

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.

Object Lesson: Clean Hearts

Activity: Parachute Play

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: What's Your Name?

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Object Lesson: Clean Hearts

SUPPLIES: paper (2–3 sheets), scissors (prep only), laminator, dry-erase markers, wipes, sheet protectors (optional)

Before kids arrive, draw and cut out several paper hearts; then laminate them. If a laminator is not available, you can use sheet protectors instead. Set out the dry-erase markers and wipes nearby.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I am so glad you're here at church with us today! When things get dirty, they need to be washed clean. Let's draw on these hearts and then see if we can wipe them clean!

Let kids draw on the hearts with dry-erase markers. Then let them use wipes to clean the hearts.

Good job cleaning off your hearts! Today we are going to hear about someone who told us that we need to have clean hearts to be friends with God's Son, Jesus!

Activity: Parachute Play

SUPPLIES: parachute, large bedsheet (optional)

Have kids hold on to part of the edge of the parachute (or bedsheet) and move it up and down. Kids can take turns going under the parachute and then coming back out.

In our story today, we're going to hear about someone who went under the water and then came back out, just like you went under the parachute and came back out. When He came back out, God said that person, Jesus, was His Son!

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS GOD'S SON.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Cross hands over your heart.

IS GOD'S—Point up.

SON—Put arms in a semi-circle above your head (like a sun).

Worship

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

Today we're learning that Jesus is God's Son. Let's sing together and thank God for Jesus!

Play songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Story Cards, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus. Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus!

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

Before kids arrive, print out the Story Cards and set them nearby.

Gather kids around and hold up the Story Cards. **I have some special pictures that will help us learn God's big story today!**

Hold up the picture of the dad and son. **What do you think this is a picture of?** Allow time for the kids to answer. **Yes, it's a picture of a dad and his son! This helps us start our story from the Bible.**



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.

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. His clothes were made from camel's hair.**

Hold up the picture of the leather belt. **He wore a leather belt.**

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!**

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 them 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.**

John told them Jesus was coming soon. Hold up the picture of the sandals.

Then Jesus came to the Jordan River. Jesus wanted to be baptized too. 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. **"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. **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!**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

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.

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

Activity: What's Your Name?

Jesus is the name of God's Son. Point to each of the kids and say, "Your name is ... (name each of the kids)."

I'm going to say someone's name, and if I say your name, you can do the action I say. Call each of the kids by name and ask each of them to do something such as stand up, sit down, jump, touch their nose, give someone a high five, or spin around.

You did a great job listening for your name and doing an action!