

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 3

Jesus is Baptized

Luke 3:1-22

Life of Christ

Jesus is Baptized

Luke 3:1-22

Younger Verse

“Turn back to God and be baptized!”

Luke 3:3

Older Verse

“Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven.”

Luke 3:3

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that Jesus went to His Father’s house, the Temple. He wanted to be there, because He knew that He was the Son of God.

Many years went by, and Jesus grew from a boy into a man. His cousin, John the Baptist, was living out in the desert. John was a preacher. He preached about people’s need to turn away from their sins (repent) and turn to God. John told people they needed to be baptized as a symbol of their changed lives. He baptized many people in the Jordan River.

John also prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. God’s chosen people, the Israelites, had been waiting for God’s Chosen One to come. Some of them even thought John might be the Messiah! When they asked him if he was the Messiah, John said that the Messiah was so much greater than him that he was not worthy to be his slave! So the people continued to get ready for the Messiah to come.

One day, as John was baptizing people, Jesus Himself came to the water to be baptized! Wait a minute—did Jesus need to be forgiven of sins? No, Jesus never sinned. But Jesus wanted the people to see His example of following God’s will. Also, this was the time Jesus began His ministry. So Jesus’ baptism was a way of saying that He was ready to follow God’s plan for Him.

After Jesus was baptized, something amazing happened. The Holy Spirit came

Lesson Goals

Understand that John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus to come

Learn that we need to turn away from our sins and ask God for forgiveness

Recognize the purpose of baptism as a symbol of a changed life

and rested on Jesus in the shape of a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, “You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you.” It was God’s voice!

That must have really encouraged Jesus to know that His Father was happy with Him. Everything Jesus did was to obey His Father. He obeyed God’s will for Him, even when He had to die on the cross. He knew He had to die so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have eternal life.

What about you? Have you received God’s gift of forgiveness and salvation? If so, have you taken the next step of obedience and been baptized?

Being baptized is a way we obey God, just like Jesus did. God tells us in His Word, the Bible, that we are to be baptized when we believe and trust Jesus. Romans 10:9 says that “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” An important way to show the world we believe in Christ is by being baptized. It is the next step of obedience after accepting Christ into your heart.

Review Questions

1. Who did God send to get the people ready for Jesus to come? (John the Baptist)
2. What happened after Jesus was baptized? (The Spirit of God came down on him like a dove; God said, “You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you.”)
3. What is one thing a person must do before they are baptized? (A person must ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins and come into their life.) Explain that they can do this right now.

Life Application

John the Baptist was a man of God. God used him in a very special way—to get the people ready for Jesus to come. John was bold in his preaching. He didn’t worry about what people thought about him.

We can learn a lot from John’s example. How many times do we want to tell someone about Jesus, but then we think they might think we’re weird or different? The truth is that people are waiting for someone to share about God’s love. They need to hear about how God loves them and sent Jesus to die on the cross for them. *If we don’t tell them, who will?*

In the book of Acts, the believers prayed for boldness to share the Good News with others. God answered their prayers in mighty ways. He is waiting for us to do the same.

Planning for Lesson 4
Jesus is Tempted
Luke 4:1-13

Preschool Lesson for Jesus is Baptized

Last week, we learned that Jesus went to His Father's house, the Temple. He wanted to be there, because He knew that He was the Son of God.

Many years went by, and Jesus grew from a boy into a man. His cousin, John the Baptist, was living out in the desert. John was a preacher. He preached about people's need to turn away from their sins (repent) and turn to God. John told people they needed to be baptized as a symbol of their changed lives. He baptized many people in the Jordan River.

When a person is baptized, it means that they go down under the water and then come right back up. They do this to show others that they are followers of Jesus. It is a special time of obeying God. (Explain to younger children that this is not something they do at home or for play, but this is a special, one-time event done at church.)

One day, as John was baptizing people, Jesus Himself came to the water to be baptized! Wait a minute—did Jesus need to be forgiven of sins? No, Jesus never sinned. But Jesus wanted the people to see His example of following God's will. Also, this was the time Jesus began His ministry. So Jesus' baptism was a way of saying that He was ready to follow God's plan for Him.

After Jesus was baptized, something amazing happened. The Holy Spirit came and rested on Jesus in the shape of a dove! A dove is a small bird. (Make flapping motions with arms.) Then a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you." It was God's voice!

That must have really encouraged Jesus to know that His Father was happy with Him. Everything Jesus did was to obey His Father. He obeyed God's will for Him, even when He had to die on the cross. He knew He had to die so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have eternal life.



**Hands-on Activities
for
Jesus is Baptized**

Get some dirt and put it in a cup or bowl. Take a small basin and fill it with water. Put some dishwashing liquid in it. Let the kids help you wash the cup/bowl. After it is clean, ask the kids if getting clean on the *outside* changes our hearts. Tell them only **Jesus** can clean our hearts from sin. Baptism shows what happens in our hearts—Jesus makes them clean! Sing “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus.”

