

Jesus Is Baptized

A story based on Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

People came from all over. “Let’s go hear John!” they said to each other. Some of them walked a long way.

Some of the people came just because they thought it would be fun to hear John talking. “He’s a little bit different,” they said. “He wears animal skins for clothes and he shouts and yells.”

But other people came because they were hungry for God. They felt kind of empty inside and they thought maybe John could help them. They wanted to be baptized. “When we are baptized by John, we won’t feel empty anymore,” they said.

All the people gathered beside the Jordan River where John was speaking. “Get ready!” said John. “I baptize you with water, but someone is coming – God is send-

ing us someone – someone who will baptize you with God’s Holy Spirit.”

As each person came to be baptized, John dipped them under the water, for just a moment, and prayed. “Please, God, fill this person with your love.”

One of the people who came to be baptized was Jesus. And when he had been baptized, Jesus stood in the water for a long time praying.

As he was praying, it seemed as if the sky opened. It seemed as if God’s Spirit came down to Jesus, in the shape of a pure, white bird – a dove.

And there was a voice – a soft and beautiful voice that said, “You are my child. I love you. I am pleased with you.”

*From the Lectionary Story Bible: Year C by Ralph Milton.
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Create: Mystery Painting

Doves are a symbol of God’s Spirit. When the dove symbol appears on paper, it can remind us that God is with us.

Materials

- Poster board
- White crayon or candle
- Very diluted blue water-based paint
- Paintbrush
- Large sheet of paper
- Dove pattern

Instructions

1. Trace the dove pattern on poster board and cut out to make a template.
2. Use the template to trace dove images onto a sheet of paper, using white crayon or candle (press heavily).
3. Using the crayon or candle, print a message such as (Name) is loved by God.
4. Now brush very diluted water-based paint over the entire paper to reveal the doves and the message.



Activity: Jesus' Baptism

Instructions

1. Use markers and pencils to decorate the picture.
2. Glue small white feathers onto the dove.

