



Jesus Is Baptized

Lesson Aim: To see God the Father loves Jesus and God loves each of us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who is With Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Mark 1:1-11

What He has done: God told Jesus He loved Him and was pleased with Him.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "God loves you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

Unit 1: The King Who is With Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	Jesus and His Father's House, Luke 2:41-52	God came to earth and grew up as a boy of faith.	To inspire children to want to be in God's house.
2	Jesus Is Baptized, Mark 1:1-11	God told Jesus He loved Him and was pleased with Him.	To see God the Father loves Jesus and God loves each of us.
3	Jesus Is Tempted, Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus resisted temptation and answered Satan with scripture.	To show God is pleased when we do what is right.
4	Jesus Calls His Disciples, Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called regular people to follow Him.	To know Jesus calls each of us to follow Him.
5	Jesus Clears the Temple, Mark 11:15-17	Jesus cleared the temple.	To know God's house is holy.
6	Jesus Is Transfigured, Matthew 17:1-8	Jesus face shone like the sun and God said to listen to Him.	To know God wants us to listen to Him.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Galatians 3:26-28. Please join us in praying, "Thank You for speaking to us about Your Son. Fill us with Your Spirit that the children might sense Your love and Your approval. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God loves you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Children, Obey Your Parents" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Blessed Are Those" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Can Do Everything" "It's Praise Time!" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Sing Praises" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Jesus Loves Me" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarмонт Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 1, Lesson 2
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Mark 1:1-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 1:11 Visual: Photo of the Jordan River
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Messenger of Love	Standard-size sturdy white paper, two white feathers, glue, crayons or markers
		Game: God Loves You	None
		Game: Underwater	One rope
		Snack: Dove Snacks	Pieces of Dove brand chocolates or dove-shaped candy
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 2 Color This Story: "Jesus Is Baptized"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Mark 1:1-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Jump to Obey	None
	Up to 10	Game: Mother, May I?	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's love

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God loves you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart. **Let this stamp (or sticker) remind you God told Jesus He loved Him. God loves you, too.** **Today's Whisper Verse is "God loves you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God loves you."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "God"** The right hand is lowered and then slightly raised in front of face with palm facing left and fingers together.
- "loves"** The hands hug something over the heart to indicate the concept of love.
- "you."** The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

"Clean Up Song": **Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!**
 Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God loves you," Deuteronomy 23:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who is with us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who is with us. He is with us now as we sing praise, give our offering, and pray to Him. God is very pleased when we praise Him. He loves us very much. Let's start by giving our offering now. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath" while collecting the offering.

God the Father told His Son, Jesus He loved Him. God loves you, too! That's our Whisper Verse for today. Review Whisper Verse together: "God loves you." Include sign language. Sing: "Jesus Loves Me."



Let's see how our friends Delbert and Lello are doing today. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 1, Lesson 2.



God the Father told Jesus He was pleased with Him. God is pleased with you, too! He is pleased when He sees you obey your father and your mother. Sing: "Children, Obey Your Parents" and "Blessed Are Those."



God the Father loves Jesus

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned when Jesus was a growing boy, He went to God's house. We call it church. Today, we'll hear how John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. That means John dipped Jesus underwater to show Jesus belonged to God. When Jesus came out of the water God told Him He loved Him and was very pleased with Him. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 1:11.

WATCH THE WORD: MARK 1:1-11

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a photo of the Jordan River to show this is a true story. Other visual options include craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- At the Jordan River,
- John baptized everyone.
- He preached about forgiveness.
- He said the Lord would come.

- He told them all to stop their sin,
- And get ready for the Lord.
- Then John baptized Jesus,
- And saw heaven's open door.

- And then the Holy Spirit
- Came down on Him like a dove.
- God said, "With You I'm very pleased.
- You're My Son, Whom I love."

God said He loves Jesus. Who else does God love? (You, me, parents, friends, etc.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God loves you." Include sign language or hand motions.



Who did God say was His Son? (Jesus.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Mark 1:11 from the teacher's Bible. **Jesus' Father in heaven is God. God loves Jesus! He is very pleased with Him. God loves you. He is pleased with you, too!**



God the Father loves you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: MESSENGER OF LOVE

Purpose: To create a picture of a dove descending with God's message of love at Jesus' baptism.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy white paper, two white feathers, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Draw or copy an outline of the following items on the white paper:

Top of paper: Clouds

Center of paper: Descending dove with banner in beak

Inside dove's banner: "God + (outline of a heart) + U"

Bottom of paper: Jordan River

Inside the river: **"Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River." Mark 1:1-11**

Optional: For a more involved craft, draw a picture of Jesus in the river, glue cotton balls to the clouds, and/or put fish stickers in the Jordan River.

Directions:

1. Glue a white feather on each of the dove's wings.
2. Color the heart on the banner (any color).
3. Color the Jordan River blue.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("God loves you.") **Let's say it together with the hand motions.**
- **John baptized people in the Jordan River. That means John dipped people underwater to show they belonged to God. Who did John want the people to be ready for?** (Jesus.)
- **Who else did John baptize?** (Jesus.)
- **When Jesus was baptized, who did God send to show Jesus He loved Him?** (His Spirit which looked like a dove.) **Who else does God love?** (You and me.)
- **God was very happy with Jesus. Who else is God very happy with?** (You and me.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: GOD LOVES YOU

Purpose: This game will help children learn God's love is for each one of them.

