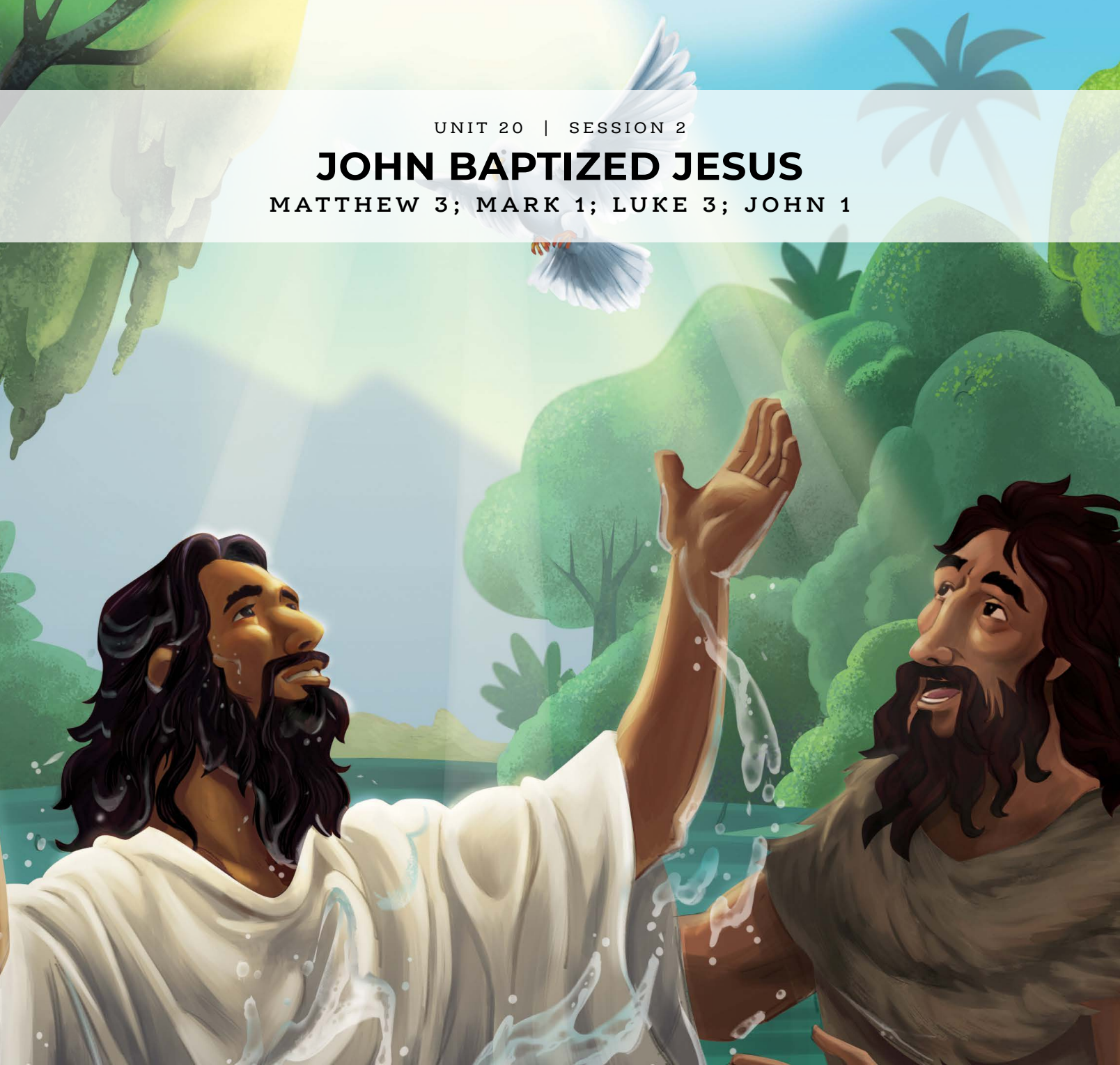


UNIT 20 | SESSION 2

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

MATTHEW 3; MARK 1; LUKE 3; JOHN 1



KEY PASSAGE: John 1:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus obeyed His Father by being baptized. Later in life, He obeyed His Father by dying on a cross for our sins and rising again, so that all who trust in Him will receive eternal life.

STORY POINT: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

There is much we don't know about the early life of Jesus. After Jesus' trip to the temple as a 12-year-old, we are told that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52). Luke's Gospel account then fast-forwards to the baptism of Jesus as an adult. This was an important event in the life of the promised Messiah that is recorded in each of the four Gospels.

At first glance, it may seem strange that Jesus would seek to be baptized as even John seemed surprised by this request and tried to stop Jesus. After all, Jesus never sinned and was not in need of God's forgiveness. Yet, Jesus was fully committed to doing the will of His heavenly Father, which included baptism. Jesus' baptism modeled how His followers are to publicly profess their faith in Him. Jesus' baptism would also be His next step in beginning His earthly ministry. Indeed, the very next day, Jesus began calling disciples to follow Him.

