

**LIFE OF CHRIST**  
from the gospel of  
**Mark**

**LESSON 1**

**JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS**

**MARK 1:1-11**

# Life of Christ

## John baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:1-11

### Younger Verse

Repent of your sins and turn to God.

Acts 2:38

### Older Verse

Repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38

### 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**

### Opener

Before going to school in the mornings, what do you need to do? Get dressed, brush your teeth, and gather your school supplies. You need to be prepared for the things in your day. Today we are going to talk about someone who was preparing people for Jesus.

### 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.*

A great crowd was gathering at a river. A man named John was standing in the middle of the Jordan River. Why would he be standing in the river? (Wait for responses.) This man, John, was known for doing some interesting things. John was wearing clothes made out of camel's hair! The Bible tells us that he ate locusts and wild honey. A locust is an insect that looks like a grasshopper.

John told people that they needed to change their ways and ask God to forgive them of their sins. Then, he would baptize them. People from all around the area were coming to John so that he could baptize them.

Then John told the crowd more good news. "There is a person coming that is greater than I am," said John. "I am not good enough to kneel down and untie his shoes." Who was John talking about? That's right, Jesus! John also told the crowd he could only baptize with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John received a great surprise. Jesus came to see him! Why do think Jesus came? He came so John could baptize Him, too. John carefully dipped Jesus down into the water. While John was bringing Jesus back up out of the water, the sky opened! What do you think that looked like? With the sky opened, God's Holy Spirit came down like a dove. A voice from Heaven called out and said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

You may be wondering why Jesus got baptized. Jesus never did anything wrong, and yet He was baptized. He was baptized because He wanted to obey His Father. He also wanted to set an example for others to follow. He wanted everyone to listen to God and follow Him.

God wants each of us to be part of His family. He made a way for everyone to be forgiven of their sins and be His children. He did this by sending Jesus to earth to die on the cross for our sins. When we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our heart, we become children of God!

God wants us to be baptized to show the world that we are part of His family. It is a way to obey God and tell others that He is our Lord. When a person goes down into the water, it is a picture of their sins being washed away. It reminds us that our old self “dies.” When the person comes up out of the water, this represents being raised to walk in a new life with Christ.

Have you asked God to come into your heart? If not, you can do that today. He wants to be a part of your life. Just ask Him.

#### Review Questions

1. What river did John baptize people in? (Jordan River)
2. What message did John preach to the people? (Turn from your sins and be forgiven.)
3. Why did Jesus get baptized? (To obey His Father; to set an example for us to follow)
4. What does baptism mean? (It is a picture of what happens inside a person when they accept Christ.)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for forgiving us of our sins. Pray that we will follow Jesus’ example of obeying our Heavenly Father.

#### 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 2  
Jesus Chooses Followers  
Mark 1:14-20

**Preschool Lesson  
for  
John baptizes Jesus**

(Bring a container filled with water, action figurines, or toy people. Use them to show the children the story.)

Splish, splash! That was the sound made as many people were all gathering in a river. They all seemed to be looking at one man in the middle. This man's name was John. Why are all the people looking at him? He's dipping other people down into the water and then bringing them back out! They have smiles on their faces. Why are they so happy? This is what a baptism looks like.

John told everyone that being baptized is a way to show others that Jesus is in your heart. He told them that someone even more special than him was going to be coming soon. Do you know who that was? It's Jesus!

Then John received a surprise. Jesus had come to see him! Jesus had come because He wanted John to baptize him. John slowly dipped Jesus in the water. Then as Jesus was coming out of the water, the sky opened up and a special bird called a dove flew down on Jesus. Then God spoke from Heaven and told everyone that Jesus was His Son and that He loved Him.

Jesus was baptized because he was following God and wanted to obey God. We, too, can be baptized. Being baptized is a way to obey God and show that you love Him in your heart.

Pray and ask God to help us do a good job following Him.

