

# Jesus in My Heart

## "What is Baptism?"

**Bible Story:** Matthew 3:13-17 - **Jesus is baptized.**

**Today we are going to talk about Baptism and what it means.**

- **Let me ask you** -- What are some ways that we use water at home or school?
- What about at church?

Does anyone know what baptism is?

Have you ever seen someone get baptized?

- People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.
- Baptism is an outward demonstration of an internal decision to follow Jesus.
- Being baptized doesn't save a person, only Jesus can do that. But baptism is a way for someone to publicly declare that they are a follower of Jesus.

Today we are going to learn about Jesus' baptism and how he calls us to be baptized as well.

## **Matthew 3:1-17**

### **The Work of John the Baptist**

*John the Baptist came and began preaching in the desert area of Judea. John said, "Change your hearts and lives because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon"*

*John's clothes were made from camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist. For food, he ate locusts and wild honey. Many people went to hear John preach. They came from Jerusalem and all Judea and all the area around the Jordan River. They told of the sins they had done, and John baptized them in the Jordan River.*

*Many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to the place where John was baptizing people. When John saw them, he said: "You are snakes! Who warned you to run away from God's anger that is coming? You must do the things that show that you have really changed your hearts and lives. And don't think that you can say to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you that God could make children for Abraham from these rocks.*

*The ax is now ready to cut down the trees. Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.<sup>[a]</sup>*

*"I baptize you with water to show that your hearts and lives have changed. But there is one coming later who is greater than I am. I am not good enough to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He will come ready to clean the grain. He will separate the good grain from the chaff. He will put the good part of the grain into his barn. And he will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out."*

### **Jesus Is Baptized by John**

*At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John and wanted John to baptize him. But John tried to stop him. John said, "Why do you come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!"*

*Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So John agreed to baptize Jesus.*

*Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water. Heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."*

## Discussion:

We see lots of signs every day that give us information:

*Hold up pictures of the various signs (stop sign, railroad crossing, etc.) Have the kids tell you what the various signs mean.*

- Here's a picture of another type of sign. *Show the picture of the person being baptized.*

**Ask:** Does anyone know what's happening in this picture?

This is another kind of sign called baptism. **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.**

Has anyone ever seen someone get baptized?

- Baptism is a way for someone to show that they are unified or connected with Jesus. They have Jesus living in their heart.

Everything about baptism is symbolic.

- The water represents God's judgment of sin.
- Going under the water represents God's punishment for sin that Jesus took for us.
- Coming out of the water symbolizes the new life that they have in Christ.
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Our story today comes from the book of Matthew and tells us just one of the stories about Jesus' life here on earth.

The man in the story, John the Baptist was a messenger who lived in the wilderness and preached to the people who came out to see him.

- Do you remember what he was teaching the people about?
- John taught that they must prepare their hearts for Jesus by repenting of their sin.
- John also baptized people in the Jordan River.

- Why were the people baptized? **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.**
- John told them that he baptized them with water, but someone would come after him who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit!
- Who do you think he was talking about? **(Jesus)**

**Tell the Story:** At that time Jesus had not yet started His ministry. He had been working as a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. The people were still waiting for the Messiah to be revealed: they didn't know it was Jesus! Even John didn't know who it was, but God had given John a special sign of who to look for.

- God told John that he would see God's Spirit descend on someone, and that man would be the promised Messiah.

One day Jesus came to see John as he was preaching to the people. Let's read from God's Word to hear what happened.

**Read John 1:29-31** *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.'"*

- What did John call Jesus? **(The Lamb of God.)**

That might sound really strange to us, but being referred to as the Lamb of God was actually really important. You see lambs were sacrificed in the temple for the people's sins. The people had to offer lambs over and over again because an animal couldn't truly take away their sin. Only God's perfect Son could do that.

- By calling Jesus the Lamb of God John was saying that **Jesus was the Messiah who would die for the sins of all the people, and that anyone who believed in Him would be forgiven.**
- Jesus came to John asking to be baptized. John was shocked by this and said, **"You're the one who should be baptizing me and you're asking me to baptize you?!"**
- Jesus replied, "You should baptize me because this is part of how I will fulfill all righteousness." John agreed and baptized Jesus right there in the Jordan River.

- As Jesus came up out of the water John saw something incredible. He saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove. Then he heard the voice of God saying, ***"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*** Then John knew without a doubt that **Jesus was the Messiah** whom God had promised from long ago.

If **People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin**, why do you think it was important for Jesus to be baptized?

- *He was absolutely perfect so there was no sin in His life for him to turn away from!*
- Jesus was baptized in order to identify with the sinful people He came to save and to give us a model for obedience to God.
- Jesus came to "fulfill all righteousness" and part of that includes being baptized!
- **Just because someone is baptized, does that mean they are saved and their sins are forgiven? (No)**

Baptism by itself doesn't save us.

- In **Romans 10:9** it says that, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*
- **Our sins are forgiven only when we trust in Jesus as our Savior, and our baptism is a sign that we have decided to follow Him.**

When people are baptized they have an opportunity to tell their story of how they came to know and love Jesus.

This is always such an encouraging time for everyone in the church!

**People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin.**

Baptism is always a celebration! Baptism is a sweet reminder of God's great love for us and is a special way to share your faith with the rest of the world.

*Pray Dear God thank you for the gift of baptism as a way to show that we are connected to Christ. We thank you for what an encouraging celebration it is to witness someone being baptized. We also thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for our sins so we could be united with Him and be welcomed into your kingdom. Amen.*

**Memory Verse:** "Change your hearts and lives because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon." Matthew 3:2

### Videos:

Here is a video to help explain the story as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-MDVv6Yaf0> – John the Baptist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAmWA> - The Baptism of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-MDVv6Yaf0> Veggie Tales –

### Craft: Baptism of Jesus Craft





"Change your hearts and lives because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon." Matthew 3:2

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!  
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &  
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

Thank you to [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) for great craft ideas