



John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

First- and second-graders are able to understand the difference between right and wrong, without necessarily learning a certain rule or standard. So they're able to recognize that they do wrong things that they need forgiveness for. And while they may not completely understand why God had to send Jesus, they're capable of accepting that Jesus is a vital part to them being forgiven for wrong things they do. Use this lesson to help kids understand and believe that God sent Jesus to save them.





Bible Point
God sent Jesus.

Key Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to save us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Pleased to Meet You! <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Play a game in which they introduce themselves.		
2 Bible Exploration	Washed Clean <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn that asking God for forgiveness washes away their sins.	Bible, dishpan of soapy water, dishpan of damp potting soil, towel Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	Set a dishpan of soapy water and a towel on one side of the room. Set a dishpan filled with moist potting soil on the other side of the room.
	God's Son <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear about Jesus' baptism.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Jesus Is Baptized" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	
	God Loves Me <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, CD player, pens, copies of the lyrics sheet (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Doves of Love <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make doves to help them remember that God sent Jesus.	1 copy per child of the “Dove” handout (at the end of this lesson), cotton balls, several pairs of scissors, glue sticks, markers Teacher Pack: feathers	
	Introducing Jesus <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Plan ways to tell others about Jesus.	My Bible Fun, markers	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





1 GETTING STARTED

Pleased to Meet You!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Let's play a game called Pleased to Meet You!** Have children form a circle and number off by twos. Have the Ones face left and the Twos face right, forming pairs.

Say: **We'll go around the circle and shake hands and introduce ourselves to each other. People usually shake hands with each other using their right hands. But in this game, we're going to use both hands. Here's how it works.** Demonstrate the following process as you explain: **Shake hands with your right hand as you gently pull past your partner. As you shake hands, say, "I'm [name]. Pleased to meet you!" Then move to the next person and shake hands with your left hand as you give the same greeting. Continue repeating that process, switching hands each time you pass a person.**

The result will be a sort of grand right and left square-dance circle. When kids reach their original partners, have them sit down in the circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like meeting the other people in our circle?**
- **Explain whether you think you could be friends with someone whose name you don't know.**
- **What else do you need to know about someone to be friends?**

Say: **When you tell someone your name, it's called introducing yourself. You can't really be friends with people until you know who they are, can you? In the Bible today, we'll see how God introduced Jesus. When God told people who Jesus was, it showed them that ► GOD SENT JESUS. Because God sent Jesus for us, we know he's our friend.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Washed Clean

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Mark 1:4-11, and show the passage to kids. Then show the Bible Timeline, and say: **This week we're hearing how God introduced Jesus to the world as the Messiah. God used a man named John the Baptist to introduce Jesus. John the Baptist's job was to prepare the way for Jesus. He told people to stop sinning and to clean their hearts to get ready for Jesus.**

The people in Jesus' time, just like the people in our time, were dirty because of their sin. Let's pretend that this potting soil is our sin. Let the children each hold a small handful of potting soil.

Say: **As the people held onto their sins, they got dirtier and dirtier, just like your hands. John came along to tell the people about the forgiveness God wanted to offer them. John baptized the people in the water of the Jordan River. He told them to drop their sins and make their hearts clean by asking God to forgive them. Let's see what that might've been like.**

Before leading kids to the dishpan of soapy water, say: **Remember, we're pretending that the dirt you're holding is sin. John told the people to get rid of their sins.** Have each child put the potting soil back into the container. **Then John baptized the people in the water of the Jordan River.** Let children dip their hands in the dishpan of soapy water and rub them to get rid of the dirt. After children have dried their hands, have them sit on the floor in a circle.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about what it was like for your hands to be dirty, then to clean them in the soapy water.**
- **How does dirt remind you of sin?**
- **How does forgiveness remind you of washing your hands?**

Say: **When you dipped your hands in the water, you had to do something to get them clean. Like that, it wasn't the water of the river that cleaned people's hearts—it was asking God to forgive their sins that cleaned their hearts. ► GOD SENT JESUS to make our hearts clean when we take action—when we ask God for forgiveness.**



Washed Clean Supplies

- Bible
- dishpan of soapy water
- dishpan of damp potting soil
- towel

Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

Washed Clean Easy Prep

Set a dishpan of soapy water and a towel on one side of the room. Set a dishpan filled with moist potting soil on the other side of the room.





