

# Sunday School Lesson: The Baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:13-17

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 [ministry-to-children.com/jesus-baptism-lesson](http://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-baptism-lesson)

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March 21,  
2016

Teach about the Baptism of Jesus with this free Sunday School Lesson. Kids need to learn about Baptism. This lesson is from Matthew 3:13-17.

## About this Sunday School Lesson

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**Title:** Jesus' Baptism

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:11-17 and John 1:29-34

**Sunday School Age Group:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Lesson Main Idea:** People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.)

**Supplies:** Bibles, marker board, markers, pictures of signs (stop sign, deer crossing, railroad crossing, and someone being baptized)



## More Activities for your Sunday School Lesson

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- Download the [Jesus Baptism coloring page](#) free from our website.
  - Compare another [Sunday School Lesson on Jesus Baptism](#)
  - Watch our [Bible object lesson on Baptism](#)
  - Compare the [preschool Bible lesson on Jesus Baptism](#)
  - Download our [New Christian workbook for kids](#) (baptism page included in lesson download)
  - See our [Pastor Baptizing a Child coloring page](#) (included in the lesson plan)
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## Sunday School Lesson about the Baptism of Jesus

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## Kids Respond: What is Baptism?

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- **Ask:** What are some ways that we use water at home or school? What about at church?
- **Say:** Today we will be learning about baptism.
- **Ask:** Does anyone know what baptism is? Have you ever seen someone get baptized?
- **Say:** People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin. Baptism is an outward demonstration of an internal decision to follow Jesus. Being baptized doesn't save a person, only Jesus can do that. But baptism is a way for someone to publically declare that they are a follower of Jesus.
- **Say:** In today's lesson we'll learn about Jesus' baptism and how he calls us to be baptized as well.

## Bible Lesson on Matthew 3:13-17

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*Hold up pictures of the various signs (stop sign, railroad crossing, etc.) Have the kids tell you what the various signs mean.*

**Say:** We see lots of signs every day that give us information. Here's a picture of another type of sign. *Show the picture of the person being baptized.*

**Ask:** Does anyone know what's happening in this picture?

**Say:** Today we're going to learn about another kind of sign called baptism. **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.**

**Ask:** Has anyone ever seen someone get baptized?

**Say:** Baptism is a way for someone to show that they are unified with Jesus. Everything about baptism is symbolic. The water represents God's judgment of sin. Going under the water represents God's punishment for sin that Jesus took for us. Coming out of the water symbolizes the new life that they have in Christ.

**Say:** Our story today comes from the books Matthew and John. These are two of the four gospels. Let's name all four gospels together. (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.*) Remember, the gospels are the first four books in the New Testament that tell about Jesus' life on earth.

**Say:** Last week we learned about a man named John the Baptist. John was a messenger who lived in the wilderness and preached to the people who came out to see him. Does anyone remember what he taught the people about?

**Say:** John taught that they must prepare their hearts for Jesus by repenting of their sin. John also baptized people in the Jordan River. Why were the people baptized? **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.** John told them that he baptized them

with water, but someone would come after him who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit! Who do you think he was talking about? (*Jesus*)

**Tell the Story:** At that time Jesus had not yet started his ministry. He had been working as a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. The people were still waiting for the Messiah to be revealed: they didn't know it was Jesus! Even John didn't know who it was, but God had given John a special sign to look for. God told John that he would see God's Spirit descend on someone, and that man would be the promised Messiah.

One day Jesus came to see John as he was preaching to the people. Let's read from God's Word to hear what happened.

**Read John 1:29-31** *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.'"*

**Ask:** What did John call Jesus? (*The Lamb of God.*)

**Say:** That might sound really strange to us, but being referred to as the Lamb of God was actually really important. You see lambs were sacrificed in the temple for the people's sins. The people had to offer lambs over and over again because an animal couldn't truly take away their sin. Only God's perfect Son could do that. By calling Jesus the Lamb of God John was saying that Jesus was the Messiah who would die for the sins of all the people, and that anyone who believed in Him would be forgiven.

**Tell the Story:** Jesus came to John asking to be baptized. John was shocked by this and said, "You're the one who should be baptizing me and you're asking *me* to baptize *you*!?" Jesus replied, "You should baptize me because this is part of how I will fulfill all righteousness." John agreed and baptized Jesus right there in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water John saw something incredible. He saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove. Then he heard the voice of God saying, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* Then John knew without a doubt that Jesus was the Messiah whom God had promised from long ago.

