

Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1:9 -11

Prepare to hear the Word:

- Baptism with water was not part of Jewish tradition. There were only two initiation rites necessary for those who were born to Judaism: circumcision and animal sacrifice.
- John the Baptist was introduced by Mark as the one who prepares for Jesus.
- This scene announces who Jesus is.
- This story was written by Mark to convince others to believe.

You will need:

- A large circle of green felt.
- A piece of dark blue for the river
- 2 figures – Jesus and John the Baptist
- 3 or 4 crowd figures
- Small wooden dove

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Place the felt background in the middle of the story space.

Place the river on top of the background. Place figure of John the Baptist beside the river.

This is the story of the Baptism of Jesus, and it reminds us how much God the Father loves his Son.

Place the crowd figures on the green background. Place Jesus with them.

One day, Jesus went down to the river Jordan where his cousin, John the Baptist, was baptising many people.

Move the figure of Jesus towards John, near the river.

Jesus wanted to talk to his cousin John, he asked him to baptise him in the river.

Face the two figures towards each other

So together John the Baptist and Jesus went down into the river and Jesus was baptised in the water of the Jordan River.

Place the two figures on the blue felt.

When Jesus came up out of the water he saw the Holy Spirit who had come to him like a dove from the sky and a voice came from heaven and said,

'You are my Son, the Beloved: with you I am well pleased.'

Move the figure of Jesus onto the green felt and place a small white dove near him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

I Wonder:

- I wonder how Jesus felt when he found John, his cousin, down by the River?
- I wonder why Jesus wanted to be Baptised by John?
- I wonder what John thought when Jesus asked to be Baptised?
- I wonder what Jesus and John thought when they heard the voice?
- I wonder if Jesus felt really special when he heard the words of the voice from heaven?
- I wonder if you know where you were Baptised?
- I wonder where you would be in this story?

The Baptism of Jesus Mark 1:9-11

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Prepare to hear the Word

Teachers

In verse nine of Mark's first chapter, the reader is introduced to Jesus, a man who comes from Nazareth to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. This baptismal story, carefully placed immediately after John's introduction and a description of his ministry, establishes that in Jesus we have the one prophesied to follow John.

Mark use three distinct features to confirm the identity of Jesus. The heavens are torn apart, the Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove and God's voice comes from heaven. All of these motifs affirm that Jesus is God's true Son in whom the Spirit is found. Like Saul and David, this man Jesus speaks and acts on behalf of God. He is God's Son.

Teaching the Scripture – The Gospel of Mark. *Margaret Carswell*, 2001.