

Jesus Is Baptized

Lesson 7



Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:4-11

Bible Memory: Luke 2:52

“Jesus continued to learn more and more. . . . People liked him, and he pleased God.” (*ICB*)

“Jesus increased in wisdom . . . and in favour with God and man.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ We can please God.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Learning to obey is one of the greatest struggles for children. When children learn that God is pleased by their obedience and right choices, they are encouraged to keep trying. We are often like children in our desire to be independent, and we forget that God calls us to obedience as well. When we consider that the perfect Son of God asked a man to baptize Him, we should be humbled by His example.

Bible Background for the Teacher

John the Baptist was the son of the priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was a cousin to Jesus’ mother, Mary. John lived in the wilderness, or desert, area west of the Dead Sea. Around AD 27 he began to preach along the Jordan River. John preached to prepare people for Jesus. His ministry was foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Malachi (see Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 3:1; 4:5, 6). Jesus was 30 years old when He came to be baptized by John.

Lesson 7 at a Glance

1 GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these activities to help children explore who John the Baptist was.



Family Living

Quick Step
Time for School!
(unit center)



Food

Bugs and Honey



Active Play

Dressing for the Occasion

HeartShaper Materials

- *Resources* sheet 4 flash cards 7c-7f

- none

- *Teaching Picture 7*

Other Materials

- unit center supplies

- stick pretzels, honey, small cups, wet wipes
- belts, sandals, rough towels

2 BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children tell what happened when Jesus was baptized.



Sing & Pray

Sing and Pray



Bible Time

Bible Time
Jesus Is Baptized



Bible Review

Bible Review



Bible Memory

Bible Memory

- *Resources* CD, *Resources* sheet 4 John and Jesus puppets 7a and 7b, *Resources* CD Dove and Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable files

- CD player, blue and brown bedsheets, Bible, 2 paper lunch bags, glue, clothesline, clothespins, scissors, craft sticks

3 GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these activities to help children name ways they can do right and please God.



Game

Quick Step
Do Right Tic-Tac-Toe



Blocks & Buildings

Go and Please God



Active Play

“Please God! March”

Closing the Hour

- *Make-n-Share* and stickers for lesson 7

- none

- *Resources* CD

- *Heart Tugs* issue 7

- scissors, washable markers

- toy cars, people, and houses

- CD player

- none

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore** who John the Baptist was.

Welcome

- Use your Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child and gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step Time for School! (unit center)

Show flash card 7c. SAY: **John the Baptist was a teacher who taught people to follow God. ♥ We can please God by learning about His Word, the Bible. Let's pretend we are at school and are learning to read new words. We can be teachers like John.**

Let children take turns being the teacher and holding up the flash cards. Help them identify the letters in the words and sound out the words. Children can also practice copying the words on a board.

ASK: **Who did John teach about?** (God)

You can be a teacher like John. What can you teach to others?

Especially for 4s!

Model for 4s how to be the teacher. Let them identify the picture on each flash card and then “read” the word together.

Bugs and Honey



SAY: **The Bible says that ♥ we can please God. To please God means we do things that make God happy. Jesus pleased God, and so did His cousin John. John lived in a desert area. He ate honey and locusts, which are like grasshoppers.**

Squeeze a small amount of honey into cups, one for each child. Let children dip their pretzels in the honey, pretending to be like John. Encourage children to taste their snacks. Discuss the flavor and texture of the foods (sweet, salty, crunchy) and compare them with what John ate.

ASK: **Would bugs and honey taste like this snack?**

Do you think you would like to eat locusts (grasshoppers)?

Why do you think John ate bugs and honey? (They were the foods available where he lived.)

Dressing for the Occasion

Show the teaching picture. SAY: **John the Baptist was a man who taught people about God. The Bible says John wore clothes made out of camel's hair and wore a leather belt. How do you think it would feel to wear clothes made out of camel's hair? Scratchy? Let's pretend we are friends of John who dress as he does.**

Help children pretend to dress like John. Let them take turns preaching in front of the group and telling what people should do to please God.