## Hands-on Activities for John Baptizes Jesus

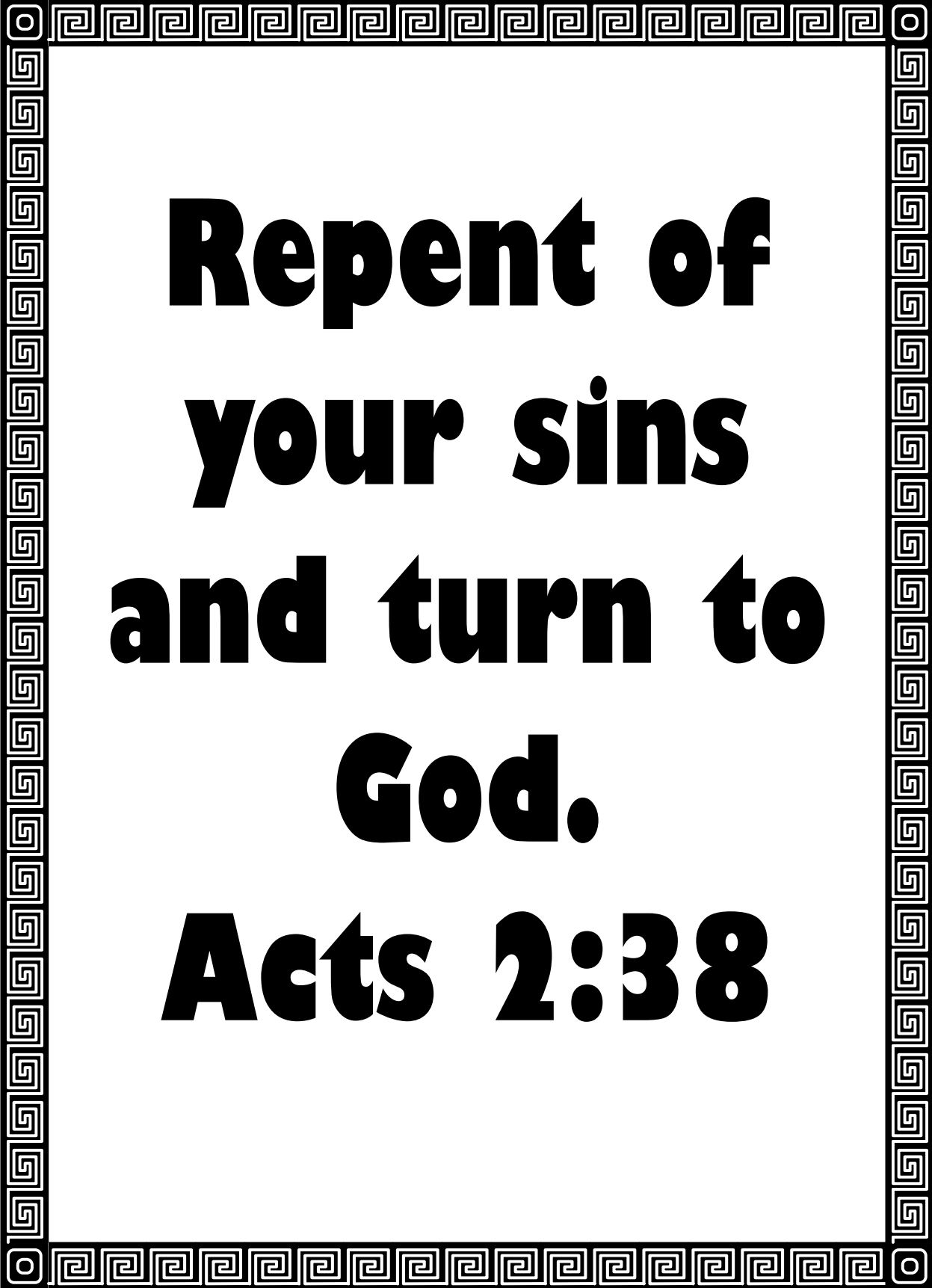
Get some dirt and put it in a cup or bowl. Take a small basin and fill it with water. Put some dishwashing liquid in it. Let the kids help you wash the cup/bowl. After it is clean, ask the kids if getting clean on the *outside* changes our hearts. Tell them only **Jesus** can clean our hearts from sin. 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.

