

6. Jesus Is Baptized



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## 6

# Jesus Is Baptized

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Jesus Is Baptized" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Conclude with prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus and showing us that he really is God's Son, our Savior. Have the kids join in with a big amen!*

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #88\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

**Arrival Activity:** *Challenge kids to brainstorm a list of all the things they can think of that people can do in a river. Can they come up with five things? Ten? More? Use the list as a segue into today's story, in which they'll hear about something a guy named John did in a river called Jordan!*

## Story: Jesus Is Baptized

[Luke 3:1-22, Matthew 3:1-17](#)

*Invite your group to imagine that you are a kid who is the same age they are—in fact, you are one of their friends. You are going to tell them about an amazing day you've just had.*

I have to tell you about something amazing that I saw happen at the Jordan River yesterday! It all started when I was eating breakfast in the morning. My dad looked at me and said, "How about you and me go to see that man they call John the Baptist?"

"Sure!" I said. I was excited to go because I'd heard a lot about John. I knew they call him "the Baptist" because he baptizes people. I'd heard that he lives in the desert and that he wears clothes made out of camel's hair! Some people like what he has to say, others just think he's strange. But I wondered most about his food—people say he eats wild honey and locusts for lunch!

After breakfast, I grabbed my sandals and some snacks and went off with my dad. It was a long walk to get to the Jordan River where John was going to be. And we weren't the only ones heading that way—there was a huge crowd of people walking with us. There were kids of all ages, whole families, soldiers, tax collectors, priests, poor people, rich people, and more. What a crowd!

**Imagine what it would be like to walk with a crowd of people to go somewhere special.** *(Pause for kids to do so.)* **That's how it was when I was walking to see John at the river.**

Getting close enough to see him wasn't easy. Somehow we managed to squeeze through the crowd and get to the front. And there stood John the Baptist! He was wearing clothes made of camel hair, all right. It looked really itchy. He was shouting, "Hey, everybody! Tell God that you're sorry for your sins and get ready for the Messiah. He's coming soon!"

Someone from the back shouted, "We are sorry! What should we do?"

"Repent and be baptized!" John shouted back. "Ask God to take away your sins. Start living in a way that shows God you really are sorry. Share your extra clothes with people who need them. Give food to the hungry." I wondered if John meant I should tell God I was sorry for my sins. I looked down at my snacks and

wondered if John meant I was supposed to share my stuff with others too. **What do you think?** *(Pause for responses.)*

I watched and listened carefully. I didn't want to miss a thing! Some soldiers went up to John and asked what they should do. "Stop bullying people and taking their money," John said.

When some tax collectors came up to be baptized, they asked John, "And what should *we* do?" John looked them right in the eye and said, "Stop collecting more money than you're supposed to—it's stealing!" He wasn't afraid to tell them the truth.

Suddenly someone shouted out above the crowd, "Are you the Messiah that we've been waiting for? Are you?" I wondered what John was going to say to that! **What do you think?** *(Pause for responses.)*

John was silent for a moment, as though he was trying to figure out just how to answer that one. Then he spoke loudly and clearly. "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. In fact, he is perfect; I am not even worthy to untie his sandals for him."

Wow! I wondered who that could be. I'd heard about the Messiah. We've been waiting for him for hundreds of years! Could he really be coming? Could it be soon?

What happened next was amazing! A man stepped out of the crowd and asked John to baptize him. John looked so surprised to see that man! John looked like he did not want to baptize him. Everyone got real quiet. Then John said, "*Me* baptize *you*? It should be *you* baptizing *me*!"

**I wondered why John said that to the man. What do you think?** *(Pause for responses.)*

The man's voice was clear as he spoke. "No, John, you must baptize me; it's what God wants." I heard people around us whispering, "Could this man be the Messiah?"

John led the man, whose name was Jesus, into the water. I noticed that Jesus prayed as John baptized him. Suddenly the sky split open and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with him." At the same time, a dove flew down from heaven and landed on Jesus.

**I wondered if that could be God speaking. What do you think?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Afterward, as I walked home with my dad, I thought about everything that had happened. I couldn't wait to get back and tell you all about it. What an amazing day!

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Is Baptized](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: Jesus, Our Savior](#)
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