

Three easy steps for an at-home experience!



BIG IDEA: JESUS IS GOD'S SON

This week we are introduced to John the Baptist, then learn how Jesus came to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. As Jesus was coming out of the water, God spoke and affirmed his love for Jesus, saying "This is my Son. I love him. I am very pleased with him." God made it very clear who Jesus was and where his authority came from. We affirm our love and devotion to Jesus by being baptized.



STEP ONE: READ THE BIBLE STORY

Matthew 3:1-17 in the NIV Bible.
Pages 286-289 in the Read With Me Bible.

STEP TWO: WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO

Available at youtube.com/eastviewkids
Road Trip - Week 2



STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

FOR ALL KIDS: Act It Out

Materials: None

Act out the story of Jesus' baptism. Assign each person a role: John, Jesus, voice of God, bystanders. You can change roles and act it out several times.

Follow up with some questions:

- What does being baptized mean? Being immersed totally underwater.
- Why did the people come to John to be baptized? They wanted to show everyone else that they loved and wanted to follow God. They also did it because God said to do it to "wash" away their sins.
- Did Jesus need to be baptized? Jesus had no sin to wash away but it was important for Him to do it so He could follow what God had commanded.
- Is the water Jesus was baptized in special? No, it was just water. It was the act of being baptized and following God's commands that was important.



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FOR OLDER KIDS:

Materials: Toilet paper, bowl of water

Baptism is a symbol for the forgiveness of our sins and the freedom to live a new life in Christ. Use this object lesson to illustrate this point to your family.

Choose one family member to be a volunteer. Have them hold out their hand. Wrap the toilet paper tightly around their fingers about ten times. Make sure it is so snug that they cannot spread their fingers apart.

Explain that the toilet paper represents sin. And the wrapped hand represents how each of us is bound by our sin.

Ask the family member to attempt to spread their fingers apart. They can't.

Because of our sin, our relationship with God is broken. But Jesus forgives our sins. He cleanses us from every wrong thing we have done, so we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and live a new life in Jesus. This truth is expressed by baptism.

Have the family member submerge their hand into a bowl or large cup of water and keep it there while everyone else counts to 20. After counting to 20, have the family member attempt to spread their fingers apart and remove their hand from the water--leaving all the "sin" behind.

Follow-up: The act of baptism does not save us. We are saved when we put our trust in Jesus and make him the leader of our lives. We are baptized out of obedience to the Word of God.

Read Acts 2:38 "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.



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