As Jesus went up from the water, we see a beautiful picture of the Trinity: the heavens opened as the Son prayed, the Spirit descended upon Him, and the Father declared Jesus the Son in whom He is well pleased. Jesus' baptism represents believers' death to sin. Just as Christ died on the cross and was raised, so, too, are His followers born again and raised up from the grave into new life.

Lead children to see that Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience and died as the sacrifice for our sins before rising again. Help them understand that though we cannot follow God perfectly, we can place our trust in the One who did. Remind boys and girls that Christians are called to obedience through baptism. While baptism does not have the power to save us, it is an outward expression of an inward reality in the life of the believer.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "John Baptized Jesus" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ "Jesus' Baptism" printable
- ☐ wooden craft sticks
- ☐ blue construction paper
- ☐ white paper cups

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ "Dove Pattern" printable
- ☐ cotton balls



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ "Dove" printable
- ☐ spray bottle with water
- ☐ Biblical clothing
- ☐ wooden craft stick

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ bowl or small bag

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "Who Was There?" activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ Countdown Video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "John Baptized Jesus" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 20, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "United States Map" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Dwelt Among Us (John 1:14)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever swam, floated, or tubed on a river? How did the water feel; was it refreshing? Would you rather swim in a river or in a pool?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “John Baptized Jesus” activity page.

SAY “Good job unscrambling those names. Be listening carefully for those people during our story today.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: UP OUT OF THE WATER

Prior to the session, print a copy of the “Jesus’ Baptism” printable for each kid. Cut a slit in the bottom of each paper cup big enough for two craft sticks to slide in and out. Give each kid a cup, a piece of blue paper, two craft sticks, and the printable. Demonstrate how to cut a piece of blue paper to look like water and attach it to the outside of their cups. Lead them to color the pictures of Jesus and the dove and then cut them out. Once they have colored, cut out, and taped the pictures to the craft sticks, show them how to slide them into the slit in the cup. Show them how they can move the craft sticks up and down to make Jesus “come out of the water.”

SAY “These crafts can be a visual reminder of what we’re going to learn about today. In today’s lesson, we will hear about how **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.**”

☐ OPTION 2: HIS PRESENCE

Before class print a copy of the “Dove Pattern” printable for each kid. Pass out white paper and pencils. Instruct the kids to trace one of their hands and cut it out. Show them how to glue their cutout hand to the dove image to look like a wing. Once the hand is glued down, demonstrate to the kids how to stretch a cotton ball out and glue it to their paper hand to create feathers.

SAY “In our lesson today we will hear that all three persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, were present at Jesus’ baptism. **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.**”





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hey kids, my name is [your name]. I am excited to open God’s Word with you today. If you have your Bibles with you please take them out now. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need them.] In our lesson today we will learn about Jesus’ baptism. Before we begin let’s pray together. ‘Thank You, Lord, for Your Word. Thank You that we can learn about You and how we should live our lives. Please open our hearts and minds today to know what You want us to learn. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Who can remind me of our new big picture question? [Allow responses.] Exactly, so is **Jesus God or a human?** [Allow responses.] The Bible teaches that **Jesus is fully God and fully human.**

As we learn about Jesus’ baptism today we will see evidence that Jesus is God and also see an obedient Son obeying His Father’s will. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Several weeks ago, we started learning from the New Testament with Jesus’ birth. We have quickly jumped into lessons about Jesus during adulthood. Last week, we learned about Jesus’ relative, John the Baptist, and how John prepared the way for Jesus, the Messiah, to come and begin His ministry on earth. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “John Baptized Jesus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

“Day after day, John was leading people to confess their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. One day, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptized in the Jordan River by John.

When John saw Jesus, he said, “Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I have been telling you about, the one who is greater than me, because he has always existed. I have been baptizing you with water to prepare the way for him, so that he might be revealed to all God’s people.”

When John realized that Jesus wanted to be baptized by him, John tried to stop Him. John said, “I need to be baptized by you! Why do you come to me to be baptized?”

Jesus answered him and said, “Allow me to be baptized by you. This is the way it must be for us to fulfill all righteousness, by obeying God’s plan.” So, John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened up for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove onto Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Christ Connection: Jesus obeyed his Father by being baptized. Later in life, he would obey his Father by dying on a cross for our sins and rising again, so that all who trust in him might have eternal life. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Baptism: Remind the kids that baptism does not save us. We are saved by faith, through the grace of Jesus. Consider showing the kids a picture of your church’s baptistry.

Leaders of the Law: Remind the kids that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were the religious leaders and teachers of God’s law.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jesus obeyed His Father’s will by being baptized, and all the people who witnessed it heard a voice from heaven say that Jesus is the Son of God. Like the answer to our big picture question says, **Jesus is fully God and fully man**. When Jesus first approached the Jordan River, John the Baptist called Jesus by a special name; what was that name? [Allow responses.] John called Jesus ‘the Lamb of God.’ In a previous lesson, we learned that this name was referring to Jesus as the perfect sacrifice that covers the sin of His people and protects them from the penalty of their sin, just like the blood of a perfect lamb covered and protected the homes of God’s people during the last plague. John also said that Jesus was ‘greater than him, because He always existed.’ Jesus is the Word that became flesh (John 1:14).