God's Son Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

"Jesus Is Baptized"
poster (from the Big
Bible Poster Pack)

God's Son

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the "Jesus Is Baptized" poster. Say: **The people had been waiting a long time for God to send a Savior to save his people. As people watched John the Baptist, some of them may have thought that *he* was the Savior. But he wasn't. John just helped people understand that the Savior would be coming soon. Many people came to John to be baptized. Even Jesus wanted John to baptize him. And that's when it happened!**

Open your Bible to Mark 1:9, and show children the verse. Say: **Let's try to understand what happened when John baptized Jesus. First we'll read about it.** Read aloud Mark 1:9.

Put children in pairs. Say: **When I say "go," one partner will dip the other.** Demonstrate what you mean by "dipping" someone. **Partners, when you come back up, you will make an introduction. But you won't just say your name. You'll also say something important about yourself, like I'm [say your name and one of your characteristics or roles in life].** Check for understanding, and then encourage each partner to take a turn at being dipped.

Say: **Let's do it a little faster. Take turns dipping each other. Switch off each time, and do as many as you can in 20 seconds. I'll time you. But here's the catch: Each time you introduce yourself, tell something new about yourself.** Check for understanding, and then have the kids start. Count to 20 in your head, and then continue.

Say: **You all have great characteristics. When Jesus was baptized, it was kind of like God introduced him to the world. Let's hear how God introduced Jesus.**

Listen while I read about it in the Bible. Have children sit on the floor as you read aloud Mark 1:10-11.

Say: **God introduced Jesus. God said Jesus was his Son, and he loved him and was pleased with him. After God introduced Jesus to the world, Jesus started preaching to the people about God's love.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about the most important thing you said as you introduced yourself.
- Why do you think how God introduced Jesus was important?
- How does Jesus' introduction help you believe Jesus is God?

Say: **What happened when John baptized Jesus was pretty amazing. God's words are very powerful, so when he says something is true, then it's true! That's how we know**
▶ **GOD SENT JESUS.**



God Loves Me

What You'll Do

Say: **We know who Jesus is—he's God Son. Now let's look at today's Key Verse to find out why God sent his Son.** Help kids find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Then read the verse aloud: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).**

Say: **An easier way of saying that is: God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus (John 3:16).** Lead children in repeating the simplified verse with you several times.

Say: **God loves us so much that he gave his one and only Son to help us. If we believe in Jesus, we can live forever in heaven. Really think about this for a minute. I want you to understand just how much God loves you. Think about the person you love most in the whole world. Maybe it's your mom or your dad or your grandma.**
Allow time.

Say: **Now think about sending that person you love to a faraway land, knowing that the people there will be mean to this person you love and will even hurt him or her.**
Allow time.

Say: **God knew that some people would be mean to Jesus here on earth and that they'd hurt him. But God sent him to help us anyway. That's how much God loves us! Right now, let's sing our Key Verse song.**

Hand out the lyrics pages. Play "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 15 on the CD), and encourage kids to sing along.



**I believe in God
'Cause what he says is true.
I believe that Jesus died
To save me and save you.**

**For God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Shall not perish.**

**I believe in God
And all that he came to do.
I believe that Jesus died
Because he loved both me and you.**

**For God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Will have eternal life.**

(Repeat from the beginning. Then repeat the last two verses.)

Will have eternal life.

"God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



God Loves Me Supplies

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Bibles
My Bible Fun
CD player
pens
copies of the lyrics
sheet (at the end of
this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "God So Loved the
World" (John 3:16)
(track 15)

God Loves Me Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 6
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.





