

Lesson 9: Finding Jesus at the Jordan

Matthew 3:13:17, Mark 1:1-11

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn about the story of Jesus' baptism Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:1-11
- 2) Find Jesus by obeying and following His example
- 3) Make a dove to help remember story
- 4) Color a picture to remember story
- 5) Play a board game to remember what was learned today and reinforce the story

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

- Bible and Bibles to share
- Attendance Sheet and Stickers
- Crayons
- Baptism color sheet
- Dove Cardstock templates
- White or gray Tissue paper or Coffee filter (for wings) one for each student
- Tape or glue
- Wiggly eyes (optional) 2 for each student
- Board game (printed on cardstock) one game for every 4 students if possible
- Dice (one for each game being played)
- Game tokens or buttons to use as place markers (one for each student)
- Scissors (one for each student)

Optional

Snack: Stick Pretzels	handful per student
Gold fish crackers and/or	handful per student
Ocean Shaped Fruit Snacks	
Honey	1 teaspoon per student on plate
Juice or Water	1 per student
Cup, Plate, Napkin	1 per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson: Story of Jesus and Coloring Page 10 minutes

As students enter welcome them back for another Sunday lesson. Take attendance.

Say, **"Remember earlier we learned that to find Jesus we need to look in the Bible? We also learned that Jesus is the Son of God and He loved us so much He came to earth to be an example to teach us how to follow Him. Now we are going to learn how to find Jesus at the Jordan River, because that is where Jesus was baptized.**

Can anyone tell me what a river is? Raise your hand if you know. (River is water flowing from one source to a larger source, it is long, skinny, etc.)

Ask the children, **"Have you ever seen anyone get baptized? Did you think it was scary, neat, or no big deal?** Let students answer

It is a big deal, and very neat and we will learn why because even Jesus did it."

We are going to hand out a picture of a Jesus being baptized at the river. (hand out picture along with crayons to color) **This picture is not a real picture of Jesus - we don't know what Jesus really looked like, there were no cameras back then to take pictures, but this is just**

to help us remember that Jesus was baptized, and that means going fully under the water and being immersed and then coming out again."

Let's color the picture and while you color I am going to explain and read the account of Jesus being baptized. Everyone ready to listen?

Let's read the story exactly from the Bible, in Mark 1:1-11

¹The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

³"a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.' " And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

There once was a man named John the Baptist. He was a preacher and prophet sent from God and was telling people to ask for forgiveness for things they had done wrong. He wanted to help others change their lives so they could follow God and do what was right.

He was doing this not to be better than Jesus, but to prepare the way for Jesus. By preaching to others to feel bad for their mistakes, to ask for forgiveness, and by teaching that they needed God in their life John was preparing the people to hear from Jesus himself.

John was a man who wanted to live a very simple life. He felt that having a lot of things wasn't important, instead he traveled the desert and told others about what good things God was doing in his life, and how God could do good things in their life too.

For food he ate insects like locusts (which are like grasshoppers) and he would find some wild honey to eat with them. Remember John wanted to live a simple life, he felt like God was all he needed. Nothing else was more important. And John was right!

When people heard that John was in the area they would come from all over to listen to him and get baptized. Now for some of you, you might not quite understand what baptism is, and that's okay. If you've ever seen someone get baptized it's sort of like taking a bath with clothes on but for a very important and special reason.

When someone believes in God, baptism is a way of obeying God and showing others, God, and yourself that you believe in Him and want to live your life the way God wants. It's like having a bath to make yourself clean on the inside spiritually. When you get baptized it's a special way of showing that you understand that you want and need God's forgiveness. Baptism is done when you are old enough to want to live your life serving God and

knowing what God expects from you. In the examples from the Bible only people that were old enough to understand, study the Bible, and who recognized they had sin in their life got baptized, no babies or very small children got baptized.

When some men named the Pharisees and Sadducees came to listen to John he had a strict warning for them. They needed to feel bad for the wrong things they had done and ask forgiveness for their mistakes. But these men didn't think they were doing anything wrong, they weren't sorry, so John would not baptize them.

As people were coming to John to be baptized, they were wondering if he was the Saviour – the one that would save the people from their sins – that they had waited for. John heard what they were saying and he told them, "I am baptizing you now, but very soon someone greater than me will come. He is so great that if He asked me to carry His shoes it would be an amazing honor."

