

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 6
The Lord's Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Baptism represents repentance and reformation, which must come before regeneration.
- B. The Lord's baptism by John was a sign that He was doing the work of glorification in His outer life, fighting the evils that could attack Him through the human He had taken on from Mary.
- C. Basic correspondences:
 - Father = soul
 - Son/Jesus = mind
 - Holy Spirit = operation, use, doing things
- D. A dove represents affections and thoughts about regeneration. (TCR 144)

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Do you remember what happened in last week's lesson? When Jesus was about 13 years old He came with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When Mary and Joseph left Jerusalem and had traveled for a day, what did they discover? (Jesus wasn't with them.) Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to search for Jesus, and they found Him in the temple talking with the teachers (men who knew a lot about the Old Testament). The teachers were amazed at how much He knew and understood for such a young person. Jesus obediently went back to His home in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.
- 2. The Word doesn't tell us any more about Jesus growing up in Nazareth. The next story about Him is when He comes to be baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River when He is nearly 30 years old.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud Matthew 3:13-17.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Can anyone remember how old the Lord was when He went to John to be baptized? (About 30 years old)
- 2. What was the name of the river where He was baptized? (Jordan)

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3. What was the name of the man whom Jesus asked to baptize Him?
(John the Baptist)
4. Did John want to do it? (No)
5. When Jesus came out of the water of the Jordan River after He was baptized, what did He see? (The spirit of God descending like a dove.)
6. What did the dove do? (It alighted on Him, that is, landed on Him.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Baptism

- a. The Lord came into the world to show people how to live. He wanted to be baptized by John because He wanted to show us that baptism is important and is something we should do.
- b. What happens when someone is baptized? If it's an adult, he promises to try to obey the Lord's commandments. If it's a baby, his parents promise to teach him the commandments and help him to live by them. Then the minister puts a little bit of water on his head and chest, and gives him a blessing.
- c. When John baptized people, including Jesus, they walked right into the river and got wet all over. Some churches still baptize people by getting them wet all over. Once someone is baptized, his spirit is with the angels in the Christian heaven. These angels can help him to fight against evil spirits.
- d. What does the water mean? We use water to clean our natural (earthly) bodies, and we use true ideas from the Word to clean out evil from our minds, to help us see what we are doing that is bad so we can stop doing it. The water of baptism is a sign that we want to make our lives clean by obeying the Lord's commandments and by not doing bad things. After we stop doing bad things, the Lord can come to us and give us happy feelings about doing good things.

2. The Trinity (names of the Lord)

- a. The Lord has lots of names. Can you think of two that were in our reading for today? ("Jesus" and "the Son") Do you have more than one name? Most people do. (first & middle, nickname)
- b. Just because you are called by 2, or 3, or 4 names doesn't make you 2, or 3, or 4 people, does it? No! Well, Jesus and the Lord aren't two different people, either. Jesus, the Son, God, Savior, Redeemer, Creator, Jehovah— all these are different names for the Lord. But there is only one Lord!

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III. Enrichment Activities (Do as many as time permits)

A. Music

1. "You are my beloved Son," *Lori's Songs III* (Side 1); perhaps just listen to during project time.
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245.
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," *Hymnal* #246. (Hebrew version of #245)
4. "Wash yourself, make yourself clean,"

B. Activities

1. Give each child a dirty teacup or mug to wash, explaining that the Lord says to wash both the inside and the outside of the cup.
2. Have pictures of doves available. Talk about their qualities: white, clean, loving, gentle. These qualities remind us of following the Lord, allowing Him to wash our minds and hearts.

C. Projects

1. Make a dove from clay or white Plasticine (an oil-based modeling compound). Poke white feathers into the clay if you wish. If time allows, make a nest, some eggs, or a second dove to make a pair. If using clay instead of Plasticine, allow the clay to dry for a week before painting it.
2. The Lord's Baptism— Make pipe-cleaner figures to represent the Lord and John the Baptist (see attached instructions).
3. The Lord's Baptism— For another project idea, see the *Sunday School Activity Book* for Lesson 103 (blue volume).

IV. Teaching Aids

A. Pictures of John the Baptist

B. Pictures of Jesus' baptism

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. *The Sower*, Volume IV, Matthew 3.

B. *Dole's Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 4, Matthew 3.

C. *True Christian Religion*, Nos. 667-691 (or portion thereof).

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RELIGION PROJECTS

DESIGNED BY LORI ODHNER, WENDY HOO, AND SONIA WERNER

Text: Matthew 3

Subject: The Lord's Baptism

Dole Notes: Volume: 4 Chapter: 103 Page: 273

Age Group: Primary, 6-8

basic supplies:



materials: pipe cleaners

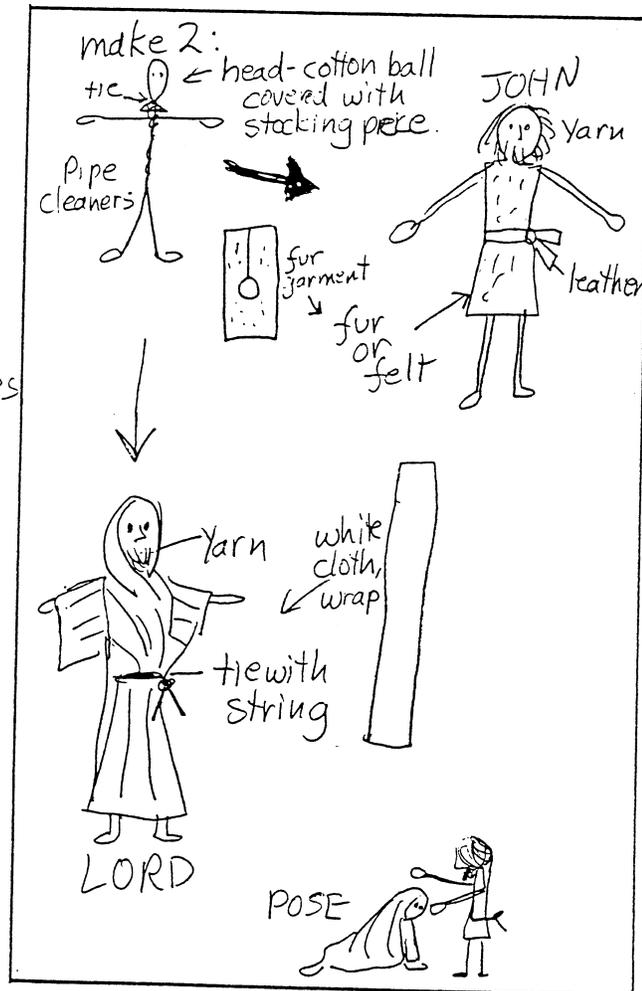
- fur or brown felt
- leather strings
- brown yarn
- white cloth
- cotton balls, old stocking

teacher preparation:

- cut out fur garments
- cut white cloth strips
- cut short leather pieces
- (make bodys & heads, to save time)
- make samples.

procedure:

- make 2 bodys, and heads - piece of stocking stretched and tied over a cotton ball.
- glue yarn for hair
- draw in eyes
- add garments, tie at waists.
- pose figures



notes: hands & legs may be wrapped with yarn over glue, to make more finished dolls.
LORD may be saved for other stories

MUSIC: first songs: 11

Lori's tape: Wait on the Lord

Liturgy: 540, 598