Say: **The most amazing part of this verse is that God sent Jesus to save each one of us. Jesus came to save me and you and your parents and the kids in school—he wants to save everyone! All we have to do is believe in Jesus. There’s something on our My Bible Fun pages to help us remember why it’s important to believe in Jesus.**

Give each child a My Bible Fun page. Point out the “God So Loved ME!” section. Have children fill in the three blanks in the first sentence with their own names. Have each child read the sentence aloud. Then encourage kids to think of others who Jesus came to save and fill in the other blanks with the names of those people. Give children several minutes to think and write; then ask kids to read their completed sentences.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why might it be hard to send someone you love to a faraway place?**
- **What things that you’ve learned about God help you know he loves you greatly?**

Say: **When John baptized Jesus, God told everyone how important and special Jesus is. But ► GOD SENT JESUS all the way from heaven because we are special to God, too. ► GOD SENT JESUS because he loves us. This week, let’s tell others about Jesus so they can know they’re special to God, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Doves of Love

Doves of Love Supplies

1 copy per child of the
“Dove” handout (at the
end of this lesson)
cotton balls
several pairs of scissors
glue sticks
markers

Teacher Pack
feathers

What You’ll Do

Say: **We learned in the Bible today that God sent his Holy Spirit in the form of a dove when Jesus was baptized. Let’s make Doves of Love to remind us of why ► GOD SENT JESUS—because he loves us!**

Set out the supplies. Have kids each cut out a dove from the handout and color in the eyes and beak. Then show kids how to stretch the cotton balls and glue them to the body and head.

As kids work, evenly distribute the feathers.

Say: **When the people saw God’s Spirit come down on Jesus as a dove, they knew why it was very important to believe in Jesus—because ► GOD SENT JESUS, his only Son, to save us. If we believe in Jesus, we can live in heaven forever. Let’s thank God for sending Jesus. We’ll go around the circle, and each of us will say, “Thank**





you, God, for sending Jesus.” As soon as you say thank you to God, glue a feather to your dove. That’ll help you remember that God’s love is real. I’ll start.



Let each person in the circle say, “Thank you, God, for sending Jesus.” Then have everyone hold hands as you close the prayer, thanking Jesus for making it possible for each person in your circle to live in heaven forever.

Introducing Jesus

What You’ll Do

Give kids their My Bible Fun pages. Say: **God introduced Jesus to us. Now it’s our turn to introduce Jesus to others. Think of words that you could use to introduce Jesus to someone. Think of ways to finish this sentence: “This is Jesus! He’s...” Turn to a partner and talk about words you could use to introduce Jesus.** Give children time to think of words to introduce Jesus. If kids seem stumped, suggest words such as *my friend, good, God, and our Savior*.

Invite children to share the words they’ve thought of. Then distribute markers, and have kids write their words in the cartoon speech balloons on their My Bible Fun pages. Give children several minutes to write, offering spelling help as needed.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you feel comfortable introducing Jesus to others?**
- **Why do you think it’s important to introduce Jesus to others?**

Say: **The next time you want to introduce Jesus to someone, think of the words you just wrote, and the way God introduced Jesus. ► GOD SENT JESUS. And everyone needs to hear about Jesus. We can introduce him, just as John the Baptist and God himself introduced Jesus.**



Introducing Jesus Supplies

My Bible Fun markers





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: ► **GOD SENT JESUS—let's think about that.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Write a note to God, thanking him for sending his Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins.**
- **Tell a friend that God sent Jesus, and share John 3:16 with him or her.**
- **Draw a picture of something you're thankful for, and hang it up in your room to remind you of God's love.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

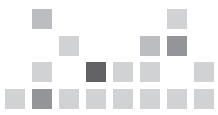
Say: ► **GOD SENT JESUS—that's a really amazing thing that we want everyone to know. When John baptized Jesus, God made sure everyone knew who Jesus is. Let's try to tell others about Jesus this week through our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God sent Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for sending Jesus. Pray: **God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, so that we can be forgiven. Help us to remember to ask you for forgiveness because we know you'll forgive us. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

God So Loved the World (John 3:16)

I believe in God
'Cause what he says is true.
I believe that Jesus died
To save me and save you.

I believe in God
And all that he came to do.
I believe that Jesus died
Because he loved both me and you.

For God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Shall not perish.

For God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Will have eternal life.

