



# Elementary

## “The Gospel Project”

### Jesus’ Baptism

March 29, 2020

**Unit Key Passage:** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 (CSB)*

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

**Main Point:** Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

**Big Picture Question:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan to rescue sinners.*

## 1 Getting Started

All Team Members: Make sure you have a name tag on! Welcome and introduce kids to one another.

## 2 Main Session Teaching

### Supplies:

- ❖ **Bible story pictures-** (We are just referencing a few of the stories to review)
  - Jesus as a child in the temple
  - Jesus gets baptized
  
- ❖ **Other templates-**
  - **Key passage:** John 3:30
  - **Main Point:** Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.
  - **Big Picture Question/Answer:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan to rescue sinners.*
  
- ❖ **“The Gospel Project” DVD Lesson:** “Jesus’ Baptism”

## Review:

- **Say:** Who remembers what we've been learning about recently? Can anyone remember any of those stories? (Take a few answers and then, review these stories below with pictures):
  - Last week, we learned that Jesus was lost as a child in Jerusalem. Jesus was found in the temple asking lots of questions about God's Word from the religious leaders. They were astounded by the understanding Jesus' had at such a young age.

## Today's story:

- **Say:** Have you been baptized? When you are baptized, it means that you have given your life to Christ and have repented of your sins. In our story today, we will learn that Jesus was baptized, but He wasn't baptized because He had sin. Let's find out what happened!
- **Play the DVD video story.** (If DVD not available, teach the story using the printed version at the end of this curriculum)
- **Recap:** In those days, baptism was used as a symbol to show that you needed to be cleansed of your old sinful choices so that you could obey God better. John told people to repent, or turn away from, their sin and be baptized. John's job was to prepare the way for Jesus. John reminded people that the Messiah would come soon. John's preaching was getting people ready to meet Jesus and hear from Him. He knew that Jesus was the most important, and John wanted people to know that too. When Jesus showed up, John knew who He was. Jesus' request to be baptized shocked John. Jesus had no sin to repent of. But Jesus knew baptism was part of God's plan. **(Show picture of Jesus being baptized)** Jesus obeyed God by being baptized, and Jesus' baptism led to God's announcement of Jesus' identity as His Son. The Holy Spirit rested on Jesus, and God's rescue plan entered a new phase. **(Show main point template) Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.**
- **Christ Connection:** *Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.*
- **Big picture question:** *(Say) (Show big picture question/answer templates) Our big picture question is Why did Jesus become human? (Allow kids to respond) Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*
- **Review key passage:** *(Show key passage template): "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30 (CSB)*

### 3 Snack & Life Group

**IMPORTANT!!!!** Please check each child for a yellow allergy sticker along with referring to the sign-in sheet to be properly informed on children who may have food and other allergies.

**Snack: Bread with honey—Remind the kids that in our story, we learned that John the Baptist ate wild honey in the wilderness.**

As the children enjoy their snack, discuss these Life Group questions with them.

#### **Life Group Questions:**

- Who was John the Baptist? (*the one Isaiah prophesied about, the voice crying out in the wilderness; Matt. 3:3*)
- How did John respond at first to Jesus' request for baptism? (*John tried to stop Jesus at first, Matt. 3:14*)
- What happened after Jesus was baptized? (*God spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove; Matt. 3:16-17*)
- Does baptism save us? (*Guide the kids to understand that baptism is important, but it is only a symbol of what Jesus has done for us. A person is baptized because she is saved, not in order to be saved. Suggest an analogy, such as dressing like a doctor versus being a doctor. Dressing the part can suggest you are a doctor but cannot make you a doctor if you are not one.*)
- **Big picture question:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*
- **Base 5/6-For Further Discussion:**
  - Where do we see the Trinity—the three Persons of God—in today's Bible story? (*Help kids recognize God the Father speaking from heaven, God the Son on earth as a man, and God the Spirit appearing like a dove. Emphasize that there is one God, and He exists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Acknowledge that the Trinity can be hard to understand; no one is like God! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:18.)*)
  - Why does obedience to God bring Him glory? (*Lead kids to share their ideas. Prompt them to think about how obeying God shows that we trust Him and submit to Him as Lord of our lives. In a similar way, God is glorified when we live like Jesus—loving God and loving others, obeying His commands, and remaining in Him. (Option: Choose a kid to read 1 John 3:23-24.)*)
- **Say: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.** When we trust Jesus for salvation, we obey God this way too.