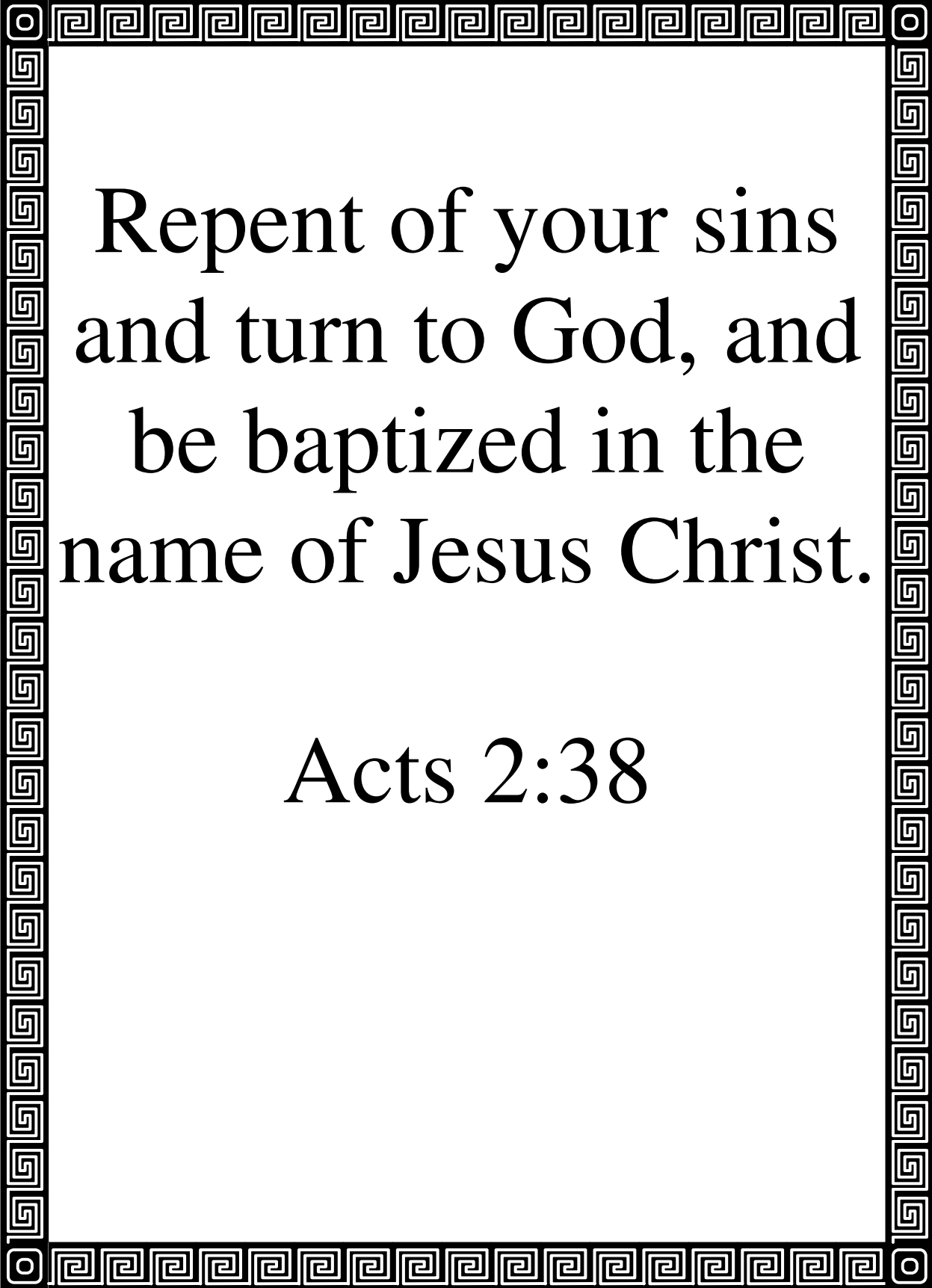
Back in Jesus’ time, the fabric merchants would dye fabric by dipping it in a dye. When it came up out of the solution, it was a different color. When we are baptized, it is a picture of the change that already took place in our hearts. Like the fabric is changed, our lives are changed by Jesus. He cleans 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.



