



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

January 10, 2021 – Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Include

John, often called John the Baptist, was the person Jesus sought out when he was ready to be baptized. John was a cousin of Jesus', and he traveled the countryside inviting people to become followers of Jesus. He would baptize them; hence the name, John the Baptist. Jesus found John at the Jordan River and asked John to baptize him. John was reluctant to baptize Jesus; he believed that Jesus should be the one baptizing. Jesus eventually convinced John that he was supposed to baptize Jesus; it is the way it was to be.

Matthew 3:5-6 tells us Jesus was not the only one who came to John for baptism. Many people from all walks of life came to confess their sins and be baptized by John. We might wonder who these people were. There were men and women, rich and poor, and verse 7 says that even Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized. Everyone was being welcomed into the community of God.

When Jesus chose to be baptized, he was showing that his ministry would be different from what the people knew and expected. He demonstrated his humanity and connectedness to God's people by joining them in the river to be baptized. Jesus did not single himself out to be baptized alone, but chose to be baptized by John with a community of believers. Jesus was a part of the community, so anyone could be included in the community of God.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Jesus' Baptism, from Matthew 3:13-17 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

WATCH the Bible Story

- https://youtu.be/AqxrH1jF_ko

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Include – It means to welcome all God’s children in God’s love.

When Jesus asked to be baptized by John, he was showing his desire to be baptized in a community of his followers. Jesus wanted people to see that he was just like everyone else.

WONDER Together:

1. What is your favorite part of this story?
2. Who would you want to be if you could be anyone in the story?
3. How can you include others and share God’s love with them?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 14 & 15). On page 15 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Baptism is a communal (*group*) act. Jesus’ baptism by John was a part of the community in which Jesus lived.

Turn on a faucet and let the water run through your hands. Say aloud, “God loves me; God is pleased with me; God is happy with me.”

Think of the community you are a part of. When you take a bath or shower this week, remind yourself that you are included in a community that loves you as God loves you.

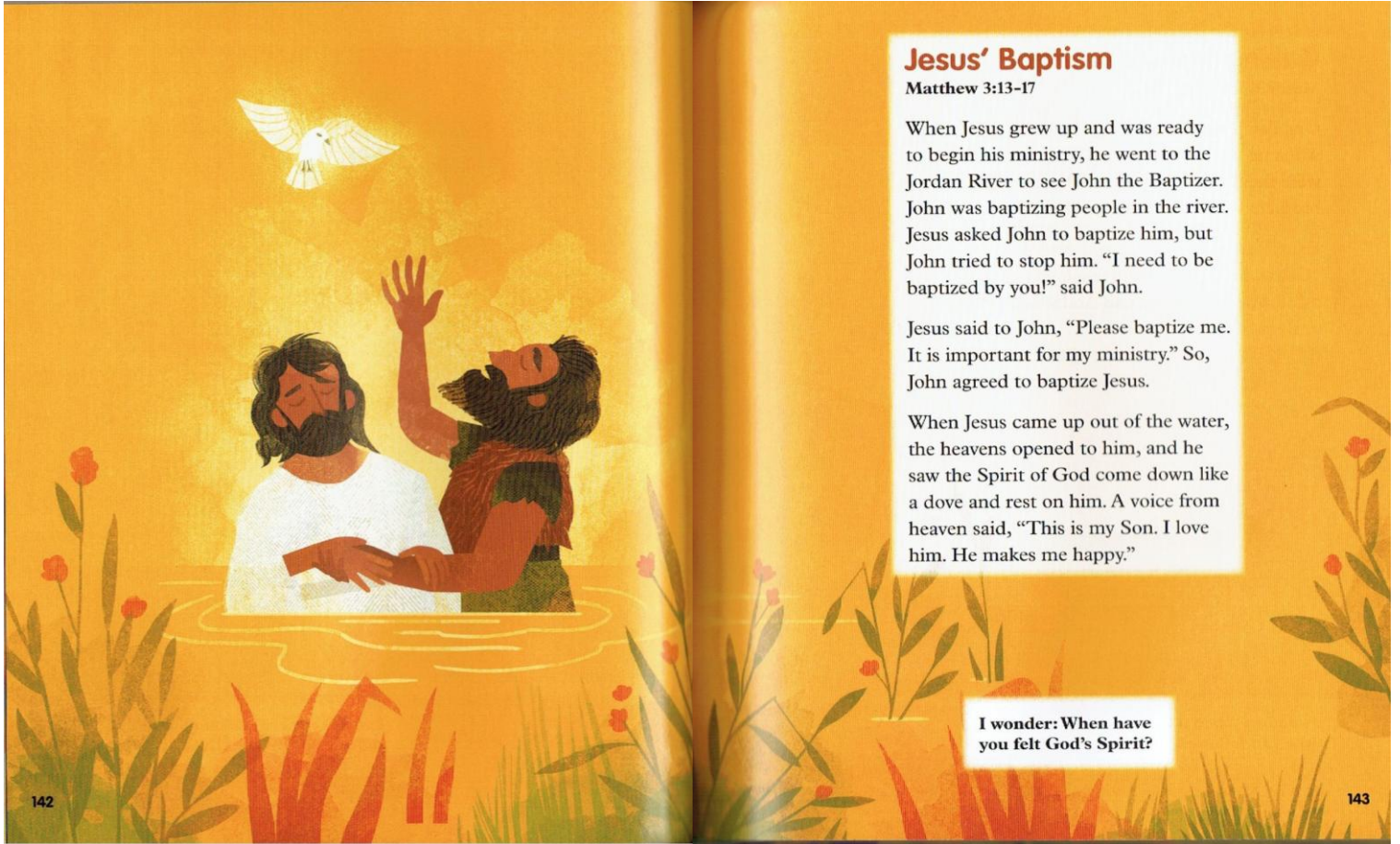
Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **“Blessed are those who include everyone in God’s community.”**

