

6. Jesus Is Baptized (Mark 1:9-11)

So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.
(Mark 6:12)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Jesus Is Baptized
Voices
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Name Dove
Cup Baptism
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape | Watercolor brushes/paint

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Bowls | Candle | Carpet squares | Cups (plastic) | Multipurpose lighter | Tub | Water

Bless: Cup | Envelope | Medicine dropper | Towel | Water

Before You Teach

In Mark, the shortest Gospel, the story of Jesus' life is told succinctly with few details. Mark skipped Jesus' birth, noting that the beginning of God's Son's ministry "happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah" (Mark 1:2). The first story Mark told was Jesus' baptism by John. He identified John as the one whom Isaiah foretold would prepare the way for God's Messenger.

Although the Book of Mark doesn't provide John's background, we know from Luke that John was the child born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. Even before his birth, John's parents were told that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that he would turn many people to God. Luke also wrote that Elizabeth was a relative of Mary, making John the Baptist and Jesus related. The Bible doesn't tell us whether John and Jesus knew each other as children.

Thirty years after the births of John and Jesus, John was in the wilderness wearing camel's hair, eating locusts and wild honey, baptizing people in the Jordan River, and exhorting people to acknowledge their sin and accept God's forgiveness. John encouraged people to be baptized as a way of preparing for One who would come to bring the Holy Spirit to God's people. John was speaking, of course, of Jesus. One day, as John was going about the business of baptizing people, Jesus came from Nazareth to be baptized by John. As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice from heaven claimed Jesus as God's Son.

As you teach today's lesson, be sensitive to those children who have not been baptized. Reassure the children that it is not baptism that makes one a child of God; each of us is already claimed by God as God's child. Baptism is a symbol that we acknowledge God's claim on us.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “All Are Welcome” and “Only You” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as he or she enters the room.
 - Indicate location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Jesus Is Baptized (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 6).

- Distribute “If You’re Happy and You Know It!”/“Jesus and John” (pp. 13-14).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Voices (Game)

- Gather the children in a circle.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, a voice from heaven spoke to Jesus.

ASK: What do you think that voice might have sounded like?

SAY: Let’s work around the circle and say, “I find happiness in you!” When it’s your turn, speak in a voice that might sound like God.

- Invite the children, one at a time, to say the phrase in whatever voice they want to make.

TIP: *To make the activity more engaging, provide megaphones, microphones, and other items that amplify voices.*

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Use Transitions as tools to help children easily move from one activity to the next.*

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Mark 1:9-11*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 6.

ASK: Have you ever seen a baptism?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 6).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the role of Narrator, then present “Jesus Is Baptized.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 2 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 12 & 21). Review Unit 2 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 92).

- Recite the Bible verse, “So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives” (Mark 6:12).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Name Dove (Art)

Before class: Gather paint supplies. Place bowls of water on tables. Photocopy “Name Dove” (Leader Guide—p. 42) on cardstock, one per child.

- Distribute the photocopies of “Name Dove.”

SAY: In today’s Bible story, God said Jesus is God’s Son. You, too, are a child of God!

- Direct the children to cut out the dove, then cut pieces of tape to spell their names on the doves.
- Paint over the tape with watercolors. When the paint dries, remove the tape.

OR

B—Cup Baptism (Experiential)

Before class: Gather plastic cups and a utility tub. Fill tub with water. Decorate two sample cups.

- Distribute the cups, two per child. One cup will represent John the Baptist and the other Jesus. Direct the children to decorate the cups (cups upside down) to look like the Bible characters.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, John baptized Jesus. Let’s reenact the story with our cups.

- Let the children take turns putting their cups in the water. Push down on the top of the “Jesus” cup to submerge it. Let the John the Baptist cup float on the water’s surface. Allow the children to play with the cups and retell the story.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 6: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 6 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 5). Photocopy “Collection for Jubilee Project” (Leader Guide—p. 94), one per child.

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 6 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the mission.

SAY: Today we are learning about a new mission project called “The Jubilee Project.” The Jubilee Project helps people who live in poverty and do not have clean water. I will send home a project for you and your family to collect money to support this mission project.

- Review the worksheet. Send the photocopies home with the children.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to each choose a carpet square, then sit in a circle on the floor.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 2 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 12 & 21) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 2 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 29). Cut out poster pieces and store in an envelope.

- Gather the children around the new Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the poster piece “Jesus accepts me.”

PRAY: Thank you, Jesus, for always accepting me. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets (new, located in Bible Story Sheets).

- Distribute the song sheets for “Only You” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Only You” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sign the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 92).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

Before class: Obtain a cup of water, medicine dropper, and a towel. Fill the dropper with water.

- Direct the children to be seated in their chairs in a circle.
- Working inside the circle, place a drop a water on the back of each child’s hand.
- As the water runs off the child’s hand, say the blessing.

SAY: You are dearly loved.

At Home with God

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 6 leaflet.

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Name Dove

