

**CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity – Celebrating Our Catholic Faith**  
**Religious Education Lesson Plan Helpers by Laura Grace**

***Please note:** Some of our lesson plans contain links to Christian, non-Catholic resources. When preparing your lessons, we urge you to inform yourself on the teachings of the Catholic Church with respect to the Sunday gospel and readings. If you find links in any of the lesson plans which may be counter to the teachings of the Church, please notify [lisa@catholicmom.com](mailto:lisa@catholicmom.com). These lesson plan helpers are designed to assist you in pulling together creative ideas and activities to supplement your lesson plan, but are not designed to be catechetical in nature. Thank you for your continued prayerful support.*

## **Jesus is Baptized**

### **Review:**

Questions from last week's lesson.

**Vocabulary:** (Write the bold words on the board and discuss with students)

**Galilee-** region of ancient Palestine, now part of Northern Israel. It is between the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee (show students this on a map or have one of the students find it on a map).

**Cousin-** a child of somebody's uncle or aunt, a relative

**Baptize-** to wash away the original sin

**Jordan River-** river that flows through the Sea of Galilee and empties into the Dead Sea (show students this on a map or have one of the students find it on a map).

**Holy Spirit-** the third person of the Trinity, understood as the spiritual force of God

### **Plan:**

1. I say to the students: Who said this, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"? Then read story: "Jesus is Baptized" and ask questions from sheet.

1. Who baptized Jesus? His cousin John.
2. Why do you get baptized? To wash away your sins.

Explain to students that Baptism is one of the seven sacraments and most of them have been baptized when they were babies so they do not remember it. Others are baptized later because you can be baptized at any age. Bring in items that are used during a baptism and ask the students if they have ever seen one. Discuss why you are baptized, what happens during a baptism step by step and what is said. Show a short video of a baptism.

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2. Introduce craft: What hovered over Jesus' head after he was baptized? A white dove.

White Dove

Taking Flight- A bird that can be a dove that you make out of white paper and using the child's handprints. (From the Hands of a Child by Anthony Flores, page 41).

OR

Introduce art project: What kind of windows are in our church that are so beautiful?

Stained Glass Window- <http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/staingl.html>

Make this craft in the shape of a cross or dove by folding one sheet of black construction paper in half and tracing a cross or dove in the center on the top sheet. Then cut the design out of both sheets of paper for the students. Follow the rest of the directions given at Kids Domain.

OR

Introduce art project: What did John the Baptist eat while he was living outside?

Locust crafts (one edible)-

[http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible\\_themes\\_j.html](http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_j.html)

Mizuhiki Grasshopper

[http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr\\_kid\\_crafts/article/0,1789,HGTV\\_3256\\_2352347,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr_kid_crafts/article/0,1789,HGTV_3256_2352347,00.html)

A cute grasshopper made out of a clothespin.

Egg Carton Grasshopper- <http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/YS/CRAFTS/CRTNCRIT.HTM>

3. Introduce game: Who was baptized by his cousin?

Jesus Basketball

Need: Trashcan and 2 balled up pieces of paper for balls.

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Directions: Put a trashcan against a wall. Have students line up in two teams behind a chair (to keep them from getting too close to basket). Students then play Horse Basketball, but spell Jesus. The first team that spells JESUS wins.

4. Puzzles & Mazes, Worksheets, etc.

More 365 Activities for Kids (do any of the Jesus and John the Baptist puzzles, mazes, dot-to-dot, spot the difference, etc. from August 16 - 17).

The Baptism of Jesus (dove dot to dot)-

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/dove\\_dot2dot.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/dove_dot2dot.htm)

5. Introduce snack: What did John the Baptist eat while he was living outside?

John the Baptist Snack- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/recipesdb/view.asp?rid=273>

Grasshopper Legs- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/recipesdb/view.asp?rid=319>

Honey Spread- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/recipesdb/view.asp?rid=132>

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