

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 10th January
First Sunday of Epiphany

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus' Baptism.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Mark 1 v 4–11

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Genesis 1 v 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19 v 1-7

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Can you find all three persons of God in the story?

Even though there is only one God, God himself is made up of three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus is present in the story getting baptised by John but we also see the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and we hear God the Father speaking from heaven.

When Jesus was on the earth, he told his disciples to baptize people in the name of "the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" – Jesus wants everybody to know all three persons of the Holy Trinity.

Some questions for children to ask adults

Have you been baptised? What happened at your baptism?

Spot the difference...

Why not read the story in the other gospels and see how similar/different they are:

Matthew 3 v 13-17

Luke 3 v 21-22

John 1 v 29-34



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of Jesus' baptism and the reminder it is to all of us that we can change our hearts and minds and have a fresh start forgiven by you.

Help us to connect with all three persons of your trinity this week. Help us to connect to you as our loving father who cares and provides for each of us. Help us to follow your example as Jesus living a life of service and love on the earth. Help us to be guided by you as the Holy Spirit our helper.

We pray for others who do not yet know you that they would come to know you fully and change their hearts and lives as they follow you. Amen.

Family Activity 1

Go and... find triangles



In the description of Jesus' baptism we see all three persons of the trinity present. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Go around your house and garden looking for things that come in threes or which have three sides. Visit each room in the house and give yourself one minute to find as many items as you can which are triangle shaped or have three parts to them. How many can you find in each room?





A verse to remember

Acts 19 v 4

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of changed hearts and lives. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus."

This verse from Acts reminds us that baptism is all about changed hearts and lives, Jesus came to the earth to die and take the punishment for our sins so that all our mistakes can be forgiven. He also came to live as an example for us to follow. Jesus showed us what it is to live for God, we can believe in him and follow his example every day. Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.



Family Activity 2

Hold a water race!

You will need: non-breakable cups (the same size) or spoons, bowls or buckets, measuring jug.

Using a jug, measure out water into two bowls or buckets at one end of your garden or wherever you choose to race. Those racing have 1 or 2 minutes to transport as much water as possible from their container to another one at the opposite end of the course. Use spoons if you want to make the challenge really hard or cups/eggcups to make it slightly easier. At the end of the time use the jug again to see who has transported the most water.

Active Prayer

John preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives. Even though we know that our mistakes are forgiven through Jesus it is still good to repent and say sorry to God for our mistakes. It is good to recognise areas in our own hearts and lives where we might need to make changes.

Spend some time listening to God and thinking about your own life. Write or draw on paper any behaviours or thoughts you know are not pleasing to God.

Take a bowl of water and place the paper into it. Scrunch, tear and soak the paper in the water till it is completely destroyed.

No mistake we make is too big for God to forgive and with God's help we can change our hearts and lives, choosing to follow Him.

After the activity use a sieve to remove any remaining paper from the bowl and dispose of it in a bin. Don't pour it away down the sink as you may block your drain!



Helping Older Children

Baptism traditions vary between different church denominations and older children may ask why Jesus' baptism story is different from your own church tradition. These pictures all show different baptism traditions – you could talk about the ages and locations in the pictures.

