



LESSON 2

**JESUS' BAPTISM**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is God's Son

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1; Matthew 3

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by encouraging people to repent and be baptized. At Jesus' baptism, God reveals that Jesus is His own Son.

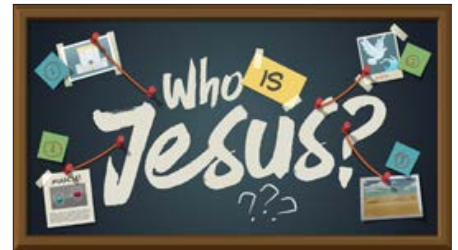
**WORD OF WONDER:** Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Never Better, What a friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Who is Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is God's Son

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**WORD OF WONDER:** From Colossians 1:15

Take a moment to read Matthew 3 and Mark 1:1–12. Who do you identify with? The eager crowds? The suspicious religious gatekeepers? Or with John, who obeyed God's call to preach His word even when he didn't fully understand what was happening?

What John *did* understand is that he had a part to play in the work of God. He boldly shared the message he'd been given, but he was quick to get off the stage when Jesus showed up.

When Jesus arrived at the Jordan River, I imagine the crowd sensed something special was happening. And when Jesus was baptized, God, like any proud father, spoke words of identity and blessing over His Son. Only Jesus has the power to touch hearts and change lives. To rescue us from evil and darkness. Jesus truly is the Son of God, and that changes everything.

Take time this week to remember how Jesus has transformed (and is transforming) your life. How has He turned things upside down, made wrong things right, and brought the kingdom of God to you? Then as you hold the wonder of the moment when Jesus stepped into history and changed your eternity, ask God how you, like John the Baptist, can help prepare kids' hearts to encounter Jesus, God's Son, too.

—Lise Caldwell

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. He was filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born. He was a prophet—like Elijah—who prepared people for the Messiah and God's kingdom. He was eventually imprisoned and executed by Herod Antipas.

**WHAT?**

John preached in the Judean desert and baptized at the Jordan River. Many people came to repent and be baptized, including Jesus Himself. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down on Him and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son."

**WHERE?**

The Judean desert was between Jerusalem and the Jordan River. John was baptizing "at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan" (John 1:28, NIV). This indicates the eastern bank of the river, slightly north of the northernmost tip of the Dead Sea.

**WHEN?**

Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His ministry (Luke 3:23). John baptized Jesus at the outset of this ministry, around AD 26–29. After Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, where He was tempted by the devil.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Old Testament prophets like Joel looked forward to a day when God would give the Spirit freely to all people (see Joel 2:28). John baptized with water but spoke of Jesus as the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. It is through Jesus that God's Spirit is poured out!



## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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## Welcome

**Slide: Series Welcome Loop**

### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

### Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** Let's see what our friend Tac the Cat is up to today! Hey, Tac, are you around?

**Tac the Cat:** (*Tac appears.*) Hi, friends!

**Leader:** Hey, Tac! What are you up to today?

**Tac the Cat:** Well, I was just listening to my dad talk to one of his friends. He said he was really proud of his son. I was wondering, what is a son? Who is he proud of?

**Leader:** A son is a dad's little boy. You are your dad's son!

**Tac the Cat:** I'm my dad's son? So he was saying he's proud of me?

**Leader:** Yep! Your dad is proud of his son—you! And if a dad says he is proud of his daughter—that would be his little girl.

**Tac the Cat:** I'm glad he's proud of me.

**Leader:** It's good to do things that make our moms and dads happy with us, isn't it? In our story today we're going to hear about a time when Jesus' Father was happy with Him.

**Tac the Cat:** Jesus was a son, too? Who's His dad?

**Leader:** Jesus is God's Son! God is Jesus' dad.

**Tac the Cat:** Wow! And God is proud of Jesus?

**Leader:** He is! Jesus didn't have to do anything to make His Father proud either. We're going to hear more about that in our God's big story soon.

**Tac the Cat:** Oh, wow, I can't wait to hear more! Oh, I think I hear my dad calling me now. I'll see you all later!

**Leader:** OK. Bye, Tac!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever thought that God could be happy with you? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever stopped to think that you can be part of God's family? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about the truth that Jesus is God's Son?"**

**SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS GOD'S SON**. Today we'll discover why it's so important that Jesus is God's Son!"

## Declaring God's Wonder

**SLIDE: DECLARATION**

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

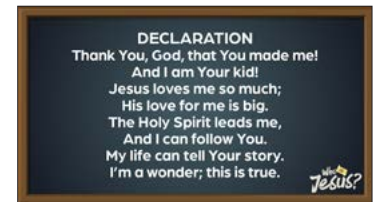
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, thank You for speaking to us in Your big story. We ask that Your Holy Spirit help us understand how amazing Jesus, Your Son, is. Help us know that because Jesus came to us, we can be part of Your family. Thank You for loving us and making us Your very own kids. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

"Today we'll learn that Jesus is God's Son. Let's sing about Jesus together!"

