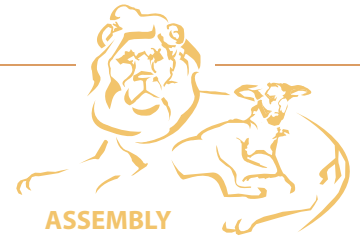


THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 3:13-17



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

THE HEAVENS OPEN

Supplies

flat white sheet

Pick one child to play Jesus, one to play John and one child to play the Holy Spirit. Wrap the sheet around the child playing the Holy Spirit, draping it over his arms.

Have the rest of the children play the role of the heavens by forming a tight circle with the Holy Spirit hidden in the center. Act out the scene and at the point where the heavens open, have the children break open the circle with the Holy Spirit bursting forth imitating a dove and hovering near Jesus. One of the adults can speak out the part of God the Father.

WHO CAN REMEMBER?

See how long it takes for the class to guess all the parts of the story. List them on a white board as they are offered. Then go back to the class and see if they can place them in the proper order.

- Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John
- John objected saying Jesus should baptize him
- Jesus answers John telling him it is to fulfill righteousness
- Jesus is baptized
- The heavens were opened
- The Spirit descended like a dove
- God the Father's voice called out from heaven

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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus with His baptism instituted a new sacrament for believers. Baptism would come to replace circumcision as the mark of a true believer.

Our baptism is a symbol for Christ's burial in the tomb (when we go under the water) and a symbol of the resurrection (when we come up out of the water).

Paul teaches us in Romans 6:4;

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might walk in newness of life.