**Repent of  
your sins  
and turn to  
God.**

**Acts 2:38**

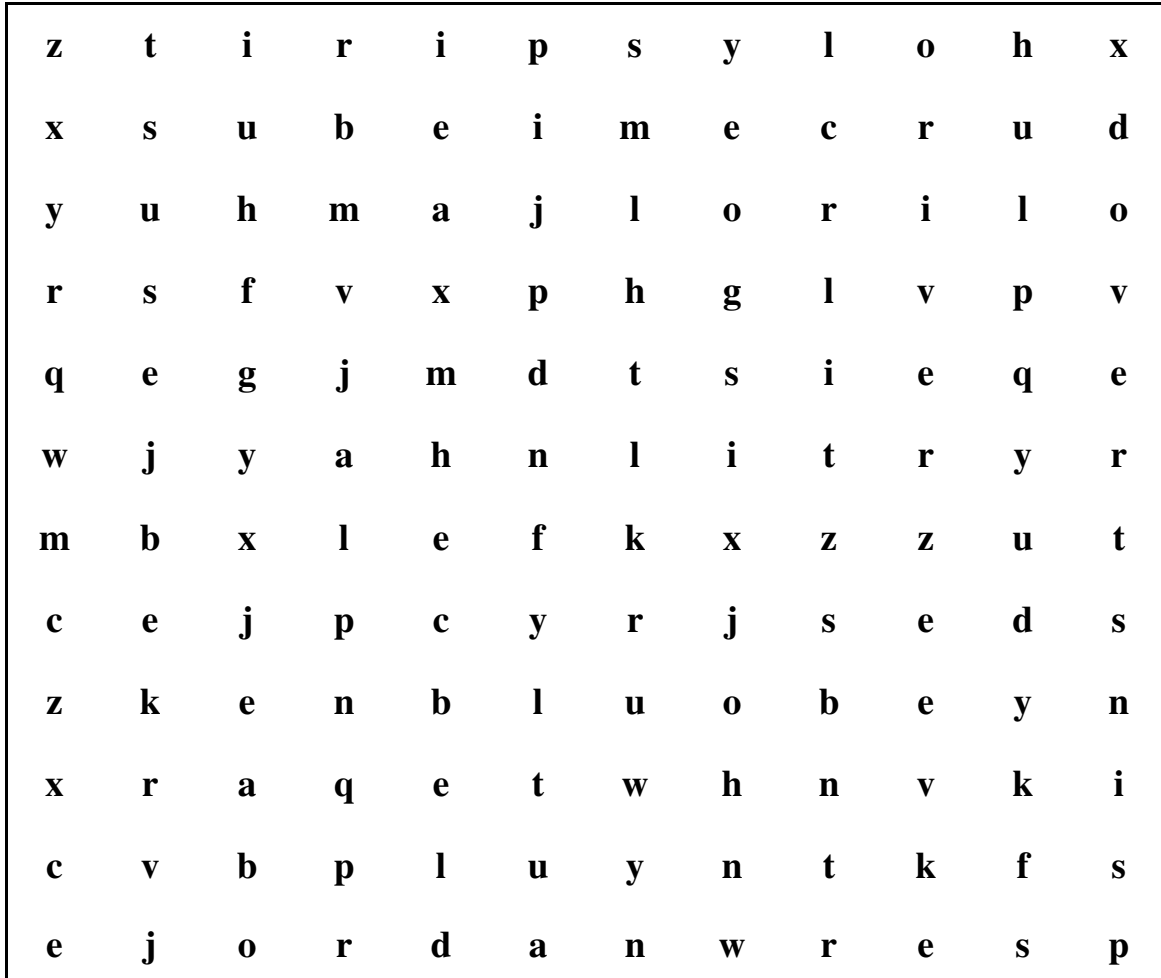


Repent of your sins  
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Acts 2:38