Prayer: **God, you love me dearly. Help me to show your love to others. Amen.**

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



Jesus' Baptism
 Matthew 3:13-17

When Jesus grew up and was ready to begin his ministry, he went to the Jordan River to see John the Baptizer. John was baptizing people in the river. Jesus asked John to baptize him, but John tried to stop him. "I need to be baptized by you!" said John.

Jesus said to John, "Please baptize me. It is important for my ministry." So, John agreed to baptize Jesus.

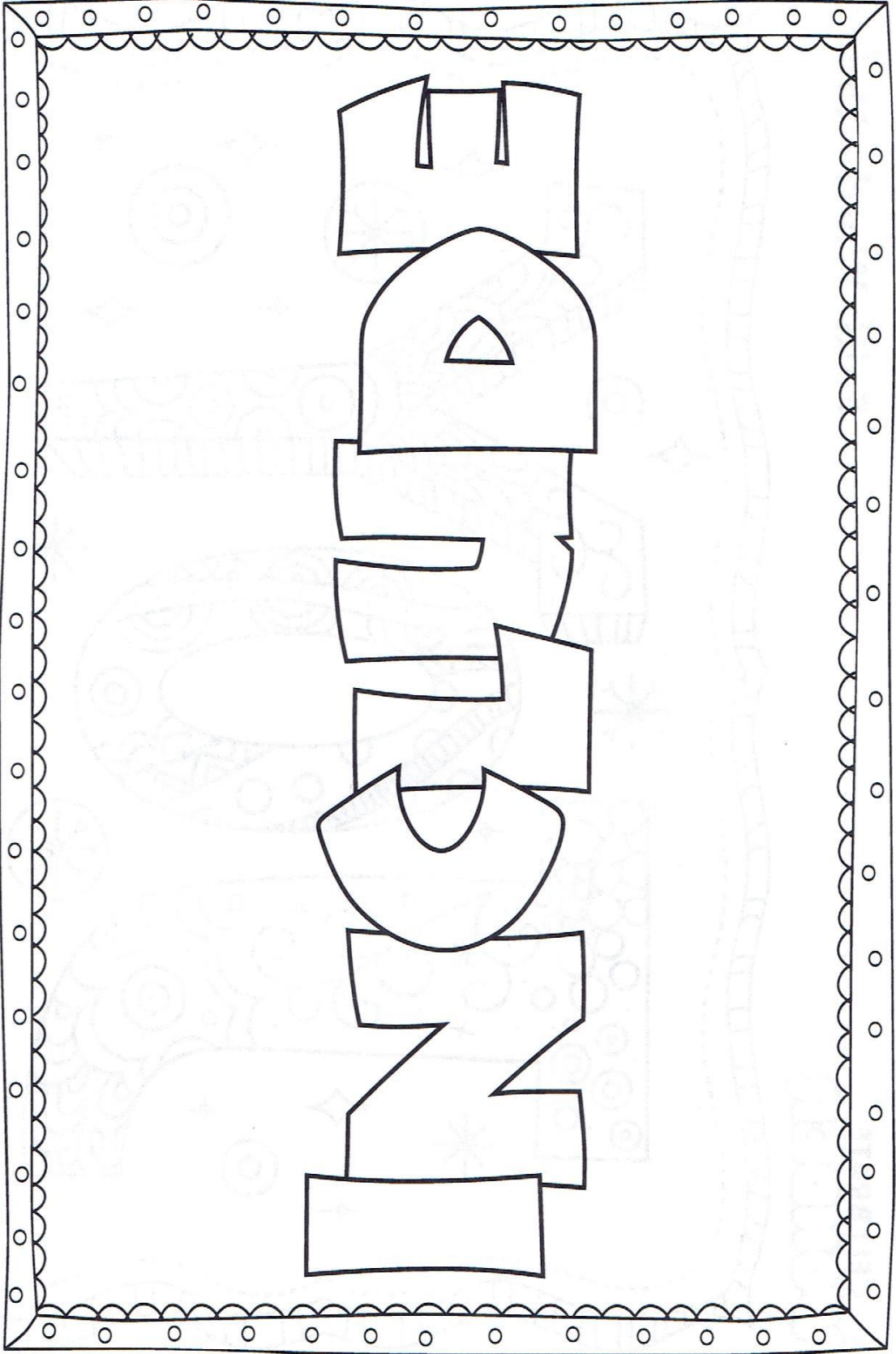
When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove and rest on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son. I love him. He makes me happy."

