

The Baptism of Jesus

Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. After his baptism, Jesus came out of the water. In that very moment the heavens were opened and he saw the Holy Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. And then a voice from heaven said: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



“Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’”

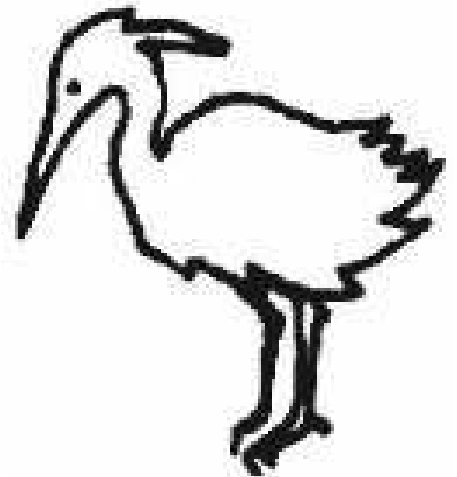
Matthew 3:15

Why didn't John
want to baptize
Jesus?



After Jesus' baptism, the heavens
opened and the Spirit of God
descended on him like a...

Color all the birds and you will find out the answer!



Lesson 7

The Baptism of Jesus

Biblical text: Matthew 3:13-17

Key verse: Matthew 3:15

Purpose: The children will understand the meaning of the Jesus' baptism and of the baptism of the ones who follow Christ.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

After the children finish the coloring page, the teacher reads from the Bible, the passage from the Gospel by Matthew 3:13-17, interpreting with intonation the roles, where the dialog appears. Then, discuss the passage with the children helping them understand baptism, using questions and answers. Some of the questions that the teacher may ask are:

- What is baptism? – The confession of faith in front of one or more witnesses; a symbol: death to sin and the resurrection together with Christ to a new life- the eternal life.
- Who needs to be baptized and when? – Those that realize they are sinners and choose to receive Jesus as their Savior decide to get baptized which is a way to confess in public that they want to accept God's will.
- Why did Jesus get baptized? Was he a sinner? –No, he was not. He had never committed sin. He simply wanted to fulfill God's will as it is said in Matthew 3:15. He wanted to be an example for all Christians.
- Why do we need to be baptized? –in order for us to do what is right and to follow Lord Jesus.
- Does baptism save a person? –No, it does not. The death of the Lord Jesus on the cross saves us all. By baptism we show that we want to follow Jesus in each and every way.

II. Activities

1. Key Verse

A .Read out loud the Bible verse:

“Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’”
Matthew 3:15

b. Explain that Jesus was baptized not because he was a sinner, but because he wanted to fulfill God's will. He is an example for us. That's why we need to do the same thing, and only if we have received him in our lives as our Savior. Baptism is not for babies because they can not choose to follow Jesus.

c. Help the children to memorize the Bible memory verse.

2. Review questions for the children:

- Why did Jesus come to the Jordan River?
- Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus?
- What did Jesus answer?
- What happened after Jesus' baptism?
- What does the dove represent?
- Who spoke from Heaven?
- What did God say?
- Who is Jesus?

III. Conclusion.

Baptism is a symbol in which we confess that we are God's children, saved the Lord Jesus. Baptism does not save us from our sins. It shows that we do not want to commit sin any more and we want to live in the presence of God. Baptism is a public demonstration that takes place after a person has believed in Jesus Christ as his or her savior. The decision to be baptized is made by each individual person. Nobody can make this decision for us: not our mother nor our father, only us. Even the Lord Jesus made his own decision regarding his baptism when he was an adult.