**WORSHIP SONGS: Never Better, What a friend**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the books of Mark and Matthew in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found; the first two books of the New Testament.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

**"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Mark and Matthew in the Bible."**

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, a clothesline or string, pushpins or painter's tape, clothespins (8)

**RESOURCES:** Story Cards (1 set/campus)

**Leader Tip:** To reinforce the truth that God is Jesus' proud Father, have the leader's father, or a familiar male leader or elder, record a quick greeting to the kids. In the greeting, he can share how excited he is for the leader to be with them to share about God's love. He might segue into the story by saying something like this: "There's a story in the Bible of another Father who was extremely pleased with His Son. Let's check it out. (Or have a father come in to talk to kids.)"

Before kids arrive, use pushpins or painter's tape to hang up a clothesline or thick string at the front of the room. Then clip eight clothespins to the line. Print the Story Cards and set them nearby.

Gather kids around the clothesline and hold up the Story Cards. **"I have some special pictures that will help us learn part of God's big story today! As I tell the story, let's work together to put the pictures in order.**

Hold up the first picture—the picture of the father and son. **What do you think this might be a picture of?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Yes, it's a picture of a dad and his son!**

**Jesus grew up. He got stronger and wiser. He had a special relationship with God. God was His Father. God had a plan for Jesus, and Jesus did what God wanted.**

Hand the picture to a kid and let him hang it on the clothesline with the first clothespin.

**Jesus was ready for His giant part in God's big story. With the help of God's Spirit, a man named John the Baptist was helping people get ready for Jesus.**

**John was not like most people.**

Hold up the picture of the locusts and honey. **He ate wild honey and crunchy grasshoppers called locusts.** Hand the picture to a kid and let her hang it on the clothesline next to the father and son picture.

Hold up the picture of the leather belt. **John's clothes were made from camel's hair. And he wore a leather belt.** Hand the picture to a kid and let him hook it on the clothesline next to the picture of locusts and honey.

Hold up the picture of the desert. **John went to the dusty desert to tell lots of people about God. John told them to change their hearts and lives because God's kingdom was coming soon. The forever King was coming! John was getting people ready for Jesus!** Hand the picture to a kid and let her hang it on the clothesline next to the picture of the leather belt.



**People told John about the wrong things they had done. These wrong things are called sin. The people wanted to stop doing those wrong things and start following God instead.** Hold up the picture of the river.

**John baptized these people in the Jordan River by dipping them under the water. It was like washing off the old yuckiness of sin to make them ready for something new—something better.**

Hand the picture to a kid and let him hang it on the clothesline next to the picture of the desert. **John told them Jesus was coming soon.**

Hold up the picture of the sandals. **John told the people, “ ‘After me, there is someone coming who is more powerful than I am. I’m not good enough to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water. But he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit’ ” (Mark 1:7–8). The Spirit would change people’s hearts forever. Then people would be ready for God’s kingdom.**

Hand the picture to a kid and let her hang it on the clothesline next to the river picture.

**Then, Jesus came to the Jordan River. Jesus wanted to be baptized too, “but John tried to stop him” (Matthew 3:14). Why would Jesus want to be baptized? He hadn’t done wrong things like all the other people had. But Jesus said, “ ‘Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God’s holy plan’ ” (Matthew 3:15).**

**So John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove.”**

Hold up the picture of the dove and then hand the picture to a kid and let him hang it on the clothesline next to the picture of the sandals.

**“A voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him’ ” (Matthew 3:16–17).**

Hold up the second picture of the father and son. Hand the picture to a kid and let her hang it on the clothesline next to the dove picture. **Who is Jesus? Jesus is the only One who can make wrong things right and save people. Jesus is the only One powerful enough to bring God’s Spirit and change people’s hearts. Jesus can do all of this because Jesus is God’s Son!”**



## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS GOD'S SON. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**The Bible tells about messengers of God who said there would come a day when God would give the Holy Spirit to all people (see Joel 2:28). The messengers said this many years before Jesus was born. Then much later, John came and baptized people with water and spoke of Jesus as the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. It is through Jesus that God's Spirit is given to people who trust in Jesus!**

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending His Son to save us.

**Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Help us remember that He is Your Son and that we are Your kids too! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** May God bless you this week as you remember that He is a good Father. Remember this: Jesus is God's Son, and we are God's kids. God loves you so much, and nothing will ever change that!