I wonder: When have you felt God's Spirit?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 2



Preschool Activity

Baptism Watercolor (Art)

Supplies: Print the coloring sheet, use water color paints if you have them, if not have your child color with crayons or markers

Say: God spoke when Jesus came out of the water. What do you think God's voice sounded like? I wonder how the water felt in the Jordan River.

You may want to sing together the following song while your child works on his/her art project:

Go In and Out the River *(Tune: "In and Out the Window"):*

Go in and out the river,
the river,
the river.

Go in and out the river,
for Jesus is God's Son.

If your child has been baptized, talk with them about what that day was like and how you, and your church family, made a promise to God to help them grow in their knowledge and love of God.

Pre-School Activity



**Jesus taught us He wants us to include everyone
by sharing God's love with all.**

Early Elementary Activity

Fish Profile (Art)

Supplies: print out of the Early Elementary Activity page below, pencil, crayons, markers, colored pencils

SAY: Each child is special and included. Use a print out (of the Early Elementary Activity page below) **and fill out the fish profile about you. Share with a family member.**

Favorite things to do:

1. 2. 3.

Draw Yourself:

Name:

Age:

Favorite quote:

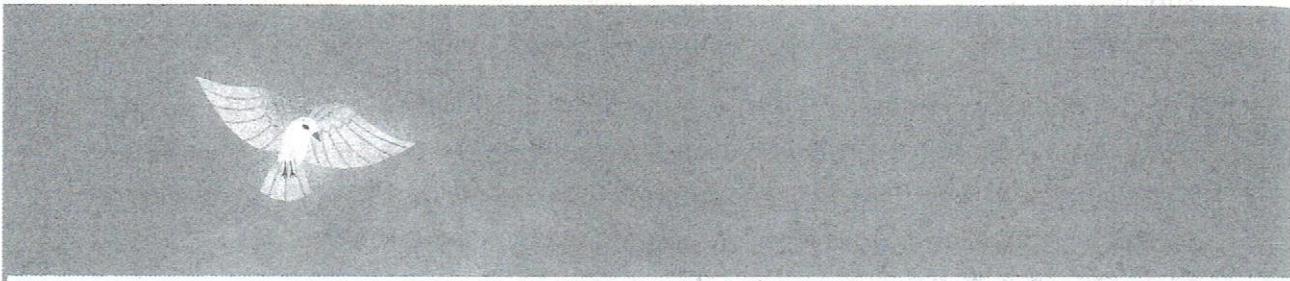
Older Elementary Activity

Faith Community Gifts (Language Activity)

Supplies: print out of the Older Elementary Activity page below, and a pencil

Say: John the Baptist used his gifts to bring people to God and to grow God's kingdom. Did you know that we all use our special gifts to honor God here at church? The things you do to serve or to show love for your community are ways to honor God. Let's do an activity to see how we know what others in our faith community do to honor God. Give your child a copy of "Faith Community Gifts" (see Older Elementary Activity sheet below) and a pencil. Let the child(ren) write what each person does to honor God. Discuss together the answers.

Faith Community Gifts



Pastor _____

Sunday School Teacher _____

Musician _____

Custodian _____

Secretary _____

