

Jesus Gets Baptized

Matthew 3:11-17

Grade 4,5

Large Group (Where we all meet together and introduce the lesson)

Materials needed - TV or computer, a few cameras and copies of Matthew 3:11-17

- Greet all the kids as they come in. Ask them how they are doing, and chat with them about their week. Pray together, ask anyone if they have any prayer requests.
- Our memory verse for the month is Matthew 5:8. Play this video while singing along, or have a little dance party. (<http://www.worshiphousekids.com/kids-worship-song-tracks/55959/they-will-see-god-matthew-58>)
- Divide the kids up into smaller groups with a mixed age range, and one of the older kids in the group to be the leader and give them a copy of Matthew 3:11 - 17. Ask the kids to read through the story together.
- Once they have finished, ask them to run around the church as a group and take a picture of all the things in the story that are highlighted in blue (they might have to get a bit creative). Let all the kids come back. Read through the story as a group, when you get to a blue highlighted word let each of the groups show their picture.
- Ask them if they have a favourite part of the story.
- Let's watch this video together - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAmwA>

Break up into small groups

Review The Story (a chance to review the bible passage with the small group)

Materials needed - small water gun and flashlight

- Greet everyone in your small group, make sure everyone knows each others names. Say a prayer together either by repeating after one of the teachers or just letting them pray.
- Bring the kids to a large open room or space. Ask them who wants to be John the Baptist? Give John the Baptist a really small water gun. Tell the other kids that they can run around and try not to get caught, but if they get sprayed ask them to yell time out.
- When someone is sprayed have one of the kids shine a light on them and ask someone else to pretend to be the voice of God saying this is my son/daughter whom I love.
- Write down all the kids names on small pieces of paper. Fold up the papers and mix them all up. Pick one of the kids names and ask them to start telling the story in their own words, the kid who is telling the story can stop at any time, pick another kids name and that kid will continue on.

Life Application (an opportunity for kids to apply the lesson to their own lives)

Materials needed - "Ways to show you love Jesus" sheet

- Have a discussion with the kids. Ask them questions like: Have you ever seen someone get baptized? Have you been baptized? Why do people get baptized? (to keep things simple let's say that people get baptized to show the world that they love Jesus.
- Ask the kids if they can think of any other ways we can show people that we love Jesus?
- Have all the "ways to show you love Jesus" pieces of paper cut out. Ask one of the kids to pick a piece of paper (read it to them if they can't read). Get them to act it out, while the other kids guess. Keep doing this with all the pieces of paper.
- Give each of the kids a name tag or label. Ask them to write, I love Jesus on it and put it on their shirt. Tell them that another way to tell people that you love Jesus is to write it on your shirt.

Memory Verse (a way to introduce and reinforce this month's memory verse)

Materials needed - memory verse sheets and tape

- Hide the memory verse words around the room. Ask the kids to go on a treasure hunt and find all the words. Once all the words are found, put them in order and have the kids read the words with you. Say the whole memory verse while point at each of the words. Take one of the pieces of paper away and say the memory verse again. Take another piece away and say it again. Keep going like this until all the pieces of paper are gone and you are saying the verse by memory.