♥ **We can please God when we tell others about Him.**

ASK: **Why do you think John wore clothes made of camel's hair?**

(Animal fur was commonly used for clothing in Bible times.)

How would you feel if your clothes were made from camel's hair?

Focus

♥ We can please God.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources sheet 4 flash cards 7c–7f, unit center supplies (see unit 2 pages) (optional: dry-erase markers and whiteboard)



Materials

stick pretzels, honey, small cups, wet wipes



Teaching Tip

Check all food allergies before serving any snack.

Materials

Teaching Picture 7, belts, sandals, rough towels (optional: mirror)



Cleanup

Sing “Cleanup Song” from the Resources CD Teacher Helps printable files as you lead children in picking up toys and supplies.



Focus

♥ We can please God.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell what happened when Jesus was baptized.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 2 and 5, CD player, blue and brown bedsheets (or material or large paper)



Teaching Tip

Older children may have questions about baptism. Tell parents about your conversations. They will be excited to know about these beginning expressions of faith.

Materials

Resources sheet 4 puppets 7a and 7b, Bible, 2 paper lunch bags, glue, clothesline, clothespins, bedsheets from Sing and Pray



Before Class

Prepare the puppets. Hang a clothesline across one corner of your room. Use clothespins to hang the bedsheets. One teacher can sit behind the clothesline and use the puppets. A second teacher can narrate the story.



Materials

Resources CD Dove printable file, scissors, craft sticks, tape (or glue)



Materials

Resources CD Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable file, Bible, dove stick puppets prepared for Bible Review



Sing and Pray

Sing “Come and Follow” and “He Pleased God.”

PRAY: Dear God, help us to obey and do right. Help us to please You in everything we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

SAY: How many of you have seen a baptism? Briefly explain what happens during a baptism. **Today our Bible story is about a baptism.** Show the sheets. **We’ll pretend that the brown sheet is ground and the blue one is a river. Let’s listen about how Jesus and a man named John pleased God at a river. ♥ We can please God when we listen to stories from the Bible.**

Bible Time

Narrator: **The Bible book of Matthew, chapter 3 (show Matthew 3), tells about John the Baptist, Jesus’s cousin. John lived in the desert area around the Jordan River.** John appears over the top of the brown sheet. **John wore clothes made out of camel’s hair and a leather belt. He ate food that was found in the desert—locusts and honey. John spent all day preaching to people and telling them what God wanted them to do.**

John: **Get ready for a Savior to come. Change your hearts. Be baptized so God will forgive you for the wrong things that you do.**

Narrator: **When people were sorry for the wrong things they had done, John baptized them in the Jordan River.** Move John over to the blue sheet, then back again. **One day Jesus came to John.**

Jesus: **John, I need you to baptize me.**

John: **Jesus, I shouldn’t baptize You. You have never done anything wrong. You should baptize me!**

Jesus: **No, John, this is the right thing to do, and it would please God.**

Narrator: **So John baptized Jesus in the river.** Move John and Jesus over to the blue sheet and act out the baptism. **As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the sky opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. Jesus and John and all the people who were watching heard God’s voice! God said, “This is my Son. I love Him. I am pleased with Him.” Jesus and John did the right thing. God was pleased with them.**

Bible Review

Before class, copy and cut out paper doves, one for each child. Tape a craft stick to the back of each dove, as a handle.

Ask questions about the Bible story. “Fly” a dove to the child when he answers. Or have the children fly their doves to you when they answer.

ASK: What did John tell the people? (“Change your hearts.”)

What happened after Jesus was baptized? (God spoke.)

Who pleased God? (Jesus and John)

Bible Memory Luke 2:52

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Read Luke 2:52 and review the motions with the children.. **SAY: Now let’s fly our dove puppets in a circle as we say Luke 2:52.** Have children say the Bible Memory as they fly their doves.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can do right and please God.**

Focus

♥ We can please God.