The Bible tells us that John the Baptist wore clothing made of camel’s hair. Have kids make a puppet of John using paper lunch bags and brown yarn for his clothing. The Bible also says that John ate locusts and honey. Bring honey for the kids to taste.

Bring colored construction paper—black, red, white, blue, green, and yellow. Go through the plan of salvation with them. Black represents the sin in our hearts. Red stands for Jesus’ blood shed on the cross. White shows our clean hearts after Jesus comes into our hearts. Blue is for baptism (water). Green is for how we grow to know God better, and yellow stands for the streets of gold we will see in heaven one day. You can also make salvation bracelets using beads and bracelet material.

Back in Jesus’ time, the fabric merchants would dye fabric by dipping it in a dye. When it came up out of the solution, it was a different color. When we are baptized, it is a picture of the change that already took place in our hearts. Like the fabric is changed, our lives are changed by Jesus. He cleans out all the sin and helps us live for Him and do things His way. (Teachers, you may want to illustrate by dipping a paper towel in food coloring and show how it is changed.)

Teach the kids how to make an origami bird. Tell the story again and let the kids use their birds to fly down when Jesus is baptized.

**“Turn back to God
and be baptized!”
Luke 3:3**



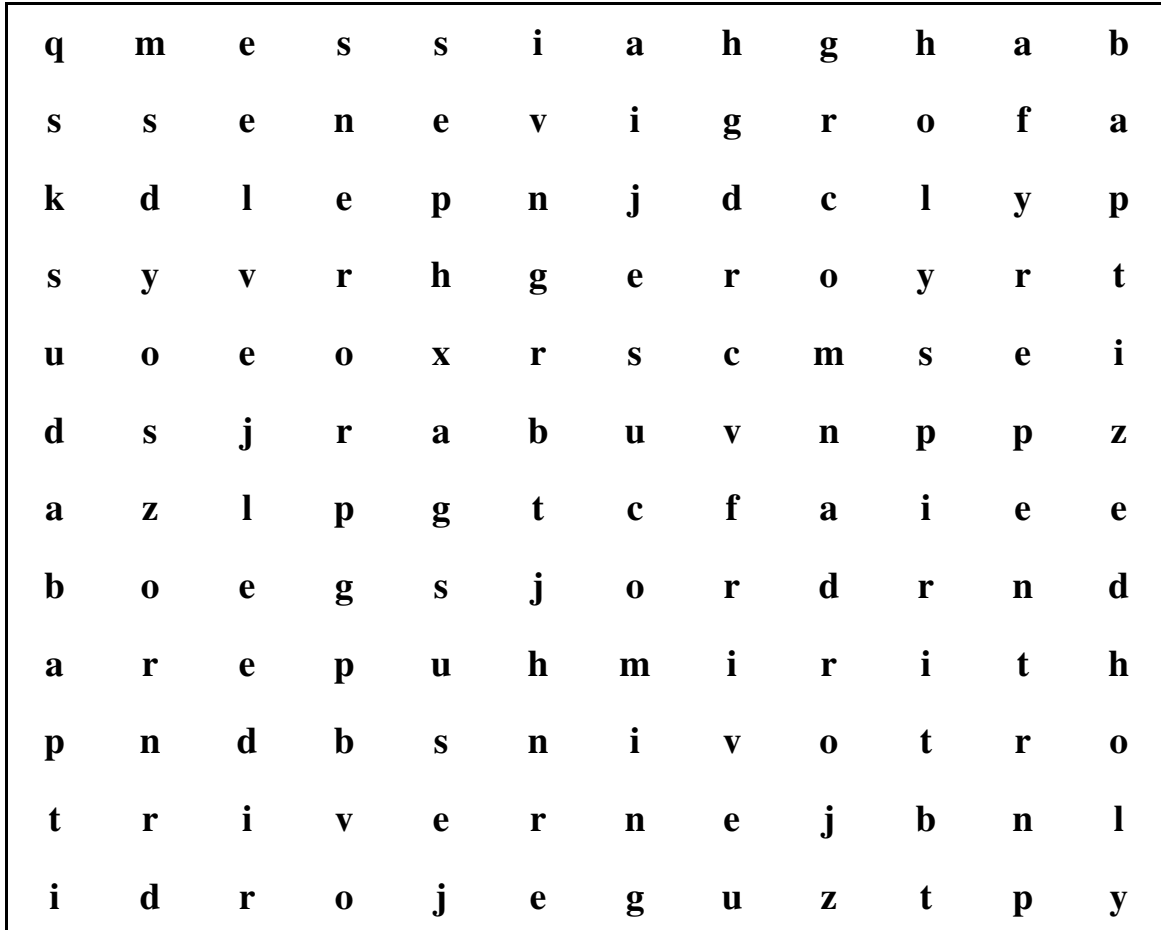
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Luke 3:3