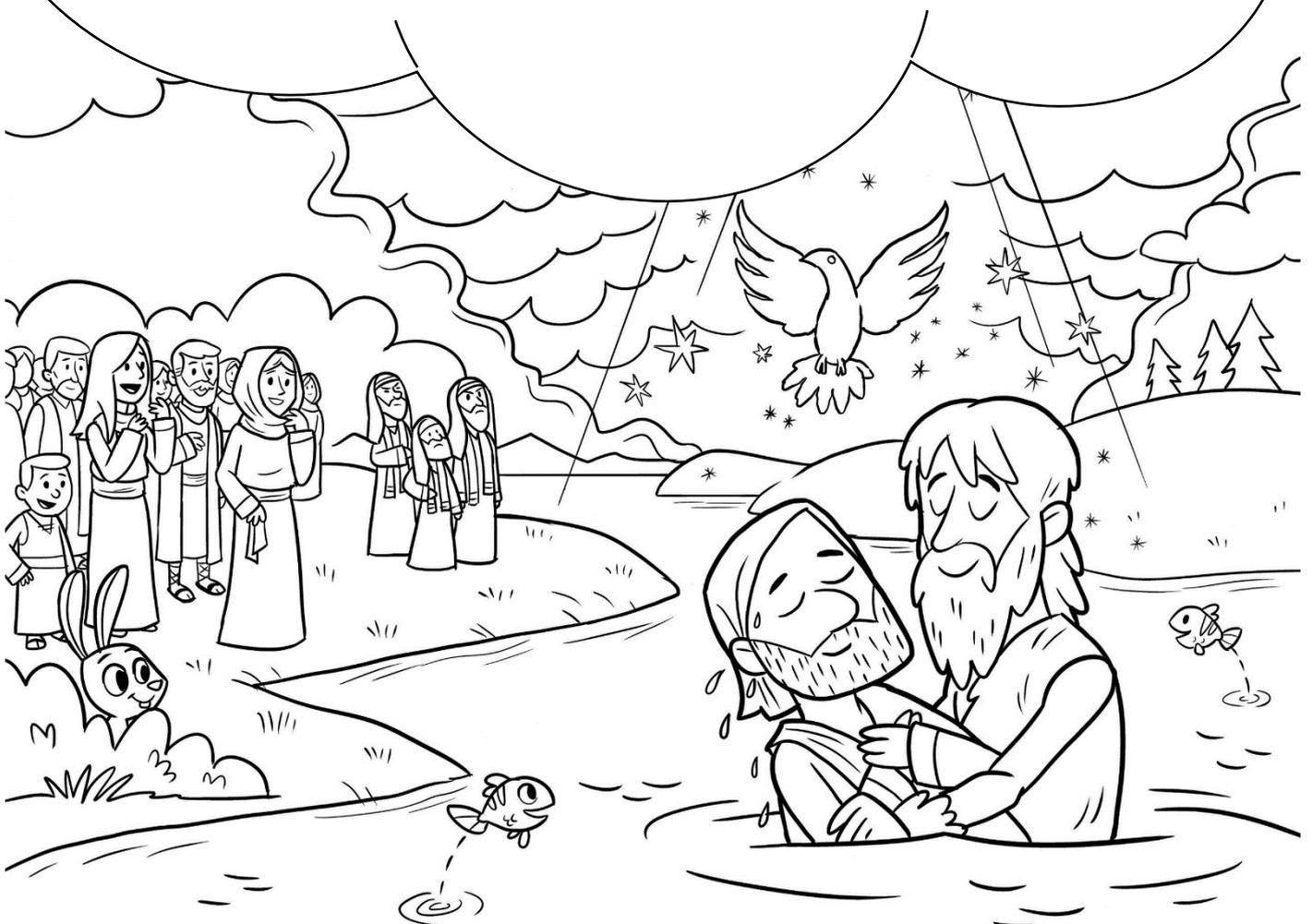
What do they all have in common? They are about an individual and their commitment to changing their heart and life for God.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Acts 19 v 4

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of changed hearts and lives. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus."



PUZZLE SHEET

John the Baptist spoke about Jesus and said **"I am not good enough even to kneel down and untie his sandals."** How many sandals can you find on this page?



Can you find all these words in the word search below?

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Jesus | hearts | God |
| John | lives | Jordan |
| baptism | dove | river |
| water | Holy Spirit | heaven |

n l k p g m h c l g e g p h v
 g a y m o b o q h u e v o d w
 d c d t b o l i u c h s f h s
 v y b r k t y n g d l f o m w
 t s v q o i s e n e r a g w f
 a v o f a j p v w q n o e b p
 s t r a e h i a y m w a e k s
 d f m z r o r e y b r a x b y
 k h k p p h i h a s l v i r n
 r d b i c k t p u h f i a g f
 i e o x l h t s j j z z v o g
 v h q g j i e a v e l o o e b
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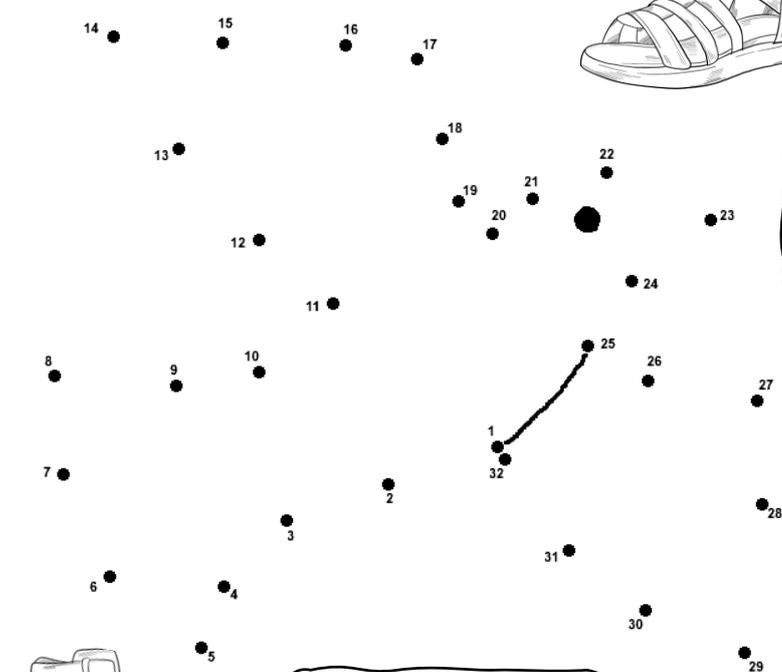






Decode the message to reveal what God the Father said at Jesus' baptism.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| a = ❄️ | m = ☀️ | t = ↓ |
| d = 🎯 | n = 🕯️ | u = 😊 |
| e = ✨ | o = 🔔 | v = ✈️ |
| h = 🚩 | p = 🖋️ | w = 🕒 |
| i = ❤️ | r = 🖐️ | y = 👓 |
| l = ☆ | s = 🌸 | |



Join the dots to reveal the form the Holy Spirit took at Jesus' baptism.