- **Review the Key Verse with the kids:** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” John 1:1-2 (CSB)*

## 4 Activities/Games

### ACTIVITY: Prepare the Way

**Supplies:** small toy cars, long cardboard track, small obstacles (paper wads, cotton balls, etc.)

**Directions:** Hold a length of cardboard at a slight incline to serve as a track for the toy cars. Place small obstacles like paper wads, cotton balls, and so forth on the track. Let kids predict how long the car will take to reach the bottom. Then allow a kid to remove the obstacles before sending the car down the track again.

**Say:** The toy car was able to make it to the bottom much more easily when the obstacles were removed. When we “prepared the way,” it rolled down better. In a similar way, John’s job was to prepare people for Jesus by telling people the Messiah was coming and by preaching about repentance and God’s kingdom. When Jesus obeyed God by being baptized, God proclaimed that Jesus was His Son, and the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove. The people could remember what John had said and see that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised long ago. When we show people love and teach them about the gospel, we are preparing the way for the Holy Spirit to change their hearts to love and worship Jesus.

### BASE 5/6 ACTIVITY: Origami Dove

**Supplies:** “Origami Dove Instructions” printables, origami paper or 4- to 6- inch pieces of paper (1-2 per child—provide extra in case some kids need another piece to try again)

**Directions:** Before the session, use the instructions to form an origami dove as a sample. During activity, give each child a copy of “Origami Dove Instructions” printable. Provide origami paper or cut construction paper into 4- to 6-inch squares. Lead kids in following the origami instructions step by step. Encourage them to draw eyes on the dove when they finish.

**Say:** What part did a dove play in today’s Bible story? *(Allow kids to respond)* **Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.** When Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove.

## 5 Activity Page

**Supplies:** one “Descending Like A...”/“Baptism Words” activity page per child, pencils or crayons

**Directions:** Invite kids to complete the “Descending Like A...”/“Baptism Words” activity page. Help children to follow the instructions for each activity.

**Say:** Great job! The letters in the word *baptism* can be rearranged to spell words like *stamp*, *past*, *maps*, *spa*, and so on. Can anyone tell me what *baptism* means? (*Allow kids to respond*) Today, we learned how Jesus was baptized.

## 6 Journal Page & Dismissal

**Supplies:** Journal/color page

**Directions:** Encourage kids (& parents to help) to complete their journal page at home. Remind parents that the family discussion questions and today’s story are on this page to review at home. There’s also a color page on the back for more fun!

**Say: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.** Jesus’ obedience pleased God. When we obey God in faith, our obedience pleases Him too.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING THE KING’S KIDS TODAY!**

**Main Session Teaching:** (Use if DVD is not available)

John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made out of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John began telling people, "Repent and be baptized because God's kingdom is almost here."

Some people asked John, "Who are you?"

John said, "I am not the Messiah." John also said he wasn't Elijah, and he wasn't the Prophet that God had promised to send after Moses.

"Who are you, then?" they asked.

Long before John was born, the prophet Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'" Isaiah was talking about John. John had a very important job. He was supposed to get people ready for Jesus—God's promised Messiah.

People started to repent; they turned away from their sins and turned to God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. Baptism was a picture that the people's sins had been washed away.

John preached, "Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

By this time, Jesus was an adult. He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. But John didn't think he should baptize Jesus. "I need You to baptize me," John said. "Why do You want me to baptize You?" John was confused. He baptized people who confessed their sins; Jesus never sinned!

Jesus said, "Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

***(Show picture of Jesus being baptized)*** Jesus immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!" ***(Show main point template)*** **Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.**