Word Search

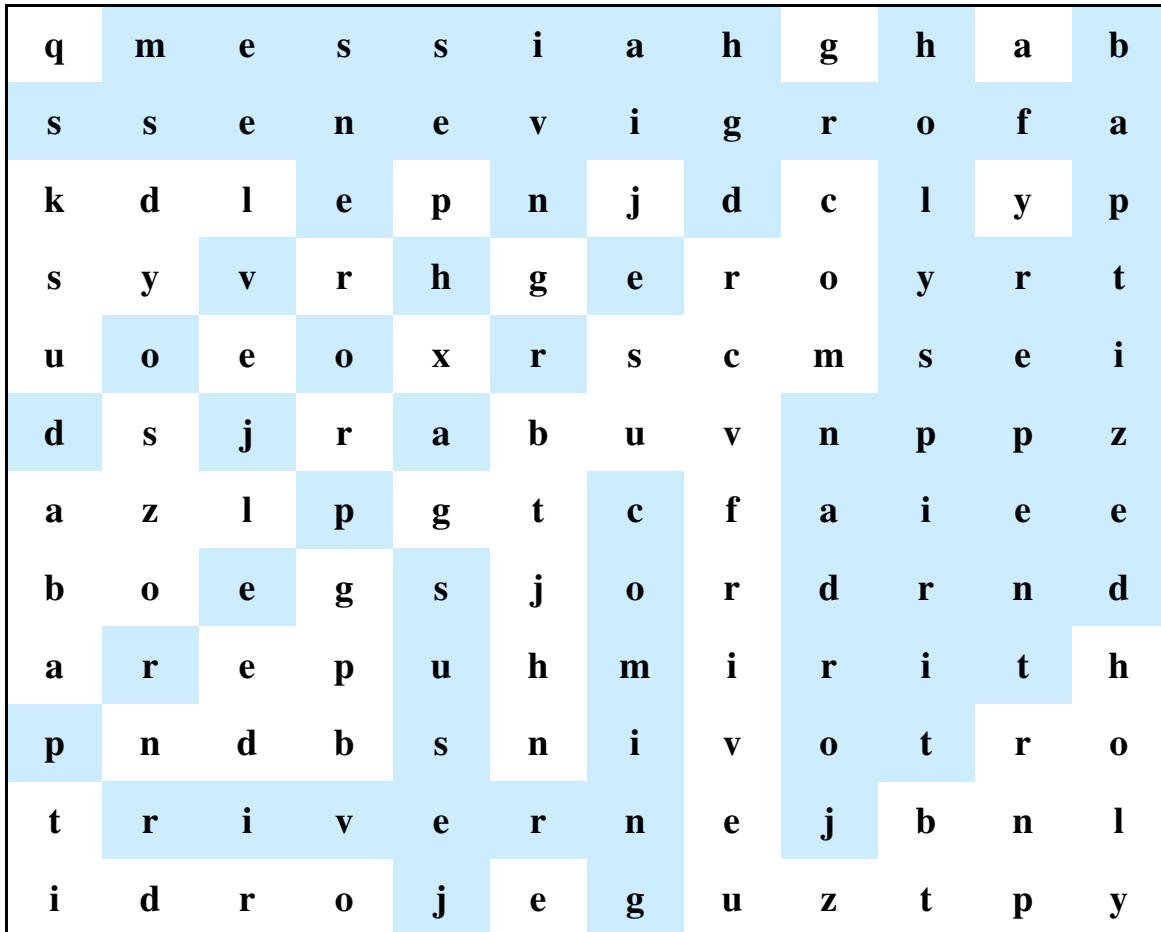
Jesus is Baptized



John	Jordan	river
repent	forgiveness	prepared
coming	Jesus	Messiah
baptized	dove	Holy Spirit

Word Search

Jesus is Baptized

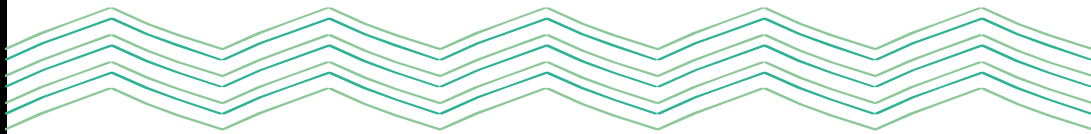


John	Jordan	river
repent	forgiveness	prepared
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baptized	dove	Holy Spirit

Baptism is a

SYMBOL

of a person's changed heart.



*Who prepared people for the coming
of Jesus?*

Jo__n the Ba__tis__