

January 10, 2021

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17



Instructions for Families:

- Complete these activities in order at any time during the week, whenever it best fits your family schedule. Ideally, plan to do them all together at one time.
- All activity materials are common household objects, and are listed at the beginning of each activity.

Gathering

- **Materials:** Basic altar decor (placemat/cloth napkin, candle/lighter, cross or other item of religious significance).
- **Directions:**
 - **Note: if you have not yet made a family altar, do this first:**
 - Decide as a family where you will set up the altar. Some good options include in the center of the dining table, on a console table, or atop a low bookshelf. It should be easily visible to the children, but not still somewhat out of every day reach (ex: not a mantle, but also not on a coffee table.)
 - After you have decided where the altar will be, set up a few basic objects together:
 - Lay out a cloth napkin or placemat as a base.
 - Add a candle and a cross, or another object that reminds your family of God.
 - Light the candle.
 - **Say:** This candle light reminds us that God is with us. Now, let's say a prayer together to make our hearts and minds ready to listen to God.
 - Invite a child to say a prayer. If no one volunteers, an adult may say a prayer, or lead the family in the below:
 - "Dear God, thank you for being here with us in our home. We are ready to listen and to learn about you. We love you. Amen."

Bible Story – Jesus is Baptized

Materials:

- Bible or Storybook Bible

Directions:

- Read Matthew 3
- Discuss with them the importance of the Jesus being baptized. His baptism shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy that God promised in the Old Testament.

Ask Your Children:

- What verse stood out to you most in what we just read?
- What did you learn from these passages that you didn't know before?
- What do you think God wants us to learn from these passages?

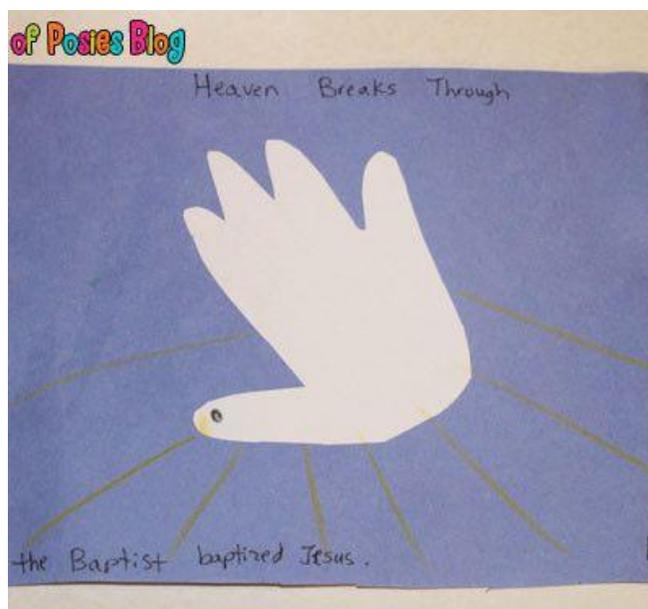
Family Activity: Baptism and the Dove

Materials:

- Blue Construction Paper
- White Paper
- Crayons/Markers
- Glue or Tape

Instructions:

- Trace your child's hand onto white paper
- Cut out handprint
- Glue/Tape handprint onto the blue construction paper
- Draw eye on the handprint (dove)
- Draw yellow sunshine from the dove
- Write "Heaven breaks through" at the top
- Write "John the Baptist baptized Jesus" at the bottom



Closing Prayer:

- Gather everyone back together around the altar.
- Share about this week's "Sads and Glads."
- Ask a child to do the prayer, if none are willing have an adult close out in prayer.