

## Jesus' Baptism

**Bible Story:** Jesus' Baptism • *John 1:29-34; Matthew 3:1-17; Easter Story*

**Bottom Line:** God sent Jesus to save us.

**Memory Verse:** "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life." *2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

## 1. Bible Story Review - Multiple Choice Q&A

**What You Need:** Paper, pencils, Bibles

### What You Do:

- Encourage kids to find a partner.
- Hand out paper and pencils.
- Instruct each pair to tear their paper into strips.
- On each strip of paper, ask kids to write one question that relates the Bible story.
- To make this a bit more fun, encourage each pair to make their questions multiple-choice, with at least three possible answers.
- Remind them that a GREAT rule for creating multiple-choice options is to include one crazy answer, one correct answer, and one answer that seems like it might be correct.
- Open the Bibles to Matthew 3:1-17 so the kids can refer to the verses as they're working. See the list of possible questions below if the kids get stuck.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the kids to fold each strip of paper in half and place it in the center of your small group area.
- Then move around the circle a couple times and let pairs take turns selecting three questions, reading them aloud, and answering them. Be prepared to help if needed.

**Possible Questions:**

- Who was John the Baptist? How was he related to Jesus?
- What foods was John famous for eating?
- Was Jesus “famous” at this point? Why or why not?
- Why did Jesus get into the water?
- What came down from the sky?
- What happened in the water that day?

**What You Say:**

- “That was AWESOME!
- And I must say, some of your multiple-choice answers were very creative.
- I love the story of Jesus’ baptism.
- This was God’s way of showing everyone there that day that He had sent Jesus, His only Son, to rescue them.
- Jesus would go on to heal and to teach and to perform some amazing miracles during his ministry.
- But his most important mission—the reason God had sent Him to earth in the first place—was to rescue us!
- **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.”**

## SNACK TIME

### DURING SNACK DO – LEVEL UP

## 2. Level Up

**What You Need:** “Level Up Cards”, Bible (**John 3:16**), white board, dry erase marker

### What You Do:

- Read John 3:16 aloud to your group. Then use the white board to review the four points from John 3:16:
  - Draw a heart on the board. God LOVED: God loves you not because of what you can or cannot do but because He IS love.
  - Draw a cross. God GAVE: **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.** Our sin separates us from a perfect God. God wants a relationship with each one of us, so He sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue us from our sin.
  - Draw a chair. We BELIEVE: Whoever trusts in Jesus (like you would trust a chair to hold you up) and what He did for us can be rescued from their sin.
  - Draw a gift. We RECEIVE: When we trust Jesus as our Savior or Rescuer we receive life—a relationship with God both now on earth and one day forever in heaven.
- After you’ve reviewed these four points and talked through what it means to trust Jesus as Savior, pass out the “Level Up Cards.”
- Explain that when it comes to trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him, we may all be at different levels.
- Just like you have to go through different levels in a video game to move from one to the next, there is a progression to our faith journey.
- Read the page aloud, explaining each of the levels as you go.
- Encourage the kids to write their name at the top of the card and then look at the levels and circle or underline the one they’re on.
- Remind them that no one else will see their card.

**What You Say:**

- “Everyone in this group is on a different level in their faith journey, and that is okay!
- That’s part of why you’re here this week—to learn about God and how to take the next step in your relationship with Him.
- Some of you have heard about Jesus before, and maybe some of you are hearing about Him for the very first time.
- But here’s what I want to make sure EVERYONE knows today.
- God loved you so much that He gave his Son Jesus to die on the cross for you and rescue you from sin—the stuff we do that’s wrong.
- We ALL sin and we ALL need to be saved or rescued from that sin.
- When we believe in Jesus and what He’s done for us, we receive the gift of a relationship with God now and forever.
- **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.**”

***[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about where you were in your faith journey when you were their age. At what level were you when you were eight, nine, or ten years old? If you had not heard about Jesus at that age, when did you first hear about Him and what He’s done for you?)***

### 3. Prayer

**What You Need:** “Level Up Cards” from previous activity, “Question Boxes” from previous days.

**What You Do:**

- Let the kids pray individually, asking God to help them understand where they are on their faith journey and to help them take the next step when they're ready.
- Instruct the kids to fold up their “Level Up Cards” and place them inside their “Question Boxes.”
- Close out your time in prayer.

**What You Say:**

“Let’s pray as we remember that **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.** God, we love You. Thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Jesus, Your only Son, to save us. Help each one of us take the next step in our faith so we can know and follow You more. Help us to trust You and believe in what Jesus did for each one of us. You are an awesome God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

### 4. Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

- When did you lose something?
- What was it?
- How did you find it?
- How did you feel as you were searching for it before you found it?
- How did it feel once you’d found what was missing?

Talk to the kids about how being rescued is a bit like finding something that was lost.