**Ask:** If **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin**, why do you think it was important for Jesus to be baptized? He was absolutely perfect so there was no sin in His life for him to turn away from!

**Say:** Jesus was baptized in order to identify with the sinful people He came to save and to give us a model for obedience to God. Jesus came to "fulfill all righteousness" and part of that includes being baptized!

**Ask:** Just because someone is baptized, does that mean they are saved and their sins are forgiven? (No)

**Say:** Baptism by itself doesn't save us. In **Romans 10:9** it says that, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* Our sins are forgiven only when we trust in Jesus as our Savior, and our baptism is a sign that we have decided to follow Him.

**Say:** When people are baptized they have an opportunity to tell their story of how they came to know and love Jesus. This is always such an encouraging time for everyone in the church! **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.** Baptism is always a celebration! Baptism is a sweet reminder of God's great love for us and is a special way to share your faith with the rest of the world.

**Pray** *Dear God thank you for the gift of baptism as a way to show that we are connected to Christ. We thank you for what an encouraging celebration it is to witness someone being baptized. We also thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for our sins so we could be united with Him and be welcomed into your kingdom. Amen.*

## Lesson Review Questions

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- What was the main point from our lesson? (People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.)
- What two books of the Bible did our story come from? (Matthew, John)
- What is the purpose of baptism? (It's an outward demonstration of our choice to follow Jesus)
- John said he would baptize with \_\_\_\_\_ and Jesus would baptize with \_\_\_\_\_. (Water, Spirit)
- What type of bird did John see come down from Heaven? (Dove)
- How are the three members of the Trinity represented in this story? (Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and God the Father speaks from heaven.)

## Kids learn the Bible memory verse

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Supplies: Bibles

- Let the kids work in groups of 3-4 and pass out Bibles to each kid/group.
- **Read Romans 6:3-4.**

- **Explain** that baptism is a symbol. It is an outward sign of an inward reality that we have decided to follow Christ. Going into the water represents being buried with Christ. Our old (sinful) self is dead. Coming up out of the water represents being made alive in Christ. When we trust in Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin. While we do still sin this side of eternity, we trust and know that we are forgiven because Christ died for us.
- You (the teacher) may want to share the story of how you were baptized and how you came to make the decision to be baptized.
- Give the kids a chance to ask questions about baptism.
- Encourage the kids to work in their groups to come up with a way to act out the verse. Talk through some of the key words in the verse and (if they need it) help them think of actions that might go along with those words.

## Sunday School Game for Kids

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Play a game of “Hangman” to review the key words and concepts of the Sunday School lesson.

Supplies: Marker board and markers

- Play a few rounds of Hangman on the marker board using words or phrases from today’s lesson (ex: Baptism, Unified with Christ, Jordan River, etc.)
- Use this time to review the key words and phrases and give the kids an opportunity to ask questions.

## Sunday School Crafts about the Baptism of Jesus

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Try these [Baptism crafts](#)! They will help teach about the Baptism of Jesus in your Kids’ Sunday School class. See more Bible crafts, activities, and coloring pages on our website. These Bible crafts teach kids about the Holy Spirit and Identity in Christ. Download the craft directions. Then watch the demonstration video below.

[Download Directions](#)

Crafts on the Baptism of Jesus for Sunday School  
Watch this video [on YouTube](#).

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## More Sunday School Lessons

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Find more Sunday School resources and [Bible lesson plans for kids](#). Visit our new [Sunday School](#) website or see our [latest church curriculum](#).



THANK YOU  
GOD  
for  
EVERYDAY  
HEROES!



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

# I Was Baptized

I was baptized on

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(write date here)

at

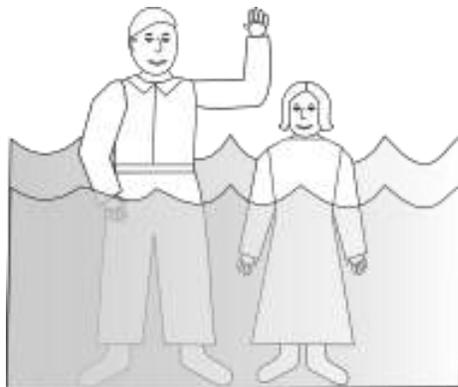
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(place)

by

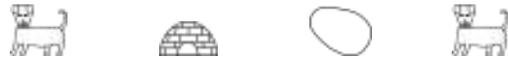
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(name of pastor)



# What Does My Baptism Show?

Baptism shows that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_



on the cross, was buried, and came back to

\_\_\_\_\_.



