

Epiphany 01 - The Baptism of Jesus - Year A

Jesus is Baptized by John

Matthew 3:13-17

You will need to set up the room.

Walk around the mountain and look at it as you walk. Go to the story shelf and get the tray marked "BAPTISM." Carry this box and place it down in front of you.

Point to the river.

Here is a river. This river is the River Jordan. It is cold. The water comes from the mountains where there is snow.

Point to the bowl of water.

This is where John baptizes people.

Take John out and place him near the pool of water. Place him on the far side of the river.

Here is John. He does not live in a city. He doesn't live in a town. He lives all alone in the wilderness. He eats simple food.

Touch the water.

John tells people that God is coming.

John tells them they are not ready to meet God.

John tells them that doing wrong things keep them from meeting God.

Place John in the bowl of water.

John stands in the water.

He tells people to stop doing wrong.

When they decide to stop doing wrong things,

he asks them to step into the water. The water reminds them that they are clean.

Take all the people out of the box except for Jesus. Place them near John. They need to be on the far side of the river.

Many people come to hear John.

These people are sorry for what they have done wrong.

Some are very sad. They go into the water.

Touch the water.

The water is cold. It will remind people that they must stop doing wrong things.

Take Jesus out of the "Baptism" box. Have Jesus walk towards John.

Jesus walks towards John.

John knows Jesus. John and Jesus are cousins. They are related to each other.

Point to John.

John talks to Jesus.

"Jesus," says John, "You don't need to be baptized!

You have not done anything wrong."

Point to Jesus.

Jesus talks to John.

Jesus says, "But I need to be baptized. It must be done."

Point to the water.

Have Jesus walk into the water.

Yes, then. Come into the water.

Jesus walks into the water.

Have Jesus dip into the water.

John helps Jesus dip into the water.

Jesus now walks out of the water.

Jesus is wet. Jesus is looking up.

The heavens are opening.

Jesus looks up.

Take the dove and have it circle around Jesus. Then have the dove land on Jesus

A dove from heaven is flying towards Jesus.

Is it landing on Jesus?

Speak in a deep voice or you may have the other person helping say the words from heaven.

Can you hear a voice from heaven?

“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus now walks away from the water.

Jesus is going into a desert. The desert is a place where Jesus will be very alone.

He wants to spend time in prayer. He will spend 40 days in prayer.

He has no water. He has no food. How will he eat?

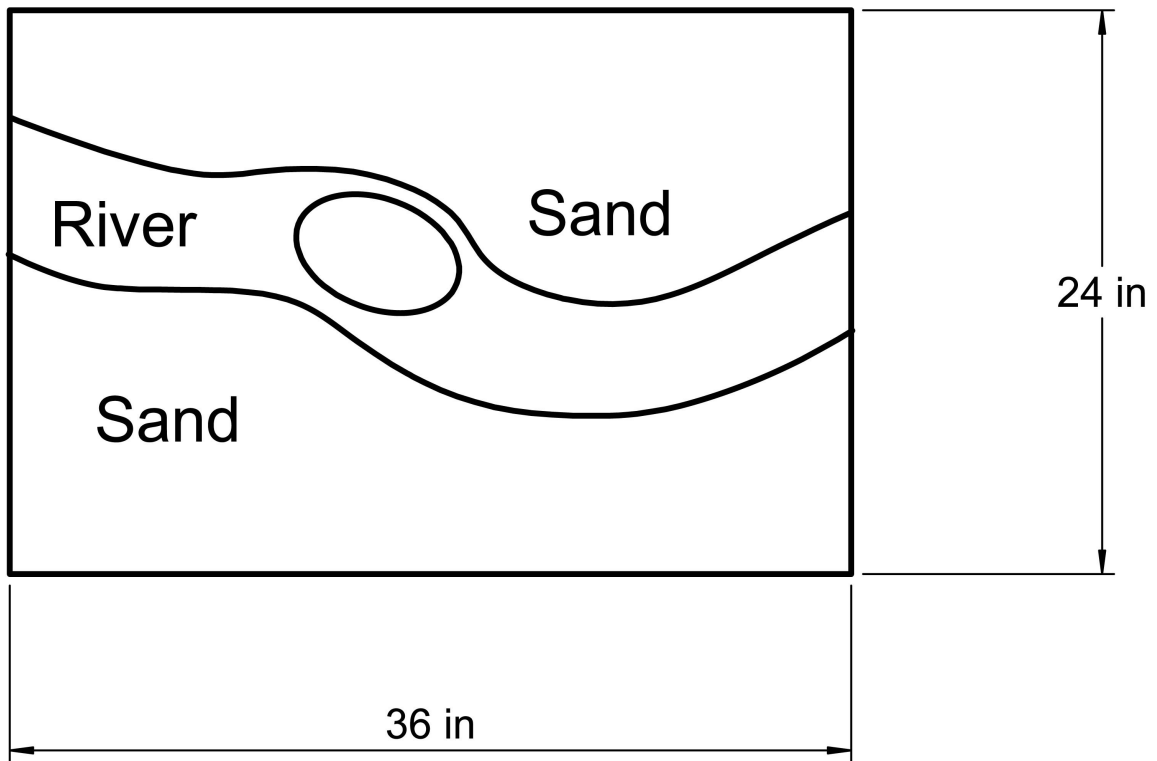
Responding to God’s Word: Wondering Together

- I wonder how it feels to be sorry for things you have done wrong?
- I wonder what it feels like to be so sorry that you dip into cold water?
- I wonder how John felt when he told people they were doing wrong things?
- I wonder why Jesus was baptized?
- I wonder what the dove meant to Jesus?
- I wonder why there was a voice from heaven?
- I wonder what it means when we hear a voice from heaven?
- I wonder what Jesus will do next?

Materials

1. Rug, blanket or towel that is dark tan or brown for the beach.
2. A bit of blue felt to make the river. Some other materials used, could be aluminum foil or waxed paper. Do not use a clear wrap. A child could choke on this material.
3. A shallow bowl of water
4. One figure of Jesus
5. One figure for John the Baptist.
6. Many people who are gathering around to be baptized. (Perhaps 6 or 8 other figures)
7. A small bird used as a dove.

CHILDREN



LEADER

Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."