

BAPTISM OF JESUS

LUKE 3:21-23

God Story:

Baptism of Jesus | Luke 3:21-23

Big Idea:

Jesus grew up with family and friends—just like you and me.

Key Verse:

"This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5b

Leader Tip:

Prepare the free-play activities and pray for the children in your group before they arrive.

Ls Life Story

- 1. Dove Lacing** **Free Play**
Practise lacing as you introduce the Bible story.
- 2. Active Animals** **Large Group**
Pretend to be various animals and then wrap up by pretending to be doves.
- 3. Run!** **Large Group**
Get moving as children identify examples of running towards or away from God.

Gs God Story

CIRCLE TIME!

- 4. Music** **Large Group**
Sing, play instruments, and get moving along with "Whoa, I Have Life" on the *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD.
- 5. Bible Story** **Large Group**
Read "Heaven breaks through" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.
- 6. Key Verse Activity** **Large Group**
Practise this month's key verse by placing mixed up parts of it in order.

Ms My Story

- 7. Small Group Activity** **Small Groups**
Discuss what God would say about us—his children.
- 8. Craft** **Large Group**
Use chalk to decorate a colouring page that shows the baptism of Jesus.
- 9. Pin the Dove on the Picture** **Free Play**
Review today's story as the children pin doves onto a picture of Jesus' baptism.
- 10. Run! Reprise** **Large Group**
Return to the earlier activity and emphasize the need to run towards God.

Os Our Story

- 11. Dismissal**
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!



Life Story

1. DOVE LACING

Supplies:

- Laminated dove shapes with holes around the outside edge and string attached for lacing

Before the Activity:

- Place the lacing supplies on a table.

Leader Tip:

- If needed, demonstrate how to lace or help the children hand over hand.

Instructions:

- During free play, invite the children to take turns “sewing” (lacing) around the dove shape.
- When they finish lacing around the shape, explain that there’s a dove in today’s Bible story.
- Set aside the supplies to use again after craft time.

2. ACTIVE ANIMALS

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Gather the children together for a fun matching game.
- Pick a few examples of animals that make different sounds (e.g., horse, cow, pig, dog, cat, etc.).
- Secretly assign an animal to each child. Make sure that you assign each animal to at least 2 children.
- Explain that when you say, “Go,” the children should make their sounds and find their matching friends in the group!
- Repeat as long as the children are engaged in the activity.
- To wrap up, explain that today’s Bible story has a dove in it. Let the children know that a dove makes a “coo” sound. Make the sound together!

3. RUN!

Supplies:

- God sign
- Wall-safe tape

Before the Activity:

- Tape the God sign onto a wall or play panel at the far end of your class space.

Instructions:

- Gather the children into the middle of your class space.
- Explain that God wants us to run towards him, not away from him.
- Read aloud the following examples of things the children might do or say (or come up with some of your own ideas), and have them run towards the God sign if they think what you said is an example of running towards (following) him, or away from the sign if they think it’s an example of running away from God:
 - Give a hug to my mom or dad
 - Say something mean to another child
 - Share my snack
 - Share my toy
 - Not listen to my leader
 - Push someone on the playground
 - Pray to God
- Leave the sign up so that you can return to this activity at the end of the lesson if time allows.



CIRCLE TIME!

Supplies:

- CD player
- Tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD

Instructions:

- Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the God Story activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

4. MUSIC

Supplies:

- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- “Whoa, I Have Life” (track 3) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

Before the Activity:

- Hang the lyrics where leaders can read them easily.

Leader Tips:

- Remember, you set the tone by being energetic and having fun during music activities.
- Feel free to extend your music time with the class CDs.

Instructions:

- If using supplies, hand them out before starting.
- Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
 - Sing along with the song.
 - Wave the scarves.
 - Use the musical instruments.
 - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
- After the music is finished, prompt children to return any supplies to the bin.

5. BIBLE STORY

Supplies:

- “Heaven breaks through” (from Matthew 3; Luke 1, 3; John 1) in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (p. 200)

Leader Tips:

- This story was also read last week and John’s role was emphasized. Focus on Jesus’ part in the story today.
- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit on the floor with you.
- Tell them that today’s story is from the Bible.
- Read the story to the children. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- To wrap up, PRAY: Thank you, God, for John who told others about Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus. Help us to live our lives for Jesus. Amen.

6. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Verse cards
- Bowl
- Clothespins
- Twine

Before the Activity:

- Hang the key verse sign where everyone can read it easily.
- Shuffle the verse cards and place them in the bowl.

Leader Tips:

- Use the key verse sign as a reference for the leaders and the children.
- This is a weekly activity for the month. To mix it up, choose different people to pull out the cards each week.
- Repeat the activity later during free-play time if additional children want a turn placing the verse in order.

Instructions:

- Have the children take turns pulling the verse cards out of the bowl.
- Encourage them to work together to place the cards in the correct order.
- Use the clothespins to attach the cards to the twine.
- Tape the verse hanging on the twine on a wall or play panel at the children's eye level.



7. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Dove activity page
- Markers
- Wall-safe tape

Instructions:

- Gather the children into their small groups.
- Remind them that in the Bible story, God said about Jesus, "This is my own Son. And I love him. I am very pleased with him."
- SAY: We are God's children, too. What do you think God would say about you?
- Write the children's answers with their names on the dove.
- Hang the paper where parents will see it at pick-up time.

8. CRAFT

Supplies:

- Baptism of Jesus colouring page (printed on dark blue paper)
- Thin chalk

Leader Tip:

- Make sure the children's names are written on their crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit at a table.
- Give each child a colouring page.
- Place the chalk where everyone can reach it easily.
- Encourage the children to use a variety of colours as they decorate their pages.
- As they colour, review today's Bible story.
- Read aloud the key verse printed on the colouring page.
- Have the children to repeat the key verse on their own.

9. PIN THE DOVE ON THE PICTURE

Supplies:

- Wall-safe tape
- Baptism of Jesus activity page (large size)
- Masking tape
- Dove cutouts
- Blindfold

Before the Activity:

- Tape the large version of the Baptism of Jesus activity page to a wall or play panel at the children's eye level.
- Use the masking tape to create a starting line on the floor a short distance from where you hung the activity page.
- Place loops of masking tape on the back of each dove cutout.

Leader Tip:

- Some children don't like to use a blindfold. Ask them to close their eyes tightly instead.

Instructions:

- Invite a few children at a time to gather behind the starting line on the floor.
- Have them take turns trying to "pin" a dove on the matching dove in the picture hanging on the wall.
- Put the blindfold on them or have them close their eyes.
- Place a dove cutout in their hands, turn them around once (we don't want them to get dizzy!), and then point them in the right direction.
- Lead the group in cheering on the child who's trying to place the dove on the picture.
- See who places their dove the closest to the dove in the picture.
- Repeat the activity with another group of children until everyone has had a turn.

10. RUN! REPRISE

Supplies:

- God sign
- Wall-safe tape

Instructions:

- Gather the children into the middle of your class space.
- Remind them that God wants us to run towards him, not away from him.
- Review the earlier examples of things the children might do or say (or come up with some of your own new ideas):

- Give a hug to my mom or dad
 - Say something mean to another child
 - Share my snack
 - Not listen to my leader
 - Pray to God
- d. Have the children run towards the God sign if they think what you described is an example of running towards (following) him, or away from the sign if they think it's an example of running away from God.



11. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Children's crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

Before Dismissal:

- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave the classroom.