

KIDTOWN GUIDE

for 1st-5th grades

DATE: 3/29/20 - 4/4/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1

LESSON: Jesus' Baptism

INTRO

Parents read this to your kids at the beginning.

Well, it's been another week of being out of school, and we just found out that we're going to be out of school for even longer--at least through the end of April! Even though lots of things are different and changing, it is good to remember the good things that have come out of being at home, like spending time together and having fun together as a family! So... What has been your favorite part of this past week?

And so we're going to take some time to do Kidtown together at home! Just like we would do if we were all gathered together on a Sunday. We're going to play, sing, learn from the Bible and talk about how Jesus wants to grow us as His followers. At the end we'll pray for our family and for others! Y'all ready to go?

PLAY (10 minutes)

In a time of high anxiety and stress, play is an easy, fun way for kids to feel relief and safe. Far from a copout, play can actually be helpful for kids and adults alike. Below we have given some suggestions for group games. Use whichever of these works best for your family. If you don't like these games, feel free to make arts and crafts, color or give your children some free play time.

Option 1: Freeze Dance (3k - 3rd Grade)

Supplies Needed: Music

Start playing music and have a dance party together, but when the music stops, you have to FREEZE! If anyone moves while the music is off, they are out. Start the music again and keep playing until you have a winner or everybody has danced all that they can!

Option 2: Alligator Alley (1st - 5th Grade)

Supplies Needed: pillows, tape, or anything that marks safe islands that kids can step on

Simply scatter some "islands" or "boats" across the floor (use pillows, stuffed animals, books, etc.) and then have your kids jump from one to the next without falling into the "water" and risk being eaten by a hungry alligator. Bonus points if parents play said hungry alligators and chomp after them when they stumble!

SING (5 minutes)

Kids love singing and it's a great way to start to direct their energy in a Godward direction before the lesson. To make it easy, you can have the kids sing along to the lyric videos linked below.

- [A Future and a Hope](#) (Previous Key Passage Song)
- [The Word Was God](#) (Current Key Passage Song)

LESSON (10 minutes)

One of the most important ways we get to disciple kids is by helping teach the truth of God's Word and how it points towards Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 3, you can even point out that this story is also found in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1. Show the Bible story video [Jesus' Baptism](#).

What a cool story about Jesus getting baptized! Let's break it down starting with...

Story Point #1! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #1!) John the Baptist was very different. (kids repeat) In general it's not very nice to call people weird... but John was pretty weird! He lived out in the desert and ate honey and bugs. How weird is that? Do you think you could do that?! (*Allow responses from kids*). And while Jesus probably won't ask us to eat honey on grasshoppers to follow Him, there are ways that He calls us to be different. So why do you think John the Baptist lived in such a weird, different way? Well, that brings us to....

Story Point #2! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #2!) John lived differently to draw attention to Jesus (kids repeat) John knew that the purpose of His life was to point people to Jesus. Isaiah (remember him?) prophesied that a man would come calling in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord. John was that man! He wanted to do anything he could to point people to Jesus! He told people to repent - which means to turn away from their sin and towards God. He baptized people as a picture that they needed to be washed of their sin to get ready for the Messiah who was coming. When Jesus showed up, John knew Jesus was the Messiah that he had been talking about! John knew that Jesus was way more important than he was, and everything he did was to help other people know that too... But this story isn't really about John. It's really about Jesus! Which leads us to...

Story Point #3! (Kids repeat, "Story Point #3!) Jesus' baptism was very different. (kids repeat) John was completely shocked when Jesus wanted to get baptized. Everyone else John had baptized needed to repent of sin, but Jesus didn't have any sin! Jesus didn't need to repent! Jesus didn't need to be washed. John just didn't understand. But Jesus knew baptism was part of God's plan. Jesus was obeying God by being baptized.

Another difference about Jesus' baptism is what happened during it. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. God announced out loud from heaven that Jesus was His Son! Just like John wanted to draw everyone's attention to Jesus, God used Jesus' baptism to draw everyone's attention to Him. Clearly Jesus' baptism was very special!

And there was one more big reason that Jesus' baptism was super different...

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat, "Christ Connection!) Jesus' baptism was different because it pointed to His death and resurrection. (kids repeat) Jesus never sinned, but His baptism pointed forward to what He would do to pay for our sins. When Jesus went under the water, it's a picture of Him dying and being buried with all of our sin on Him. When He rose from the water, it's a picture of how He would later resurrect, conquering sin and death! Now when new Christians get baptized, they are saying they needed Jesus to die and resurrect to pay for their sins! That's what Jesus' very different baptism is about.

RESPONSE TIME (15 minutes)

The goal of this time is to discuss and apply what we learned from the Bible.

Discussion

What stood out to you from this story?

- *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay—we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*

Who was John the Baptist?

- *The one Isaiah prophesied about, the voice crying out in the wilderness, and Jesus' cousin! Matt. 3:3*

How did John respond at first to Jesus' request for baptism?

- *John tried to stop Jesus at first. He was confused. Matt. 3:14*

What happened after Jesus was baptized?

- *God spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove; Matt. 3:16-17*

Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?

- *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know and then tell your director afterwards.*
- *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*

Main Application: Jesus calls us to be different as followers of Him.

- Adults first then kids - In what ways does Jesus call us to live differently?
- **Teach:** One specific way Jesus' followers are called to live differently is by getting baptized. When Christians get baptized, they are saying that Jesus' death and resurrection is their only hope for right relationship with God. When Christians get baptized, they are saying they are turning from sin and living a new life with Jesus.
- Adults - Tell your kids about how you became a Christian and when you got baptized.

Parents, if you or your kids have questions about baptism, you can...

- Watch [this video of our Kids' Baptism Class](#).
- Utilize [this chart](#) as a resource for thinking through your child's readiness for baptism.
- Email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com!

Reflection

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

SNACK (5-10 minutes)

Taking a break for a snack helps give kids a developmental break after the lesson and be used as a simple reward/incentive for focus during Small Group Time. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks for kids who have Gluten allergies.

LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

This lesson activity is optional based on time. If you need to fill time it can help reinforce what the kids learned in the lesson, but can easily be cut if you're running short.

Special handshakes

Invite each kid to make a personalized special handshake with you. Suggest kids incorporate high-fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps, hand-clapping, and other moves. Practice each handshake a few times. Then lead kids to line up and demonstrate their handshake with you or their group members.

Say • In general, shaking hands is a sign of greeting, warmth, friendship and respect. In the Bible story we heard today, we learned about baptism—a symbol that shows what it means to follow Jesus.

PRAYER TIME! (15 minutes)

From an early age, we want to teach our kids that prayer is the fuel for our lives as Christians. We depend on God for everything and prayer helps us remember that. Especially in these uncertain times, prayer is one of our most important disciplines as God's people.

Pray For Each Other:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

Pray: Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

Pray For Jesus' Mission:

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?

Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!