The Baptism of Jesus

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are revealed

Ages about 7-11 | Video 2:13 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth At the river, Jesus is baptized by John; the Father speaks and the Holy Spirit descends like a dove.

Learning goals Recall the three divine Persons revealed at the river; explain that sinless Jesus did not need cleansing; and connect Christian Baptism with new life in the Church.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask what John meant by preparing the way. Watch for the Father, Son, and Spirit when Jesus comes from the water.

Watch and notice

Notice John's hesitation, Jesus entering the river, the Spirit like a dove, and the Father's declaration of love.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Who baptized Jesus?
John the Baptist, who was preparing the people for the one greater than himself.

2. Why did sinless Jesus receive John's baptism?
He freely entered our human situation and carried out the Father's saving will. He did not need forgiveness for personal sin.

3. How are the Father, Son, and Spirit revealed?
The Father speaks, Jesus the Son is in the river, and the Spirit descends like a dove. There is one God in three Persons.

4. What gift do we receive in Christian Baptism?
New life in Christ, forgiveness of sin, and belonging to his Church. God's love comes first; Baptism is more than a symbolic wash.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

The Baptism of Jesus

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw the Father's voice, Jesus in the river, and the Spirit like a dove. Then draw a baptismal font as a sign of new life in Christ. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

Three signs, one God | Optional 4 minutes

Draw the river and Jesus. Add a speech symbol above for the Father's declaration and a dove shape for the Spirit. Label all three Persons, then write One God below. Add a separate baptismal font and one word for Baptism's gift: life, belonging, or grace.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to jesus' baptism and new life in christ.

Closing prayer Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for calling us into your life. Help us live as your beloved children. Amen.

At home Ask an adult about your Baptism or the baptismal font in your parish; pray for someone preparing for Baptism.

Handout answer notes John baptized Jesus. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are revealed. Christian Baptism gives grace, forgiveness, and membership in Christ's Church.

Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. John's baptism and the Christian sacrament are not identical. Jesus is sinless. The Spirit is not literally a bird; the Gospel says he descended like a dove. God loves every child, including one not yet baptized.

Words to explain Trinity: one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism: the sacrament of new life in Christ. Beloved: deeply loved.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript
Background: Matthew 3:13-17: Jesus' baptism
Background: USCCB: Baptism and Christian initiation