



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.

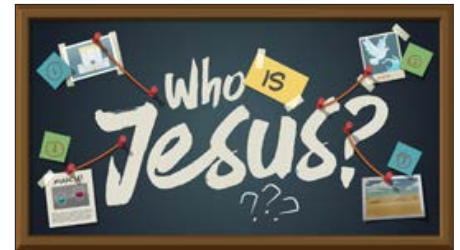
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Name Tags
 - Clean Hearts
 - Jesus' Baptism Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Colossians 1:15
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Pass the Ball
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Fingerprint Pictures
- Game: Parachute Play



[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

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1; Matthew 3

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!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is God's Son

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1; Matthew 3

WORD OF WONDER: From Colossians 1:15

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: name tags (1 per kid), writing utensils, white paper (2–3 sheets), scissors (prep only), laminator (prep only), dry-erase markers, paper towels, coloring utensils, sheet protectors (2–3, optional)

RESOURCES: [Jesus' Baptism Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Name Tags

Set-up: Set out name tags and writing utensils.

Play: Invite the kids to practice writing their names on the name tags or draw pictures of themselves on the name tags.

Play Station: Clean Hearts

Set-up: Ahead of time, cut heart shapes out of the white paper and laminate the shapes. If you cannot laminate the hearts, you can put the hearts inside sheet protectors. Set out the dry-erase markers and paper towels nearby.

Play: Kids can draw on the hearts with the dry-erase markers and then erase their drawings with paper towels to make the hearts clean.

Play Station: Jesus' Baptism Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of themselves.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, various colors of paper (at least 1 sheet per kid)

RESOURCES: songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Place several sheets of paper in a variety of colors out on the floor in a large circle. Have kids each pick a sheet of paper to stand on.

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible.

—from Colossians 1:15

"We're going to play a fun game to help us learn our Word of Wonder! But first, let's practice saying our verse together."

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

- **JESUS IS**—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.
- **THE IMAGE OF GOD**,—Point up.
- **WHO IS INVISIBLE**.—Cover eyes.
- **FROM COLOSSIANS 1:15**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

After you repeat the verse with the kids several times, explain to the kids how the game will work.

"You're all standing on different colors of paper. What color of paper are you standing on? Allow kids to answer. If need be, review the colors with the kids. In our game, we are going to march around the circle. When the music stops, everyone should stand on a sheet of paper and freeze. I will call out a color, and if you're standing on that color of paper, it will be your turn to say the Word of Wonder!"

Play music from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and stop it periodically. When you stop the music, encourage all the kids to stand on a sheet of paper. Then call out a color of one of the papers. For example, call out, "Blue!" Whoever is standing on a blue sheet of paper should recite the Word of Wonder together. Help the kids recite the verse as needed. Repeat as time allows.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does our Word of Wonder tell us about Jesus?** (He is the image of God.)
- **Do you know who else is made in the image of God?** (Us!)

God's Big Story / Snack

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

Read pages 237–241 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.

Circle Time: Pass the Ball

SUPPLIES: ball

Gather kids together in a circle. **"We're going to play a fun game to help us remember what we learned in God's big story! We're going to slowly pass this ball around the circle.** Demonstrate how to hand (not throw!) the ball to the person sitting next to you. **When I say, "Change," we'll change the direction the ball is going around the circle. When I say, "Stop," we'll stop passing the ball, and whoever is holding the ball will get to answer a question.** Practice with the kids a few times while they get the hang of passing the ball and changing direction and stopping. Then begin the game, and when you say, "Stop," ask one of the questions below to the child holding the ball.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What was the name of the man in our story who baptized Jesus in the river?** (*John*)
- **What did John like to eat?** (*locusts and honey*)
- **What happened when Jesus was baptized?** (*Heaven was opened; the Spirit of God came down like a dove; God said Jesus was His Son and He was happy with Him.*)
- **Who is God's Son?** (*Jesus*)
- **Jesus is the only One who can change people's hearts. Is there anything in your heart that needs changing?**
- **Jesus is God's Son! When we follow Him, we become God's kids too! What is one way you can remind yourself this week that you are God's kid?**
- **Have you ever seen someone get baptized? Share about it.**

God loves us and sent Jesus, His very own Son, to die and rise again so that the wrong things we do can be forgiven. Because of Jesus—God’s Son—we can be God’s kids too! No matter what happens this week, we can know that God loves us. Let’s praise God for His love and ask Him to help us as we follow Him this week.

Let’s talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for sending Jesus so that we can be God’s kids too!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Craft: Fingerprint Pictures

SUPPLIES: washable ink pads, wet wipes (1 per kid)

RESOURCES: [Fingerprint Printable \(1 per kid\)](#)/[back of coloring page](#), coloring utensils, songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, print a copy of the Fingerprint Printable for each kid.

Set out washable ink pads and wipes nearby.

Give each kid a copy of the printable.

"Today we’re learning that Jesus is God’s Son. Let’s look at our hands.

Do you see all of those lines and marks on your hands? Did you know that there is no one in the world who has the same prints on his hands as you do? God made you, and you can be a child of God when you trust in Jesus. Fingerprints help us know who someone is. Let’s use our fingerprints to fill in the words on our sheets.

Point to the words on the sheets and read them to the kids:

Jesus is God’s Son.

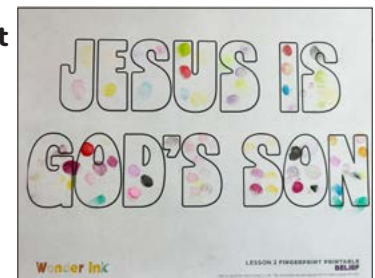
Even kids who can’t read can still look at and point to the letters and words as you say them.

Touch your fingers onto the ink pads and press down lightly onto the paper inside the letters. Your fingerprints will fill in the words that help us know Jesus and who He is!

Give kids time to make their fingerprints inside the words on their papers. If you have a variety of ink colors, let the kids wipe off their fingers and use other colors of ink. Then give them a wipe to clean the ink off their fingers.

We learned that Jesus is God’s Son and that we are God’s kids too! As you add your fingerprints, I am going to ask you some questions. You can also color around the words as you think about the answers

First, let’s think about this question: What amazes you about Jesus? Now you can paint your answer.



Ready for our next question? Here it is: What can you thank God for today? Maybe that's your family or your house or your church. What do you want to tell God thank You for today?

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.

You can take your picture home to help you remember that Jesus is God's Son!"

Leader Tip: If time allows, let kids compare how their fingerprints look compared to those of the other kids in the group. For extra fun, get out some magnifying glasses and let them take an extra close look!

Game: Parachute Play

SUPPLIES: parachute, large bedsheet (optional)

Gather kids around a parachute or a large bedsheet and have them each hold on to part of the edge.

"In God's big story today, Jesus went under the water in the river. Do you remember what happened when He came back up out of the water? "A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him' " (Matthew 3:17). Whose voice did Jesus hear? It was God's voice! Let's play a game where we pretend we're going under the water in the river just like Jesus did."

Show kids how to move the parachute (or bedsheet) up and down slowly at the same time. Once they get the hang of doing this, choose one kid to "go underwater." As soon as the kids on the outside of the parachute start to raise it up, the chosen kid will go under the parachute and then try to come out the other side before the parachute comes back down again. Play as time allows.