John continued to preach and baptize people until one day Jesus came by to be baptized. John didn't know what to say, all he knew was that how could he, just a regular person baptize Jesus the Saviour of the world?

John said to Jesus, "You should be baptizing me, I cannot baptize you Lord." Jesus replied, "It's important that I do this now, I am ready and I want to be an example to others and show them that it's important to do what is right and obey God completely."

Even though Jesus had never sinned, He wanted to be baptized because God told Him to. So John took Jesus and baptized Him. He placed his hand on His back and laid him down into the water till He was covered and brought Him back up again. And just as soon as Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water, heaven was opened up and the Holy Spirit came like a beautiful white dove and landed on Jesus. The Holy Spirit wasn't actually a dove, but it seemed like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with Him I am well pleased."

Just like when Jesus died, was buried and rose again baptism is just like that. When we lay down into the water we are dying to sin and allowing God to get rid of all the bad things we've done. Under the water we are buried, and then when we are brought out of the water we are a brand-new person to God with our sins forgiven and a new life serving God and Jesus. We are resurrected spiritually.

Baptism is important because Jesus made sure this was the first thing He did before He started His ministry. It is also the last thing He said before going up to heaven, He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:19-20

Following Jesus means following His example when we are old enough. Jesus obeyed God and so should we. Jesus wanted to do what God wanted and He obeyed and that made God very happy.

How can we find Jesus at the river? We need to follow and obey His example!

As children finish coloring have them put their crayons away and clean up. Also make sure each child has their name written on the back of their coloring sheet.

Ask them if they have anymore questions about baptism to clear up any confusion. Even go take a look at the baptismal area for those that have never witnessed a baptism if available. For those

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Questions to ask:

Read Matthew 3:13-17 from the Bible out loud.

- 1) From the story, how did John the Baptizer react when Jesus asked to be baptized? (He tried to stop Jesus saying in fact Jesus needed to baptize John)
- 2) Why did Jesus come to John the Baptizer? (to be baptized by John)
- 3) Name 2 characters from the story. (Jesus and John)
- 4) What type of bird was mentioned that the Holy Spirit was like in the story? (dove)
- 5) What did the Holy Spirit do? (descend or come down and land or lighting on Jesus)
- 6) What actually came down from heaven according to verse 16? (Spirit of God/ Holy Spirit)
- 7) What did God say after Jesus was baptized? (God was happy “well pleased” and/or that “this is My Son”)
- 8) Why did Jesus get baptized? (“To fulfill all righteousness”)
- 9) What does “fulfill all righteousness” mean? (follow the requirements God has set out to be right with God)
- 10) What river was Jesus baptized in? (Jordan)
- 11) Why was God happy with Jesus? (because Jesus obeyed and wanted to “fulfill all righteousness”)
- 12) It says Jesus went up OUT of the water, does that mean He was first put in the water? (YES)
- 13) Was Jesus sprinkled with water or fully immersed (put under the water)? (fully immersed)
- 14) Did Jesus obey God? (YES) How do we know? (God was well pleased when Jesus was baptized)
- 15) What are two ways we can follow Jesus? (Be baptized when we are old enough, read the Bible and do the things that make God happy that we read about in the Bible, go to worship services on Sunday, etc.)
- 16) From this story who is Jesus? (God’s Son)
- 17) When Jesus was baptized where did the Spirit of God come from? (heaven opened)

4) Close in prayer

2-5 minutes

Thank God that He sent His Son Jesus and that we can learn about God and Jesus in the Bible. Thank God also for the account of Jesus baptism and pray that all in this room will also want to follow Jesus’ example when old enough and having studied the importance, reasons and requirements of baptism. Pray that we will remember to read our Bibles as we grow.

5) Sing Songs:

5 minutes

If time ask the students what songs they would like to sing, have assistants help you sing. Examples could be: *Jesus loves me *B-I-B-L-E

6) Optional – Snack: Gone Fishing Snack

5 minutes

Stick pretzels	5-10 per student
Gold fish crackers and/or	5-10 per student
Ocean shaped fruit snacks	
Honey	1 teaspoon per student
Juice or Water	1 glass per student
Cup, Plate, and Napkin	1 per student

Have the kids go fishing for their snack...

Put all of the above on a paper plate for each child. Tell the children to dip their pretzels (fishing rods) into the honey (bait) and then try to catch a fish! Serve with juice or water.