



UNIT 20 | SESSION 1 | APRIL 4-5, 2020

Elementary Parent Guide

Jesus' Baptism

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

Story Point: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

Key Passage: "He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30

Christ Connection: Jesus never sinned but obeyed God and was baptized.

Use this guide to unpack what your kids are learning in the KidCity Online Experience. Pick an activity that works best for your family and lead your kids through the discussion questions. Check out the [Younger Kids Activity Page for K-1st](#) or the [Older Kids Activity Page for 2nd-5th](#) as an additional resource for your kids to do during the week.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: ORIGAMI DOVE

(Origami Instructions - 1 per kid, Origami Paper - 1 per kid, Pencils)

Provide a copy of the [origami dove instructions](#) and a sheet of origami paper to each kid. Lead kids in following the origami instructions step by step. Encourage them to draw eyes on and decorate the dove when they finish.

SAY • What part did a dove play in today's Bible story? **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. *Why do you think the Holy Spirit is described like a dove?* God's voice came from heaven: "This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: PREPARE THE WAY

(Cardboard Track, Toy Cars, Small Obstacles – Paper Wads, Cotton Balls, and so forth)

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 them a Messiah was coming. When **Jesus obeyed God by being baptized**, God said 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.

DISCUSSION

(Bible)

Who was John the Baptist? *(the one God sent to prepare the way for Jesus; Matt. 3:3)*

What happened after Jesus was baptized? *(God spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove; Matt. 3:16-17)*

Does baptism save us? *Guide your 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.*

Why is baptism important? *Help kids understand that God has commanded followers of Jesus to be baptized, and Jesus provided an example of baptism for us to follow. We do not obey God to earn a relationship with Him, but we want to obey Him out of love and worship. Baptism is a beautiful picture of our sinful lives dying with Jesus and our new life beginning when we are “raised” from the water. It shows the world we trust Jesus and have decided to follow Him.*

When should someone be baptized? *Remind kids that baptism is a way to show they have trusted Jesus; anyone who has not trusted Jesus should not be baptized. If your child shows interest in baptism, visit gethope.net/baptism for more information.*

SAY • **Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.** When we trust Jesus for salvation, we obey God this way too.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Pray as a family and ask the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Who can I tell about this story?

CONNECT

(Younger Kids Activity Page – K-1st, Older Kids Activity Page – 2nd-5th)

Download the Kids Activity Page and encourage your child to do it at home with you this week.