talk to interested kids about this. Begin to teach them more about what it means to be a Christian (discipleship).

Learning Activities

Use activities that will be helpful for the kids.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask the kids why they believe God is pleased with Jesus. Wait for responses. Explain again the lesson if necessary so that they understand how Jesus obeyed God and He wanted to show people that He was following God.

Prayer Time

Prayer is a way to listen and hear what God wants. As we listen, we can obey. When you start praying, ask for a moment of silence so that each person can pray silently to God, then close in prayer.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks and talk about the lesson. Ask them questions and respond. Help them see how they can apply the lesson to their lives (see lesson goals).

Note: Teachers, this lesson speaks about **baptism**. Please be sensitive to the needs of your children. When sharing the lesson, please do not coax children into the desire for baptism. Let the Holy Spirit do what He does best! When teaching, be sure to help the kids understand that baptism is a picture of what Jesus did, it tells others something about us, it is a promise to God, and it is an act of obedience to God.

Planning for April 21st
Philip and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:26-40
When can I be baptized?

Preschool Lesson
for
Jesus is baptized

(We will use motions in our story today.)

Let's hear about something special that happened when Jesus was a grown-up man.

Jesus was walking near a river. (Let your fingers make walking motions) The river made splashing noises as it traveled through the country. (Make splashing noises)

Jesus knew that one of His friends named John was down by the river. He listened to God and went down to the river. Jesus saw His friend John baptizing people. That means that he was carefully helping people go under the water and come up again. It was not a game. It was a way to show other people that they wanted to follow God and do what He wanted.

Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. So, John baptized Him (Make a splash noise). When Jesus came up from the water, a special bird flew down (wrap your thumbs together and flap your fingers like a bird). Then, God said in a loud voice "This is my Son, Jesus, who I love and am very pleased with."

When Jesus was baptized, it was a way to show everyone that He was obeying God and following God.

John told the people that Jesus was God's Son. He knew this because of what he saw that day.

Jesus obeyed God. He did everything that His Father told Him.

Pray and thank God for loving us. Ask Him to help us do the right things.

Hands-on Activities
for
Jesus is baptized

Teach the kids how to make an origami bird (instructions are included). Tell the story again and let the kids use their birds to fly down when Jesus is baptized.

Fill sandwich size zipper bags half full with water. Decorate little corks to look like Jesus. Carefully place the cork in the bag. As it bobs up and down it will remind the children that Jesus was baptized. You may want to write the verse on the bag with permanent marker or tape a message to the side.

Make blue Jello and pretend that it was the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized.

Illustrate Jesus' face on the side of an old fashioned clothes pin. The kids may want to use scraps of material to make His clothes or use markers to design them. Have a bowl of water handy to dramatize the story. Let them try it with their little Jesus' pins.

The word baptism literally means to "be dipped." Back in Jesus time, the fabric merchants would dye fabric by dipping it in a dye. When it came up out of the solution, it was a different color. When we are baptized, it is a picture of what God had already done in our lives. Like the fabric is changed, our lives are changed by Jesus. He cleans out all the sin and helps us live for Him and do things His way. (Teachers, you may want to illustrate by dipping a paper towel in food coloring and show how it is changed.)