Quick Step Do Right Tic-Tac-Toe

SAY: ♥ We can please God as Jesus did. When we make right choices, we please God and make Him happy. Let's play a game of tic-tac-toe and decide which choices are right and which are wrong.

Have children cut out the game board and color the pictures. Help them decide which pictures show choices that are wrong and put frowning X stickers on these pictures. Then put smiling Os on the right choices. Mark the winning diagonal lines. If you want the children to play several times, put the stickers on paper and let them cut them apart. Give children resealable plastic bags for their game pieces.

When we make right choices, we are always winners!

ASK: **What can you do to please God and make Him happy?**

Materials

Make-n-Share and stickers for lesson 7, scissors, washable markers (or crayons) (optional: paper, resealable plastic bags)



Materials

toy cars, people, and houses



Teaching Tip

A play mat showing roads and buildings would be ideal for this activity. Or make roads on an indoor/outdoor rug, using painter's tape.

Materials

Resources CD track 11, CD player



Go and Please God

SAY: **Jesus made the right choice to be baptized. ♥ We can please God by making right choices too. Let's pretend we are going to different places in our cars. We can name ways to please God at those places.**

As children drive their cars on the floor, give each child a scenario. (Examples: a new child has come to Sunday school, your mom asks you to help clean up a room at home, brother is crying because he fell on some play equipment at the park) Have each child tell how he can please God by the way he handles the situation.

ASK: **How can you please God at home? at a friend's house?**

What will you do to please God this week?

“Please God! March”

SAY: ♥ We can please God. Follow me and we will march like we're in an army. We can think of ways to use things to please God.

Have children march in a line behind you as you play “Please God! March.” Have them repeat after each line of the rhyme. When the rhyme finishes, stop the CD and stop marching. Point to an object in the room (toy, Bible, cup, etc.), and have one child name a way to use that object to please God. Continue until every child has named a way to please God.

ASK: **What can you say that will please God?**

What rule can you obey to please God?

Especially for 4s!



Encourage the children to follow you and repeat your words. When you point to an object, let the children identify it. Together think of a way to use that object to please God.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving now have their activity projects and a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to do the “Please God! March” with their child. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Jesus Is Baptized

Lesson 7 Extra Hour



Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:4-11

Bible Memory: Luke 2:52

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“Jesus increased in wisdom . . . and in favour with God and man.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ We can please God.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Learning to obey is one of the greatest struggles for children. When children learn that God is pleased by their obedience and right choices, they are encouraged to keep trying. We are often like children in our desire to be independent, and we forget that God calls us to obedience as well. When we consider that the perfect Son of God asked a man to baptize Him, we should be humbled by His example.

Bible Background for the Teacher

John the Baptist was the son of the priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was a cousin to Jesus’ mother, Mary. John lived in the wilderness, or desert, area west of the Dead Sea. Around AD 27 he began to preach along the Jordan River. John preached to prepare people for Jesus. His ministry was foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Malachi (see Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 3:1; 4:5, 6). Jesus was 30 years old when He came to be baptized by John.

Lesson 7 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore* who John the Baptist was.

-  **Quick Step**
Echo! Echo!
-  Camping Out
-  Texture Pictures

HeartShaper Materials





- none
- none
- none

Other Materials

- none
- large blanket, camping equipment
- soft and scratchy material, paper, washable markers, glue

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell what* happened when Jesus was baptized.

-  **More! Sing and Pray**
-  **Bible Time—Another Way!**
Jesus Is Baptized
-  **More! Bible Review**
-  **More! Bible Memory**

- *Resources* CD, *Resources* CD Dove and Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable files, *Teaching Picture 7*

- CD player, Scout puppet, Bible

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *name* ways they can do right and please God.

-  **Quick Step**
Scout Puppet Story
-  “Please God! March”
- Saying Good-bye**

- none
- *Heart Tugs* issue 7
- *Heart Tugs* issue 7

- Scout puppet, newspaper
- musical instruments
- none

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

Focus

♥ We can please God.