# John Baptizes Jesus

## Word Search

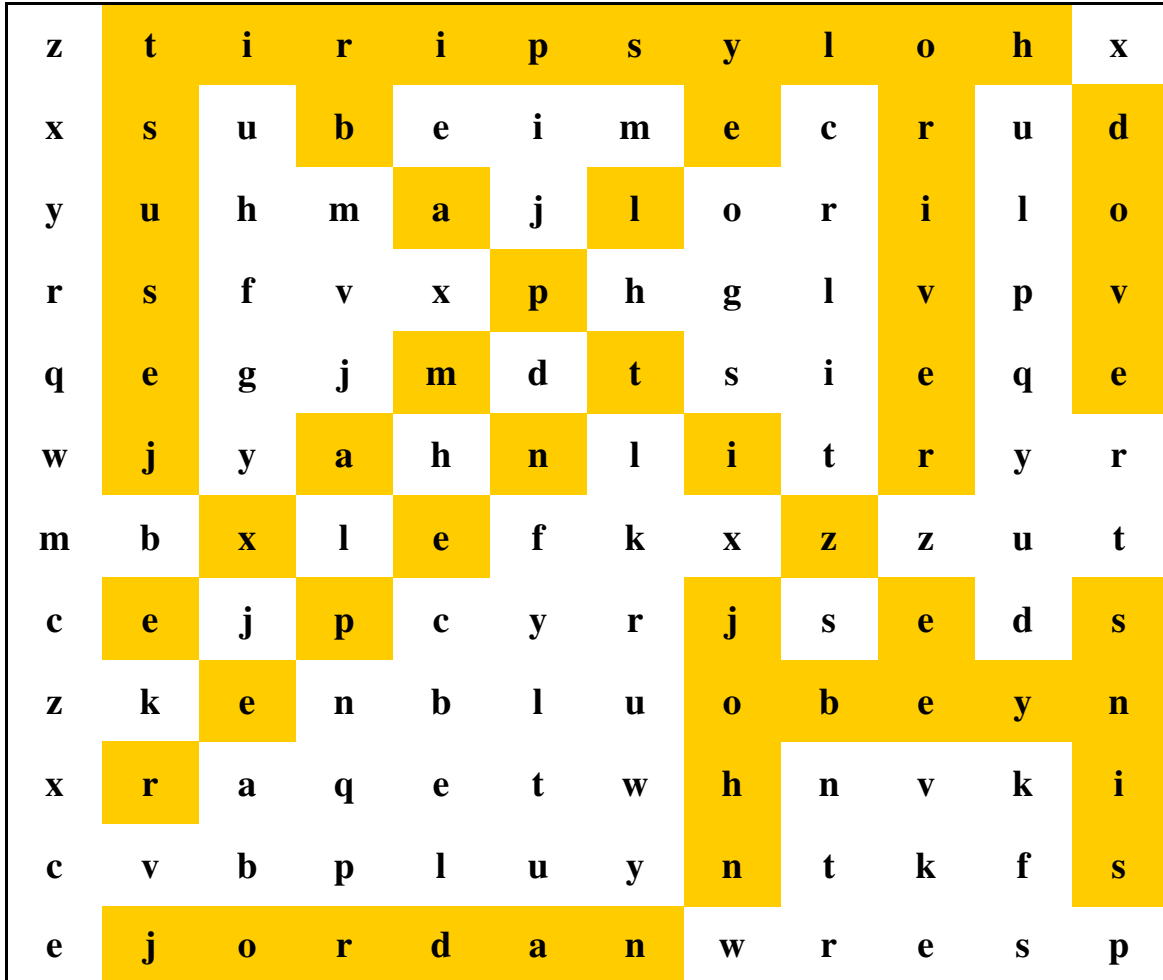


<b>John</b>	<b>baptize</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>river</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>
<b>dove</b>	<b>repent</b>	<b>sins</b>
<b>obey</b>	<b>example</b>	



# John Baptizes Jesus

## Word Search



John	baptize	Jesus
river	Jordan	Holy Spirit
dove	repent	sins
obey	example	

**Trace the word that means to turn away from  
your sins and turn to God.**

REPENT