

## 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 (NIV)*

### 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 - The Form of a Dove

**What You Need:** "Dove-copters" (Activity Page), crayons, paper clips

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Dove-copter."
- Set out the crayons and invite kids to color the doves as they choose.
- Follow the instructions on the Activity Page to help kids fold their templates into doves.
- Give each kid a paper clip to slide onto the "base" of the copter as shown on the Activity Page.
- Show kids how they can hold their copters above their heads, release them, and watch them twirl to the floor.
- Encourage kids to let their "Dove-copters" remind them of the time God sent His Spirit to be with Jesus and said: **"This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with him"** (*Matthew 3:17 NIV*).
- As kids work, ask prompting questions to review the Bible story. Be sure to emphasize the following points:
  - Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by his cousin, John. (*Briefly unpack what it means to baptize someone.*)
  - At first, John didn't want to baptize Jesus. He thought Jesus should baptize HIM.
  - As soon as Jesus came out of the water, God sent the Holy Spirit to be with Jesus. The Bible says that the Spirit of God came down on Him like a dove. God spoke from heaven and said: **"This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with him"** (*Matthew 3:17 NIV*).

- John told the people that Jesus would take away the sin of the world! He would be the one to rescue them from their sin.
- Later, Jesus died on a cross to pay for your sins and mine. Three days later, the tomb where Jesus was buried was empty! It was empty because Jesus was alive! **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.**

### What You Say:

- “When you believe that Jesus really is God’s Son—that He’s alive and that He died to save you from your sin—God forgives you.
- He erases your sin like it never happened.
- And when He does, you can have a close relationship with Him.
- You also have His promise that you’ll live with Him FOREVER!
- WOW!

***[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell how you came to believe that Jesus is God’s Son, how you asked Him to forgive you sin, and how you chose to follow Him. Tell how following Jesus has made a difference in your life.)***

- “So remember: **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us.**
- He sent Jesus to save me, and He sent Jesus to save you.
- You may not understand everything now, and that’s okay.
- But if you’d like to talk with someone about what it means to believe in Jesus and follow Him, you can talk to me, another VBS leader, your mom or dad, or someone you know who follows Jesus.
- We’ll be happy to talk with you, and we’ll do our best to answer any questions you have.
- But no matter what, ALWAYS remember that God loves you more than you can imagine, that He wants to have a VERY special relationship with you, and that **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us!”**

## SNACK TIME – DURING SNACK TIME TALK ABOUT THE MEMORY VERSE

### 2. Memory Verse

**What You Need:** Bible -2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

#### What You Do:

- **Invite** a child find the verse in the Bible
- **Read** “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.”

#### What You Say:

- “Second Peter 1:3 tells us: *God’s power has given us everything we need to live a godly life (NIRV).*
- When God used his power to raise Jesus from the dead, He also gave us power over sin.
- When we believe in Jesus, we can live in a way that God wants us to.
- “What’s something that pleases God that you can ask Him to give you the power to do?
  - *I can ask Him to help me be nice to my little brother*
  - *I can ask Him to help me be kind to my friends*
  - *I can ask Him to help me learn about Jesus.*
- Great ideas!
- So remember, when **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us**, He gave us the power to live lives that please Him.”

### 3. Prayer

**What You Need:** “Level up cards”, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “level up” card
- Walk kids through the five levels step by step. Guide them to understand the level they think they’re at on their stickers.
- If they have questions and would like to talk with you or another adult, instruct them to underline their number.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

**What You Say:**

- “John the Baptist wanted people to know that Jesus would be the one who would rescue them.
- He wanted people to know that **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us!**
- It’s true!
- Jesus loves us SO much that He died on a cross to pay for your sin and mine.
- But the story doesn’t end there.
- Three days later, God’s POWER brought Jesus back to life!
- And when you believe in what Jesus did and ask God to forgive your sin, He will!
- So remember: **[Bottom Line] God sent Jesus to save us!**
- Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to save us. Thank You that You love us SO much that You sent Your only Son to die on a cross to pay for our sin. We love You, Lord. 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!

- John the Baptist ate locusts—which were bugs—and honey. If you could eat only two foods, what would you eat?
- What do you think people thought when they saw God’s Spirit come down on Jesus like a dove?