

John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Bible Point: God sends Jesus!

When we meet people we usually shake hands, wave, or nod and smile. We also say, “Hi, my [name] is. Pleased to meet you!” When you tell someone your name, it’s called introducing yourself. Try this with those around you. Practice introducing yourself pretending you are meeting them for the first time. You can’t really be friends with people until you know who they are, can you? In the Bible, we’ll see how God introduced Jesus. When God told people who Jesus was, it showed them that God sent Jesus for us, we know he’s our friend.

In Mark 1:4-11, we learn how God introduced Jesus to the world as the Messiah. God used a man named John the Baptist to introduce Jesus. John the Baptist’s job was to prepare the way for Jesus. He told people to stop sinning and to clean their hearts to get ready for Jesus. John came along to tell the people about the forgiveness God wanted to offer them. John baptized the people in the water of the Jordan River. He told them to drop their sins and make their hearts clean by asking God to forgive them.

The people had been waiting a long time for God to send a Savior to save his people. As people watched John the Baptist, some of them may have thought that he was the Savior. But he wasn’t. John just helped people understand that the Savior would be coming soon. Many people came to John to be baptized. Even Jesus wanted John to baptize him. And that’s when it happened!

***Mark 1:9-11** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

God introduced Jesus. God said Jesus was his Son, and he loved him and was pleased with him. After God introduced Jesus to the world, Jesus started preaching to the people about God’s love. What happened when John baptized Jesus was pretty amazing. God’s

words are very powerful.

God sent Jesus to save each one of us. Jesus came to save me and you and your parents and the kids in school—he wants to save everyone! All we have to do is believe in Jesus.

Prayer:

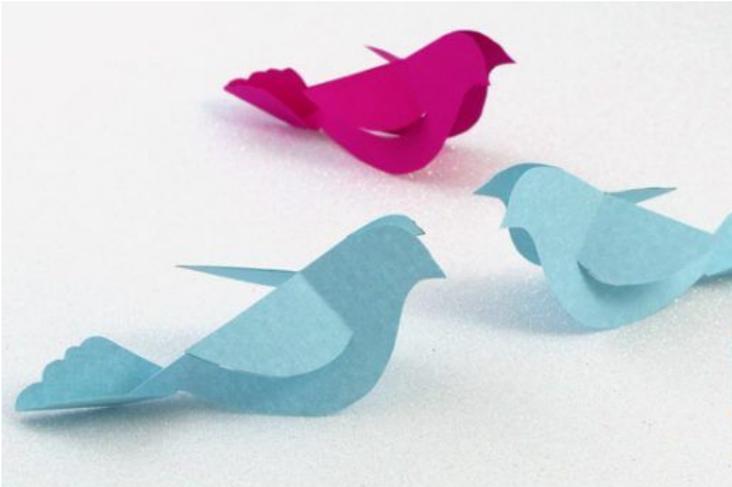
Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, so that we can be forgiven. Help us to remember to ask you for forgiveness because we know you’ll forgive us.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Mini Doves of Love:

We learned in the Bible today that God sent his Holy Spirit in the form of a dove when Jesus was baptized. Let's make Doves of Love to remind us of why God sent Jesus—because he loves us!



Supplies:

Construction paper in your choice of color
Scissors
Kitchen skewer and a scrap of brown cardboard
Ruler for scoring
A piece of string
Sticky tape
Peace doves template (see below)

Instructions:

- 1) Print the template out.
- 2) Use your ruler to score along the dotted lines.
- 3) Cut the template into three sections along the black lines. Each piece will make one bird.

- 4) Fold a section in half along the line you have scored.
- 5) Cut the bird shape out around the black line.

- 6) Fold the tail piece forwards and backwards along the dotted fold line.



7) Cut along the line marking the wings, then cut the wings in half along the centerfold.



8) Gently fold the tail upwards, and the wings outwards so it looks like your bird is flying.

9) To add string to the bird poke a hole on the centrefold just above the wing with your kitchen skewer over a scrap of brown cardboard. Do the same just below the wing.

10) Thread a piece of string through each hole and secure into place with a small piece of sticky tape.