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore who John the Baptist was.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Open your Bible and describe a person or thing learned about in this quarter's lessons. Let the children guess who or what it is. Emphasize that these stories are in the New Testament.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

none



Teaching Tip

If you have a smaller class, children can stay together (or form just two groups) to echo your phrases.

Quick Step Echo! Echo!

SAY: The Bible teaches us that ♥ we can please God. John the Baptist was a man who pleased God. He was not afraid to use a loud voice in the desert to preach about God. Maybe John's voice echoed from the desert area where he lived.

Discuss what an echo is. Divide children into four groups and send each group to a separate corner. Tell them you are going to be like John and preach something for them to echo. Stand in the middle of the room, cup your hands around your mouth, and preach a different phrase to each group. (Examples: "Share with others." "Tell the truth." "Be baptized." "Follow God!") Then point to a group to echo the phrase. Change your voice for children to mimic. If you say something loud, have them echo loudly; if you whisper something, have them echo softly.

ASK: Why do you think John preached to the people? (He wanted to please God.)

Do you think the people listened to John?

Epecially for 4s!

Have 4s sit together and echo phrases back to you.

Camping Out

Set up a campsite. Drape a blanket over a table to represent a tent or cave.

SAY: John the Baptist was a man who pleased God, just as ♥ we can please God. John lived in a desert area. Maybe he lived in a cave or tent. Let's pretend we are living in the desert.

Let children pretend to sleep in a cave and cook out over a fire. Talk about things John might have seen or heard in the desert (bugs, lizards, wild animals, etc.) and how he pleased God by telling others about Him.

ASK: What things can you find in a desert?

What might John have heard when he slept in the desert?

Have you ever been camping? What did you like/dislike about it?

Materials

large blanket,
camping equipment
(canteen, cooking pot, etc.)
(optional: small logs for
campfire)



Materials

scraps of various types
of soft and scratchy
material, paper, washable
markers, glue (not glue sticks)



Texture Pictures

SAY: Today we are learning about John the Baptist. John pleased God by doing right. ♥ We can please God too. The Bible says John the Baptist wore clothes made out of camel's hair and wore a leather belt.

Show children how to draw stick figures. Then help them dress the figures by gluing on scraps of material. Talk about the different textures of cloth.

ASK: What would clothes made from camel's hair feel like?

Which cloth is most like the clothes John wore?



Adding texture to a coloring page enhances learning for children who learn through touch or those with a visual impairment.

Focus

♥ We can please God.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell what happened when Jesus was baptized.**

Materials

Resources CD track 2, CD player, Scout puppet, Resources CD Dove printable file, Bible



Before Class

Print a dove from the CD.

Materials

Teaching Picture 7



Teaching Tip

Some of your older children may have questions about baptism. Tell parents about your conversations. They will be excited to know about these beginning expressions of faith.

Materials

none



Teaching Tips

If you did not use the paper bag puppets in first hour, prepare them now.

As children answer a question, give them a sticker, such as a dove or a smiley face.

Materials

Bible, Resources CD track 5, CD player



Before Class

Print and display the motions from the CD.

More! Sing and Pray

Sing “Come and Follow.”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for stories from the Bible. Help us to please You with listening ears. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Bring out Scout holding the dove. SAY: **Scout, I see you have a friend with you today.** Scout nods yes. **Have you ever heard a big voice from Heaven when your friend comes to see you?** Scout shakes head no. **Well, that’s what happened in today’s Bible story.** Show Matthew 3. **Why don’t you listen as the children and I act out the story?** Set Scout down.

Bible Time—Another Way!

SAY: **John followed and pleased God. He wore clothes made out of camel’s hair and wore a leather belt. He ate honey and bugs called locusts. John lived in a desert by the Jordan River. He didn’t care about his clothes or food or a fancy place to live, but he did care about pleasing God. He preached about God. John said, “Jesus is coming!”; “Follow God!”; “Do right!”; “Be baptized!”** Have children repeat phrases.

