



sparklers
LIFE OF JESUS - 13 September
BAPTISM

SESSION AIM

To familiarise the children with the story of Jesus' baptism and reflect on how God expressed His love for Jesus and how He loves the children.

PARENTS/CARERS NOTES

John the Baptist must have been so surprised and shocked to see Jesus waiting to be baptised - after all Jesus was the one he had been telling all the people about. The one for whom they had to be prepared for. The one for whom they had to clean up their hearts and lives. There was no way John could baptise Jesus, it just wasn't right; but when Jesus said that this was God's will John and Jesus were obedient to the Father.

Through this session the main focus is on God's loving affirmation of His son and how He loves each of His children.

The dove or white bird was a way of God showing that He was present and very close to Jesus. Try not to give the impression that God is a bird!

LESSON TIME

Peek-a-boo tubs

Get a selection of objects that are related to the story:

1. Water
2. Dove
3. Jesus

STORY

When Jesus was grown up and about 30 years old He went for a walk through the countryside to the River Jordan.

When Jesus arrived at the river there were lots of people there. In the middle of the river there was a man who was talking to all the people standing and sitting on the bank of the river. The man was called John. John was telling the people that they needed to say sorry for all the wrong things they had done. They needed to say sorry to God and put things right. Some of them had told lies, some of them had taken things that didn't belong to them and some of them had hurt other people.

One by one the people came into the river and stood next to John. They said sorry for all the wrong things they had done. Then John helped them go under the water so that they got wet all over - this was a way of showing that all the bad things were being washed away.



When the people came out of the river they knew that God had forgiven them and they could make a new start.

Jesus watched John baptising people for a while and then He walked out into the river to stand next to John. John was really surprised. He knew that Jesus had never done anything wrong.

John told Jesus that he couldn't possibly baptise Him. "You haven't done anything wrong" He said. "It's me that needs to be sorry. You should be baptising me." But Jesus just smiled and said "Father God wants you to baptise me".

So John helped Jesus go under the water and when Jesus stood up again to their amazement they saw a dove above Jesus' head and heard God's voice saying "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." (Luke 3:22)

God was saying well done to Jesus because Jesus had done exactly what He wanted Him to do. When people say well done to us we feel happy. When Jesus heard God saying well done He must have felt very happy.

God also says well done to us. We may not hear His voice like Jesus did but we know when we have done the right thing, that He is pleased with us. But God also told Jesus how precious He was, how much He loved Him and God thinks we are precious too and He loves each one of us.

PRAYER

"Thank you God that you love Jesus so very much. Thank you that you love (each person says their name one after the other). ***Amen"***



sparklers



