



Jesus Is Baptized—Part 1

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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE (Challenge Verse for older children)

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

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—Part 1 Mark 1:1-11	God told Jesus He loved Him and was pleased with Him.	To see that God the Father loves Jesus and God loves each of us.
3	Jesus Is Baptized—Part 2 Mark 1:1-11	God told Jesus He loved Him and was pleased with Him.	To show God is pleased when we do what is right.
4	Jesus Calls His Disciples—Part 1 Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called regular people to follow Him.	To know Jesus calls each of us to follow Him.
5	Jesus Calls His Disciples—Part 2 Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called regular people to follow Him.	To know one way we follow Jesus is to pray.
6	Jesus Is Transfigured, Matthew 17:1-8	Jesus changed His appearance 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."

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		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 Songs: "Children, Obey Your Parents" or (Challenge) "The Word Became Flesh" 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 Song Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Kings & Kingdoms Lesson 2 Delbert & Lello or Kingdom Adventures script or storybook
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 Flannel board and figures: Jesus, John, river, dove, clouds Clay/play-dough: Dove
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Messenger of Love	Standard-size sturdy white paper, two white feathers, glue, crayons or markers
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Dove Snacks	Dove brand chocolates, dove shaped candy, or cookies with icing outline of dove
		Unit 1 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, toy house, toy dove (or bird), toy fish and boat or net, cotton ball
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		Musical Chairs	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Children, Obey Your Parents" or "The Word Became Flesh," CD player, chair for each child
		"God Loves You" Ball Roll	Soft, textured ball
		Follow the Leader	None
		Scenes from Kingdom Adventures	The Kingdom Adventures scripts for Lessons 1, 2, 4, and 6
	Act it Out	Bible times clothing or stick puppets of Mary, Joseph, 12-year-old Jesus, adult Jesus, John the Baptist, dove, disciples, cloud	
Final 5	Final Five	Access Daily Way: Unit 1, Lesson 2 Color This Story: "Jesus Is Baptized"	

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God loves you

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. **Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.**

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 two 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group setting with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.



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 money 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."

* May substitute Lesson 2 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook.



God the Father loves Jesus

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

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, display a photo of the Jordan River to show this is a true story. Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a dove from clay or play-dough as they listen.

- **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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now it is Craft Time.**

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 helped people dip underwater to show they belong 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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

SNACK: DOVE SNACKS

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

Snack: Pieces of Dove brand chocolates or dove-shaped candy or cookies with icing outline of a dove

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.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

UNIT 1 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the Bible stories or the Unit 1 Worship Attribute: The King Who Is with Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, toy house, toy dove (or bird), toy fish and boat or net, cotton ball

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 1 Bible stories. **The house reminds us that Jesus spent time in God's house when he was a boy. The dove reminds us of the dove that came down from heaven when Jesus was baptized. The fish and boat (or net) remind us that Jesus called fishermen to follow Him. The cotton ball reminds us that a bright cloud came around Jesus when He was on the mountaintop.**

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say, "Thumbs up or thumbs down?"
 - If retelling the Bible study, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, "**Jesus grew both wise and short. Thumbs up or thumbs down? Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**Jesus grew both wise and tall. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.
 - If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "**Children, obey your friends, for this is right. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Children, Obey Your Parents" or "The Word Became Flesh," CD player, chair for each child

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all the children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: "GOD LOVES YOU" BALL ROLL

Purpose: This game reminds the children that they are each loved by God.

Supplies: Soft, textured ball

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child and says,
"Child's name, child's name, **God loves you.**
Roll it to a friend to show God loves them, too!"
3. Teacher assists child in choosing another child and rolling the ball to that child.
4. Repeat chant to each child as he or she receives the ball.
5. Be sure each child has a turn receiving and rolling the ball.

GAME: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Purpose: Children remember Jesus words, "Come, follow Me," by following a leader around the room.

Supplies: None

Jesus said, "Come, follow Me." Let's practice following in this game of "Follow the Leader."

Directions:

1. One child marches around the room as the leader.
2. Remaining children form a line to "follow the leader" wherever he or she goes.
3. Be sure each child has a turn as the leader.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: SCENES FROM KINGDOM ADVENTURES

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 1 Bible stories, older children act out the Kingdom Adventures scripts.

Supplies: The Kingdom Adventures scripts for Lessons 1, 2, 4, and 6

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's Bible story.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: To help children learn Unit 1 stories, children act out the stories in costumes or with stick puppets.

Supplies: Bible times clothing or pictures of the following characters attached to craft sticks: Mary, Joseph, 12-year-old Jesus, adult Jesus, John the Baptist, dove, disciples, cloud

Directions: With each phrase, teacher says phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats same phrase and motions with children, or children wear costumes and act it out, or children hold craft sticks with characters. You may choose one or more stories.

JESUS AND HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

- **Jesus was born and He began to grow,** (Stretch arms wide.)
- **'Til one day when He was twelve years old** (Stand tall like a 12 year-old.)
- **He traveled with His parents to Jerusalem.** (Walk in place.)
- **But on the trip home they could not find Him.** (Searching pose.)

- **His mother and father looked high and low.** (Look up and down.)
- **They asked, "Where did Jesus go?"** (Palms up, shrugging shoulders.)
- **They found Him after a three-day search,** (Show 3 fingers.)
- **Talking with the teachers about God's Word.** (Open and read imaginary book.)

- **"Where've you been?" His mother frowned.** (Fold arms; make a frown.)
- **Jesus said, "Right here in My Father's house."** (Point to floor.)
- **And Jesus grew both wise and tall.** (Reach high.)
- **He was loved by God and liked by all.** (Hug self.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

Act It Out continued

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

- **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 hand in prayer.)
- **Came down on Jesus 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.)

JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

- **Jesus sent some men to fish after they'd caught none all day.** (Show empty hands.)
- **Because Jesus said so, Simon Peter did obey.** (Salute to signal "Yes, sir!")
- **At once fished filled their nets until they began to break.** (Pretend to hold net filled with fish.)
- **Friends helped Simon Peter and both boats began to sink.** (Bend knees, as if sinking.)

- **Jesus told Simon Peter, "Do not be afraid.** (Point finger as if teaching.)
- **I'll make you fishers of men. Come, follow Me today."** (Point finger out and move toward self.)
- **They brought their boats and nets and fish to shore.** (Pretend to carry heavy net.)
- **They left all their things to follow Jesus forevermore!** (Walk in place.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way to your family. Talk about how God loves Jesus and God loves you.**

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

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Jesus Is Baptized—Part 1

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:

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

Unit 1 Bible Memory Challenge Verse:

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14