Some people didn’t want to listen to John. They just laughed at him. Have children point and laugh at you. **But some people did listen to John and wanted to be baptized.**

Show picture. **One day Jesus came to John and said, “Baptize me.” John didn’t want to baptize Jesus, because Jesus had never done anything wrong. But Jesus said, “Let’s obey God and do the right thing.” So John baptized Jesus. Suddenly the sky opened up, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. Everyone heard God’s voice say, “This is my Son. I love Him and He pleases me.”** Have children repeat phrases. **Jesus and John both pleased God.**

More! Bible Review

Let children take turns playing the roles of John and Jesus (or using the puppets from first hour). Ask the following questions.

Questions for John:

ASK: **What kind of clothes did you wear, John?** (clothes made from camel’s hair, a leather belt)

What did you eat? (locusts and wild honey)

What did you tell the people? (Follow God. Be baptized.)

What did Jesus ask you to do for Him? (to baptize Him)

Questions for Jesus:

ASK: **Why did You want to be baptized?** (to please God)

What did You see after John baptized You? (the Spirit of God coming down from Heaven like a dove)

What did you hear? (God’s voice saying He loves me)

More! Bible Memory Luke 2:52

Open your Bible to Luke 2:52, and help the children read the Bible Memory. SAY: ♥ **We can please God when we learn from His Word, the Bible.** Play and sing “He Pleased God” as you do the motions together.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can do right and please God.**

Focus

♥ We can please God.

Quick Step Scout Does the Job!

Scout comes out, holding a newspaper in his paws. SAY: **Hi, Scout! Oh, it looks like you brought the newspaper for us. You are good at doing your job.** Pat Scout on the head. **Listen, kids, and I'll tell you how Scout obeys and pleases his family.** Set the newspaper on the floor to use later.

Scout has several jobs to do for his family. Every morning, it is Scout's job to run outside and bring the newspaper in for his family to read. Sometimes, though, Scout is tired. Scout yawns and stretches and then lies down in your lap. **Scout would rather sleep in instead of getting up to do his job.**

Scout has another job. He is supposed to bark when strangers come to the house. Scout barks. **This helps to warn his family that someone is coming and to keep them safe. Sometimes, though, Scout would rather play in the sunshine than watch for strangers.** Scout bounces around.

The happy news is that Scout usually does his jobs. In the morning, he gets up and fetches the paper. Scout runs and brings the newspaper back to you. **And when a stranger comes to the house, Scout gives a nice loud bark.** Scout barks again. **Scout knows the people in his family are pleased with him when he obeys and does his jobs.**

ASK: **What does Scout do that pleases his family?** (brings in the newspaper, barks when strangers approach)

What can you do to please your family and to please God?

“Please God! March”

SAY: ♥ **We can please God just as Jesus and John pleased God. Let's play some musical instruments and say our special march rhyme. The rhyme will help us remember to please God.**

Lead children in the “Please God! March” from today's *Heart Tugs* as they march around the room and play instruments. At the end of the rhyme, ask a child to name one way to please God. Continue play. Pray, asking God to help your children remember to please Him this week.

ASK: **What can you share with someone and please God?**

What can you do at home and please God?

How can you play with your friends and please God?

How can you act during Bible school and please God?

Saying Good-bye

• As children wait for parents to arrive, play a few more rounds of Echo! Echo! from More! Getting Started.

• Be sure children have projects made in class. Give each child's parents a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage them to let their child teach them the “Please God! March.” Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Scout puppet, rolled-up sheet of newspaper



Materials

Heart Tugs issue 7, musical instruments



Teaching Tip

If you did not use the “Please God! March” in the first hour, you will need to teach the rhyme to the children at this time.

Cleanup

Hold up a magnifying glass. Look through the glass and find an area that needs to be cleaned. Ask the children to go and clean that area. Let children take turns looking for other areas that need cleaning.