Baptism shows that I \_\_\_\_\_ to sin



(turned away from my sin) and started a new

\_\_\_\_\_ following Jesus.



Code:



D E F I L

# Word Review

Find each word in the puzzle and think about why it is important.

BAPTISM	GROWING	PEOPLE
BIBLE	JESUS	PRAYER
CHRISTIAN	GOD	PREACHING
CHURCH	LEARNING	SINGING
FELLOWSHIP	LORD'S SUPPER	WORSHIP
	MINISTRY	

M I N I S T R Y D H G N G F  
 F U O R E Y Q Q P E O P L E  
 R H Z A J E S U S R D I W L  
 I C H R I S T I A N U H I L  
 P R E A C H I N G T D S P O  
 R U C N S O M N C I E R V W  
 A H G R O W I N G L E O M S  
 Y C C L B N B L B U E W L H  
 E W A S R T K I N M K S F I  
 R J O A P G B A P T I S M P  
 T J E X G N I G N I S Z A H  
 Y L O R D S S U P P E R V X

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# Baptism Blessings!

## Craft ideas related to the Baptist of Jesus

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These Bible crafts teach kids about the Holy Spirit and Identity in Christ. Try these Baptism crafts! They will help teach about the Baptism of Jesus in your Kids' Sunday School class. See more Bible crafts, activities, and coloring pages on our website.

There are bound to be questions and even some confusions when it comes to the baptism of Jesus, or baptism in general. These crafts serve as a reminder of the baptism of Jesus, representing the story of the Holy Spirit's presence as well as the blessings found in salvation.

### Baptism of Jesus teaching ideas

- [Video example of this craft](#)
- [Jesus Baptism Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Matthew 3:13-17 children's sermon](#)
- [Jesus Baptism Coloring Page](#)
- See more [Sunday School Crafts](#)



### Verses or Captions to Consider...

- *And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* -Matthew 3:17
- *Jesus is God...and He came for you and me!*
- *I am a new creation in Christ....God washed my sins away!*
- *Jesus was baptized...and so am I. God makes me clean and new.*



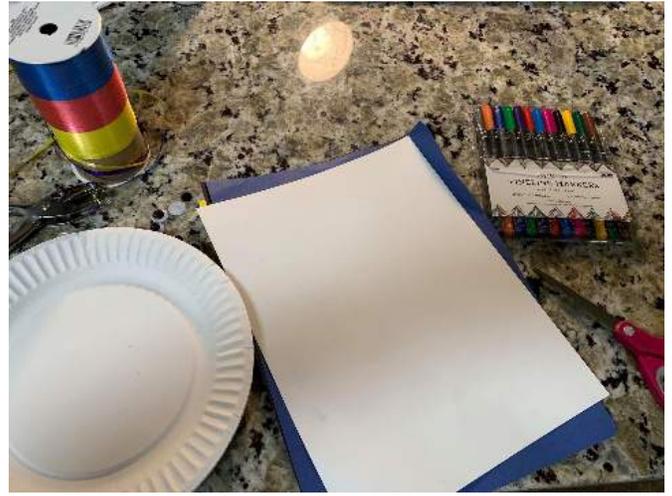
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# Craft one: “Holy Spirit Dove”

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## Craft supplies you will need:

- Pipe Cleaners or string
- Scissors
- Paper plates
- Markers or decorating materials
- Google eyes
- Paper or coffee filters



## Craft directions procedure:

1. Cut or fold the paper plate into a bird-like shape.
2. Decorate the bird with color (if desired), a “beak”, and eyes.
3. Cut a slit into the side of the bird.
4. Carefully place a coffee filter or paper “wings” into the slit to serve as wings.
5. Attach a string if you would like to hang your dove, and a verse caption on the side.



