

## The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-34



## The Story

Jesus had a relative named John. His father was Zacharias and his mother was Elizabeth. John was to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.

When John grew up he lived in the wilderness. He wore a camel hair coat and a belt. He ate wild honey and grasshoppers.

John preached God's Word. He told people to admit their sins. He wanted people to be sorry when they did something wrong. He told people that Jesus was coming to

save them. John baptized people in the Jordan River.

One day Jesus came to see John. John said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus wanted to be baptized. A miracle happened after Jesus was baptized. The Holy Spirit came down to Jesus in the shape of a dove. The Holy Spirit landed on Jesus. God the Father spoke from heaven and said, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

**Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.**

## Passage

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
John 3:16

## Hymn - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come, then, and hearken,  
For He brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore  
And Holy Ghost  
Forevermore.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for showing us that, through His baptism, Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Activity One** - Cut out the dove and wings along the outer lines. Slit dotted line in the dove and insert wings. Hole punch the small circle and draw a piece of yarn through. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus.

