

BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us God's love.

GOD STORY

Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13–17)

KEY VERSE

...let's love each other, because love is from God... (1 John 4:7a, CEB)

MUSIC

"J-E-S-U-S" (*The Meeting House Kids*)

1 | Start

SUPPLIES

- Word Search activity page
- Pen
- Muffin pans containing pictures of Jesus and John (see sample photo)
- Plastic tokens or ping-pong balls
- Scrap paper
- (Optional) Timer

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Set up the pans on the floor. Leave some space between them.

TIPS

- Depending on what works best for your children, do the word search or the baptism bounce activity or both.
- You could time the children and see how fast they score a certain number of points.
- Using ping-pong balls will make it more challenging.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Introduce the Big Idea for the God's Love series: **Jesus shows us God's love.**
- Tell the children that the hidden words on the activity page are from today's Bible story about Jesus.
- Demonstrate how to circle a word, then guide the children to look for the rest of them.
- When they're done the word search, play a game that introduces Jesus and John the Baptist. First, form two teams (e.g., child versus child or children versus adults).
- Direct the teams to stand a short distance from the muffin pans.
- Point out that there are three colours of pictures of John baptizing Jesus. They are worth:
 - Yellow = 1 point
 - Blue = 2 points
 - Red = 5 points
- Guide teammates to take turns tossing the plastic tokens or ping-pong balls into their pan.
- Keep track of each team's points on a piece of scrap paper.
- Play as long as the children are interested, then announce which team scored the most points.
- To wrap up, explain that the picture of John baptizing Jesus is from today's Bible story.



2 | Watch

SUPPLIES

- Media player

INSTRUCTIONS

- Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Early Years playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

3 | Pray

SUPPLIES

- Notebooks
- Colouring and writing supplies (e.g., crayons, markers, pens, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Invite each child to use a notebook as a prayer journal. Encourage them to draw or write all kinds of prayers to God.
- Explain that when we record our prayers in a journal, we can go back and read them to see how God is working in our lives!

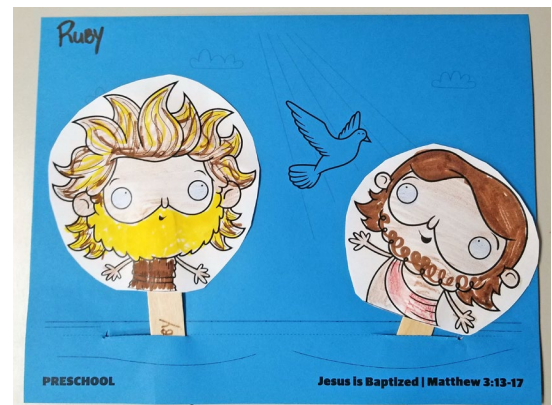
4 | Craft

SUPPLIES

- Jesus Is Baptized activity pages with slits cut across the water (see sample craft photo)
- Large craft sticks
- Jesus and John cutouts
- Colouring supplies
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

- Give each child an activity page, two craft sticks, and one of each of the cutouts.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can share them easily.
- Guide the children to colour their cutouts.
- Help them tape the cutouts onto their craft sticks to create moveable figures.
- Demonstrate how to put them through the slit in the paper.
- Encourage everyone to use their crafts to tell today's Bible story.
- Emphasize that **Jesus shows us God's love.**





5 | Key Verse

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Key Verse words printed on cards
- String

TIP

- This activity is done again in Week 3 and 5.

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Place the sign where everyone can see it.
- Mix up the Key Verse words.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Introduce the Key Verse for this series. Point out the words on the sign as you read 1 John 4:7.
- Work together to arrange the words on the cards in the correct order.
- String the verse together.
- Take the cards off the string and do it again.
- Repeat saying the verse out loud together.
- When you're done, display it somewhere that your family will see it throughout the month.