

The Beloved Son

Jesus is baptized

Matthew 3:1-3, 13-17; Luke 3:15-16; John 1:29; Malachi 3:1

Character Trait: Purity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify Jesus as God's Son.
- Children will explain specific ways that they can live a life of purity.
- Children will share ways their own choices and actions can encourage others to live purely also.

Supplies:

- *The Beloved Son* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- Black construction paper *(for hooves and ear cutouts)*
- Cotton balls
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googley eyes *(two for each child)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Do you *(or anyone you know)* go by more than one name? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn more about Jesus, who He is, and why He is also called the Lamb of God.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What Good News did the angel bring to the shepherds?** *(Your Savior has been born. He is in Bethlehem, lying in a manger.)*
- **Why did the angel tell the shepherds that their Savior had been born?** *(God had sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus had come to fix our sin problem.)*
- **How did the shepherds know that Jesus had been born?** *(The angels appeared in the sky to tell them the good news.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Beloved Son* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- "Before God sends His special Savior," said the prophet, Malachi, "a messenger will come to prepare the way for Him."
- So John came before Jesus, preaching by the Jordan River.
- "Prepare the way for the Lord!" John said. "God is sending

someone very special to His people. Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized."
- So that's what people did!
- "Are you the promised one?" they asked.
- "No," said John. "I'm not worthy to even carry His sandals. He will do amazing things. You'll see!"
- Jesus came to John to be baptized.
- When John saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"
- "I want you to baptize Me," Jesus said.
- "No," John replied. "I need to be baptized by You!"
- "Trust Me," said Jesus. "This is the right thing to do."
- So John baptized Jesus.
- God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.
- "This is My Son," God said. "I love Him. He pleases Me very much!"



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What did John say as he preached by the Jordan River?** *("Prepare the way for the Lord! God is sending someone very special to His people. Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized.")*
- **What did John say when Jesus came to him?** *("Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!")*
- **Why did John first say no to Jesus?** *(John said he should be baptized by Jesus instead.)*
- **What did Jesus tell John to do?** *(Jesus told John to trust Him.)*
- **What happened when John baptized Jesus?** *(God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.)*
- **Who did God identify as His Son?** *(Jesus)*
- **What did God say about Jesus when He was baptized?** *("This is My Son. I love Him. He pleases Me very much!")*



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: John told people to turn from the bad things they had done and be baptized. Baptism is a way to show the washing away of sin. It is also a way of showing that you want to follow and obey God. Jesus, who is God's Son, was also the Lamb of God. He can take our sins away completely.



Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

"Look! *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
The Lamb of God *(put hands together, palms up, and raise up)*
who takes away *(pretend to grab something)*
the sin of the world! *(make a big circle in front of you with hands)***."**

John 1:29b (NLT)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: John did not have to guess Jesus' identity. John immediately knew who Jesus was: the Lamb of God!

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

SAY: John called Jesus the "Lamb of God" because He would offer His life as a sacrifice on our behalf. This means that Jesus would willingly die to pay the price for our sins.

Provide each child with a piece of construction paper, cotton balls, and glue. Demonstrate how to glue the cotton balls to create and fill in a circle in the middle of the paper. Provide googly eyes to glue in the center of the circle to indicate the lamb's face. Then, provide black paper for the children to cut out ears and hooves to glue on and complete their lambs.

For younger children...
To make this project easier for younger children, four, small ovals can be cut out in advance for each child and glued to the center of the paper *(where the ears and hooves should be)*. Then, the children can complete the project by gluing down the cotton balls and googly eyes.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by telling them to copy the memory verse onto their project as well.

Character Trait: Purity
(10 minutes)

SAY: Purity means being completely clean and free from sin. Share that only Jesus can take our sins away because only Jesus is completely pure. Even though Jesus was tempted, He never sinned—not even once. This is why John called Jesus the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Many years ago, God's people made sacrifices to Him by killing animals such as lambs. Jesus is the "Lamb of God" because He sacrificed His life on the cross as payment for the price of our sins.

Encourage the children to think more about purity by asking the following:

- **What are some specific examples of how God helps you to live a life of purity?** *(Answers will vary but may include always being truthful, not stealing, and being trustworthy.)*
- **Why is choosing to live a life of purity important?** *(Answers will vary but may include because it is how God wants us to live and because it is a good example to others.)*
- **How does choosing purity help us?** *(Answers will vary but may include by protecting us from harm, sin, and shame.)*
- **What can we do when we make a mistake?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God for forgiveness and seeking to make things right again if we have harmed, hurt, or wronged another person.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God wants us to live lives of purity because we are His children. We are examples to those around us who may not yet know God and His great love.

SAY: How can your choices and actions encourage others to live a pure life? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that their choices and actions can be an example for others to follow.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Raise your hand if you remember how John reacted when Jesus came to be baptized. *(Call on a volunteer to share aloud: John said no, that he should be baptized by Jesus.)*

SAY: Raise your hand if you remember the two important words Jesus said in response. *(Invite the children to say the words aloud in unison: "Trust me.")*

SAY: We can trust God to help us live a life of purity.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your only beloved Son. Help us to honor You by striving to be pure in all we say, think, and do.
Amen.

Notes