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# Craft Two: “Jesus is Baptized”

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## Craft supplies you will need:

- Paper or Styrofoam cups
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Decorative materials (markers, fabric paint)
- Construction paper
- Popsicle sticks or clothespins



## Craft directions:

1. Decorate your cup with “river waves” or a sunshine scene.
2. Add verse caption, if desired.
3. Carefully stick popsicle stick through the bottom of the cup.
4. Color a Jesus figure (pre-printed or hand-drawn) and cut out.
5. Attach the “Jesus” onto the popsicle stick.
6. Make another stick with a dove figure, or attach the dove separately.
7. Watch the dove and “Jesus” go down into the cup (water) and come from above.



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# “Blessing of Baptism”

Children’s Sermon Object Lesson on Matthew 3:13-17

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## Children’s Message: Blessings of Baptism

A Cleansing Reminder and Godly Example

**Main Objective:** Baptism has varied significance, practice, and detail across different denominations. However, it is done, though, it is important to note its importance in reminding us of our salvation. This lesson communicates that to kids, and emphasizes that Jesus was baptized as well, in order to demonstrate for us and to affirm who He was.

**Law/Gospel Theme:** Baptism reminds us of who we are in Christ. We have “died” with Him and been made new creations. It is a blessing and privilege to remember that God has washed away our sins and given us transformation. Because of Jesus, we can draw near to God.

**Object Lesson Props:** Water (water bottle, cup, or pitcher), soap, dove/bird ornament

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 3:13-17

**Baptism of Jesus teaching ideas**

- [Jesus Baptism crafts](#)
- [Jesus Baptism Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Jesus Baptism Coloring Page](#)

**Message:** Note: As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. If your church has a baptismal font or tub, it might be helpful to incorporate it within your object lesson.



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# Children's Sermon on Jesus Baptism

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*Greet the children, and ask a few questions...*

Hello, children of God! Do you see what I have here? What is this? (*Hold up a glass, pitcher, or bottle of water.*) That's right, this is water! Now, what does water do? What can we do with water? (*Encourage kids to come up with a variety of water uses, such as drinking, swimming, cooking, and bathing.*)

So water is powerful and important stuff. And did you know that your body is made up largely of water? That's why it is essential that you drink it and stay hydrated. But water also makes me think of baptism. Do you know what baptism is??

Baptism helps us remember that God has saved us and washed our sins away! Some people do baptism in different ways... some sprinkle water onto people (*feel free to demonstrate with a small toy and your water*); some people dip all the way into the water; some baptize people when they are little babies; some when they are older...there are a lot of ways to do it. But it is a wonderful and important thing to be baptized because it shows us that we are new in Christ!

We are born sinful, and will likely do a lot of bad things in our lives, whether we mean to or not. But we can rest assured that God will forgive us. He sent Jesus to take our place and die so that we can live with God. He loves us no matter what we do!

And did you know that Jesus was baptized, too? Now, that might seem strange, because we know that Jesus never sinned...so why would He need to be baptized?

Well, John asked that same question. Remember John, the camel hair-wearing, locust-eating guy? He baptized people in a river. Jesus came to him one day asking to be baptized, and John tried to send Him away. But Jesus insisted, saying He needed to do it. This lets us know that baptism is a blessing and a great thing. And when Jesus was baptized, something remarkable happened. Heaven opened up,



and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove (*hold picture of dove or toy*), and the voice of God was heard, saying “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.”

So all parts of the Trinity were present at once. And God was announcing who Jesus was, His beloved Son. We can take heart that Jesus was and is who He proclaimed. That is a comforting reminder. He lived and died so that we might have eternal life, and be made clean and new in Him.

This is something that we should help us to live joyfully every day. We are made in God’s image and we can live in His presence. We were sinful, but can be cleansed in Christ. So the next time you wash your hands or take a bath, remember how God has washed away our sins. Why don’t we Thank Him for that right now?

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## Children’s Prayer Moment

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(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for baptism

Thank you for washing our sins and making us clean

Help us remember that, and live in your presence

Thank you for your son Jesus

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus’s name, Amen!



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# Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

## The Baptism of Jesus

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<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As 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 alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

*[-Matthew 3:13-17](#)*





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## *Best Sunday School Curriculum & Resources*

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Let's make Sunday School great again! Here are some of the best resources to help you get started:

1. [Sunday School Lessons](#)
2. [Coloring Pages for Sunday School](#)
3. [Sunday School Crafts](#)
4. [Bible Games for Sunday School](#)



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