(Repeat from the beginning. Then repeat the last two verses.)

Will have eternal life.

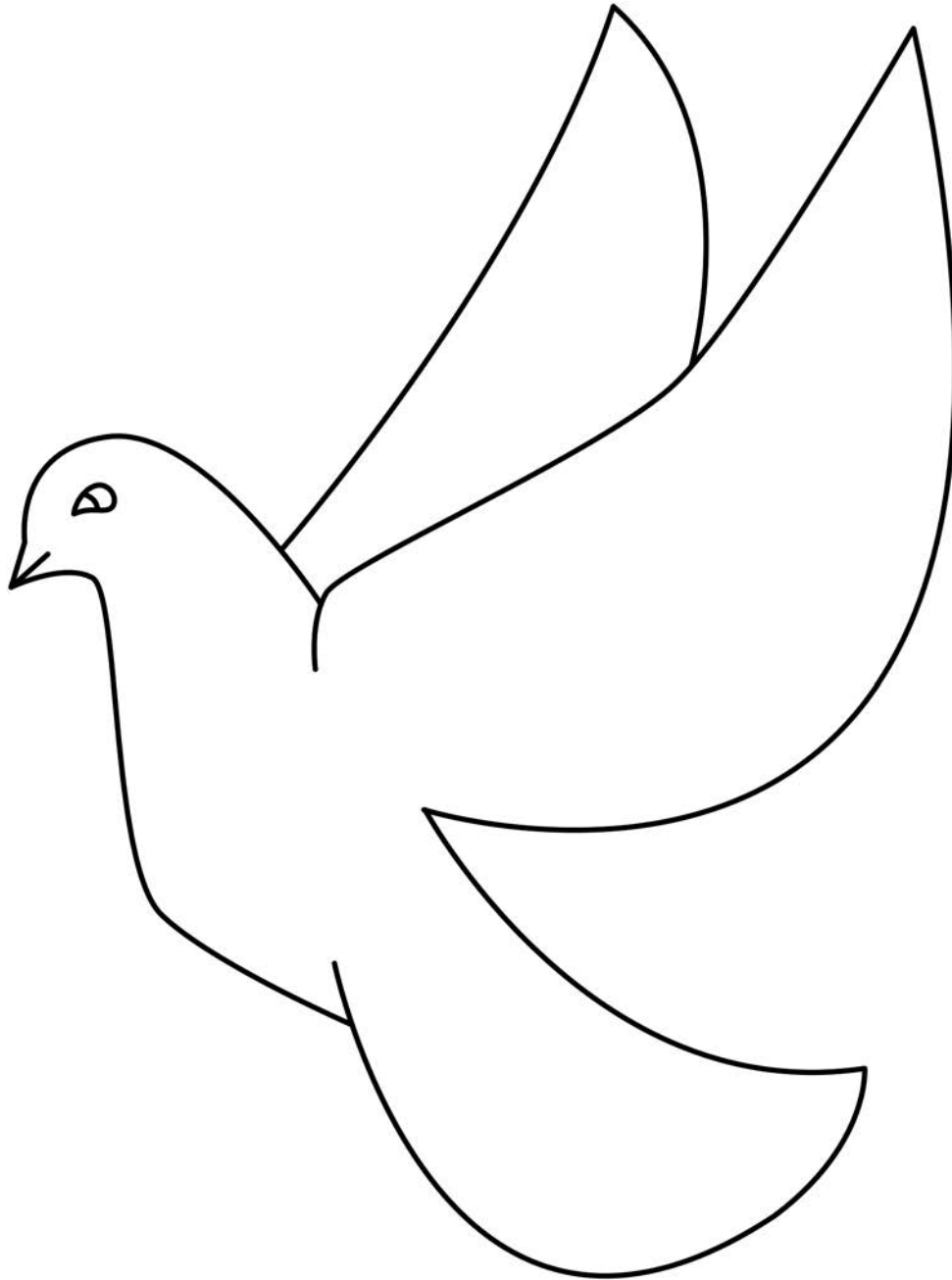
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OK
TO COPY



Dove



**OK
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