Supplies: None

Who does God love? (You and me.) **Let's play a game to help us remember God loves every one of us.**

Directions: This game is played like the classic game, London Bridge Is Falling Down.

1. Choose two children to be the "bridge." Have them face each other, hold hands with each other high in the air, and stand far enough apart for the other children to duck under their raised arms.
2. Have the rest of the children form a line.
3. As you sing or chant the following words to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down" (or your own tune), the children in line are to walk between the two children being the "bridge" and duck under the "bridge" and follow the line to go under again.
God loves you very much! Very much! Very much!
God loves you very much. God loves you!
4. On the last line of the song, the "bridge" (children's arms) will fall and capture the child who is between them at that moment.
5. Continue playing until all children have had a chance to be captured or to be the bridge.

GAME: UNDERWATER

Purpose: Children will play a game to help them think about how Jesus was baptized.

Supplies: One rope

Jesus was baptized. That means He went underwater and came back up to show He belongs to God. Let's pretend we are going underwater and coming up, just like Jesus did when He was baptized.

Directions:

1. Stretch the rope tight between you and an assistant, holding it at waist level. Have the children line up on one side of the rope.
2. Tell the children to pretend the rope is the top of the water in the river. They must pretend to "swim" underwater to the other side of the rope.
3. After a child "swims" under the rope, have him or her return to the end of the line.
4. Once all of the children have gone under the rope one time, lower it a few inches and repeat the game.
5. Repeat until the rope is too close to the ground to "swim" under.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: DOVE SNACKS

Purpose: Children will remember God sent His Spirit, which looked like a dove, to show He loved Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Pieces of Dove brand chocolates or dove-shaped candy

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "God loves you."
 - **Who did God send to show Jesus He loved Him?** (His Spirit, which looked like a dove.)
 - **Our snack reminds us of the dove. God showed He loved Jesus and our snack can help us remember God loves us, too!**
 - **God is Jesus' Father in heaven. How do you think Jesus felt when His Father in heaven said He was pleased with Him?** (Happy.)
 - **How do you feel when your parents are pleased with you?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Messenger of Love" picture. Tell someone how Jesus was baptized and how God told Jesus He loved Him.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God loves Jesus and God loves you.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Is Baptized." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Children, Obey Your Parents" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MARK 1:1-11

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **At the Jordan River,** (Move hand like a wave.)
- **John baptized everyone.** (Hold nose and dip as if going underwater.)
- **He preached about forgiveness.** (Hug self.)
- **He said the Lord would come.** (Point to heaven.)

- **He told them all to stop their sin,** (Shake finger as if scolding.)
- **And get ready for the Lord.** (Point to heaven.)
- **Then John baptized Jesus,** (Hold nose and dip as if going underwater.)
- **And saw heaven's open door.** (Raise both hands to heaven.)

- **And then the Holy Spirit** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **Came down on Him like a dove.** (Flap arms like a bird.)
- **God said, "With You I'm very pleased.** (Smile.)
- **You're My Son, Whom I love."** (Hug self.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

GAME: JUMP TO OBEY

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Jesus obeyed His parents. He wants us to obey our parents and caregivers, too. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse. Let's learn it together.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder.
2. Teacher says the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each word for children to repeat.
3. Each time they say a word, they jump forward one time.
4. Repeat until the Bible Memory Verse is completed. If you run out of space, turn around and jump back the other way.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: MOTHER, MAY I?

Purpose: Children practice obeying their parents as instructed in the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Jesus wants us to obey our parents. Let's play a game where we can practice obeying! In this game, you must remember to ask: "Mother, (or Father) may I?" or you cannot follow the instructions. Listen carefully because sometimes you will hear: "No, you may not." Then you must not move.

Directions:

1. Children line up ten feet from the teacher who acts as "Mother" or "Father."
2. Mother or Father gives a simple instruction to a specific child. For example: "Michael, take one big step forward." (Instruction examples: Jump up and down, laugh out loud, flap your arms, run in place, sit on the floor, spin in a circle, etc.)
3. Child must first ask: "Mother (or Father), may I?" If Mother or Father says, "Yes, you may," the child follows the instruction. If Mother or Father says, "No, you may not," the child remains still.
4. Be sure each child has a turn following instructions.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's love.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Jesus is Baptized

PONDER! Read Mark 1:1-11 with your family. After Jesus grew up, He was baptized to show He belonged to God. God sent His Spirit, which looked like a dove, to show He loved Jesus and was pleased with Him. God loves you, too!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for showing us You love us by sending Jesus to us. Thank You for making us Your children. Amen."

PLAY! Teach your family to play "God Loves You." Face your parent, brother or sister and hold hands to form a bridge. Sing the words "God Loves You Very Much!" to the tune of "London Bridge" while your family walks under the bridge. Each time you sing, drop your arms to catch a different person in your family. Tell them God loves them very much. End the game with a big family hug!

Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."