



## Matthew 3:13-17

**Aim: to see how Jesus is God on earth and an example of us to follow**



Jesus's cousin, John, was busy baptising people in the River Jordan, for forgiveness of sins. It wasn't a completely new idea. Before the temple was destroyed in Jerusalem the priests went through the Mikveh baths as a form of ritual cleansing so that they were purified and made presentable to God. That may well be why John's first reaction to Jesus was to want to deny baptising him. John recognized Jesus, not only as his own cousin but as the Son of God. He was in an awkward position. However, Jesus knew he must obey the will of his Father in Heaven. This was the very first step that he needed to take. Thankfully, knowing Jesus's true identity, John chose wisely, putting aside his own feelings, he obeyed. Immediately, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and the voice of the Heavenly Father spoke, affirming Jesus as his beloved son, with whom he loved and was well pleased. Jesus was ready and all set for his ultimate mission.



Take some muddy wellies into the session. Have a bucket of soapy water, sponge and an old news paper out in front of you and begin to wash them.

*Can you help me? While I wash my dirty wellies can you sing with me?*

*This is the way I wash my wellies, wash my wellies, wash my wellies, on a ... morning. This is the way we dry our wellies...*

*These are looking much cleaner! They are ready for going out in the mud again tomorrow! Our story today is about when Jesus got a very special kind of wash, down in the river. Let's get ready to sit down and listen.*



Roll out a length of blue fabric slowly and say 'This is the River Jordan.'

As you act as though you are testing the water with your fingers, say: *Jesus went to the river to find his cousin, John, He wanted John to do a special job for him. When Jesus asked John, John felt shocked!*

Read the story, John baptises Jesus, (p132). Use toy figures to act out the part of Jesus and John in the river. Prime another adult helper to have a toy or paper dove to swoop into the story at the right moment and to call gently: *'Jesus is my own son. I am very pleased with him.'*



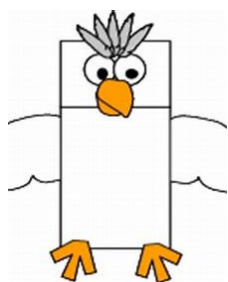
- *I wonder what John thought when Jesus asked him to baptise him?*
- *I wonder how Jesus felt when he heard his daddy saying he was pleased with him?*
- *I wonder how God feels about us when we do the right things?*



Read The Baptism of Jesus by Katherine Sully and by Katherine Sully and Simona Sanfilippo

Invite a local member of clergy to come in to talk to the children about how they do baptism at their church. Show photos or visit the baptistry font/pool.

Arrange for families to bring in and share their family baptism photos/gifts.



- Role play. Have a washing up bowl with water, and a doll. Either role play Jesus's baptism or a church baptism.
- Make a dove puppet such as the one you'll find here: [Paper Bag Dove Craft \(dltk-kids.com\)](http://Paper Bag Dove Craft (dltk-kids.com))
- Make the whole scene come alive with this free printable of the river and Jesus being baptized by John. All you'll need is blue A4 card, a printer, 2 lolly sticks for each child, sticky tape and coloring materials. [Preschool Alphabet: W is for Water & Jesus is Baptized | Bible Fun For Kids](http://Preschool Alphabet: W is for Water & Jesus is Baptized | Bible Fun For Kids)



Bring the dirty water from washing your wellies in a clear bottle for everyone to see the dirt, and wear your shiny clean wellies.

*Look at my shiny wellies. That wash you helped me with has made them sparkling clean! Look at the water! That's where the dirt has gone.*

*Jesus is a bit like the water. He cleans all our bad things and washes them away.*

Practice the actions together as suggested below

*Dear Lord Jesus, Help us to let go of the things that mess us up. (try to rub hands clean)*

*You are the living water.*

*Flow, flow, flow. (make a flowing action with your hands)*

*Clean, clean clean (Scrubbing action)*

*Send us out (shooing action)*

*to shine, shine, shine. (shining star action)*

*All clean and new (Jazz hands action)*

*Amen*



- Our God is a great big God
- Jesus love is very wonderful
- Shine



Watch a short clip of the story: <https://youtu.be/MYSHdpJ7IoU>

Find some old toys that could do with a scrub. Clean them together and recap the story and how God can help us when we mess up.

Look through photographs of family baptisms and talk about what was special about those times.