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Why did Jesus have to get baptized? **[Allow responses.]** From the beginning of creation, God's plan was for Jesus to live as a human, perfectly without sin. Jesus' baptism was one of the many ways He lived among humans as one of them. It was also an example of how we should act in our faith. John had been baptizing people and calling them to repent and believe. It is important to note that the act of baptism doesn't save us; we are saved by faith through grace from Jesus alone. Baptism is an outward, public display of the inward cleansing of our hearts. Believers experience salvation first, and then follow with baptism as a symbol to show others the decision they have made. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus came to show us how to live righteous lives in obedience to God and died on a cross in our place so we can be saved and have eternal life. Salvation through Jesus is a free gift, not something that can be earned by good behavior. We each have to make the decision to follow Him or continue to live in our own sinful flesh. Have you considered salvation through Jesus and following Him instead of your own desires? **[Allow responses.]** I would love to talk with you about that decision or answer any questions you may have. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 20, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. If I am saved, do I need to get baptized? Is it OK not to?
2. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, why is baptism important?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the location of Kansas City, Missouri, on the “United States Map” printable.

SAY “ Kansas City, Missouri, is a city known for good barbecue, but it is much more than that. In years past, it was known as The Most American City due to the number of native-born people who lived there. Now, people born in other countries make up about six percent of the population, and the number is rising. Almost two million people live in the metro area around Kansas City, and they all need to know about Jesus. Four out of five people living there say they are not a Christian.

Luis and Nohemi Sanchez saw a need for a Spanish ministry in the Kansas City metro area. Luis and Nohemi were born in Mexico and raised in the United States. Their heritage allows the Sanchez family to connect to first- and second-generation Hispanic immigrants. The couple started Primera Iglesia Bautista de Independence Church in Independence, Missouri. While Luis was pastoring this church, they started another Hispanic church on the north side of the city. They partnered with Northland Baptist Church to start Northland Baptist en Español. ”

Practice counting in Spanish 1–10. Do an online search of the numbers, if necessary. Ask questions that can be answered by using the Spanish words for the numbers. Example: How old are you? or How many pets do you have?

Pray for the Sanchez family as they minister to people in their church. Pray that Northland Baptist Church en Español will continue to grow.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:14 together.

Lead kids to stand in a circle. Have the first kid say the first word of the verse. Then the second kid will say the second word, and so on until the entire verse has been said. Repeat the activity, this time challenging the group to see how fast they can correctly say the verse.

SAY “ When Jesus came to earth and lived as a man, people observed Him, His actions, His teachings, and His glory as the Son of God. ”

Lead kids to sing “Dwelt Among Us (John 1:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to show us how to live righteous lives in obedience to You, and for dying on a cross in our place so we can be saved and have eternal life. You are the perfect example for us. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the book of Matthew. Explain that it is important to be familiar with your Bible and how to locate Bible verses. If there is time, call out familiar Bible verses like the key passage for this unit or the one before and have kids quickly find these verses. This could also be done as a relay.

Consider pointing out the location of Nazareth (E5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 3:13 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ In our lesson today, and the verse we just read, we learned that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. This was the town Mary and Joseph lived in when they learned that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, Jesus. Jesus walked from Nazareth all the way to the Jordan River to show obedience to His Father by being baptized. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What does baptism symbolize? ”

Baptism is representative of Christians dying to their old selves and being raised again with Christ. This is mirrored in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 9:23.)

SAY “ Why do you think John thought he was unworthy to untie the sandals of Jesus or to baptize Him? ”

Our sin makes us unworthy to be in the presence of God, but God made the way for us to have a right, loving relationship with Him through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 3:10.)

SAY “ The word ‘trinity’ is a word created to describe how God is one God, and He exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see all three persons of the Trinity in this story. Where else do we see that in the Bible? ”

We see evidence of the Trinity in the very first chapter of the Bible. When God created humans the word us was used to include God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Genesis 1:26.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: ACT IT OUT

Before class, print a copy of the “Dove” printable. Cut it out and attach it to a wooden craft stick or straw. Ask for volunteers to play the role of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God the Father, and the water. Help the kids dress in costumes. Give the kid playing the water spray bottle. Read the Bible story again, leading the kids to act out the baptism of Jesus.

SAY “ To show obedience to God, Jesus was baptized by John. God was pleased with Jesus for His act of obedience. ”

☐ OPTION 2: OBEDIENCE CHARADES



Before class, write on strips of paper different tasks, actions, and situations where kids would need to obey. For example, brushing their teeth, cleaning up their toys, completing a school assignment, etc. Fold the strips of paper and place them in a bowl. Tell the kids that they will take turns illustrating or acting out the words they chose from the bowl. This can be played competitively on teams or as a large group.

SAY “ Obedience is not something that comes easy, but is a necessary behavior to learn. **JESUS OBEYED GOD BY BEING BAPTIZED.** ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for sending His Son to be our example of faith and obedience. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Who Was There?” on the activity page.