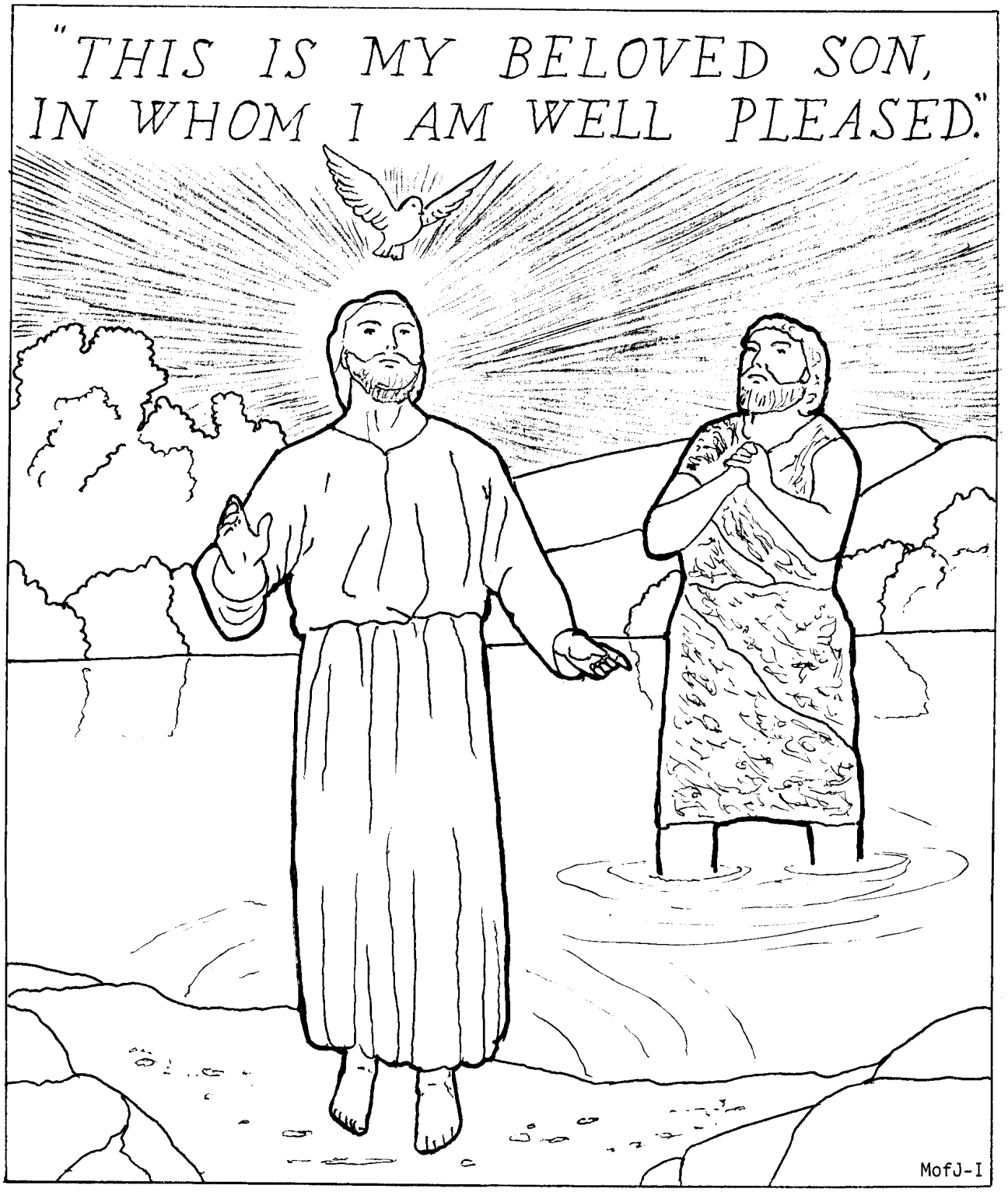
The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-34



The Story

Jesus had a relative named John. His father was Zacharias and his mother was Elizabeth. John was to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.

When John grew up he lived in the wilderness. He wore a camel hair coat and a belt. He ate wild honey and grasshoppers.

John preached God's Word. He told people to admit their sins. He wanted people to be sorry when they did something wrong. He told people that Jesus was coming to save them. John baptized people in the Jordan River.

One day Jesus came to see John. John said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus wanted to be baptized. A miracle happened after Jesus was baptized. The Holy Spirit came down to Jesus in the shape of a dove. The Holy Spirit landed on Jesus. God the Father spoke from heaven and said, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.

Passage

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

Hymn - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken,
For He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

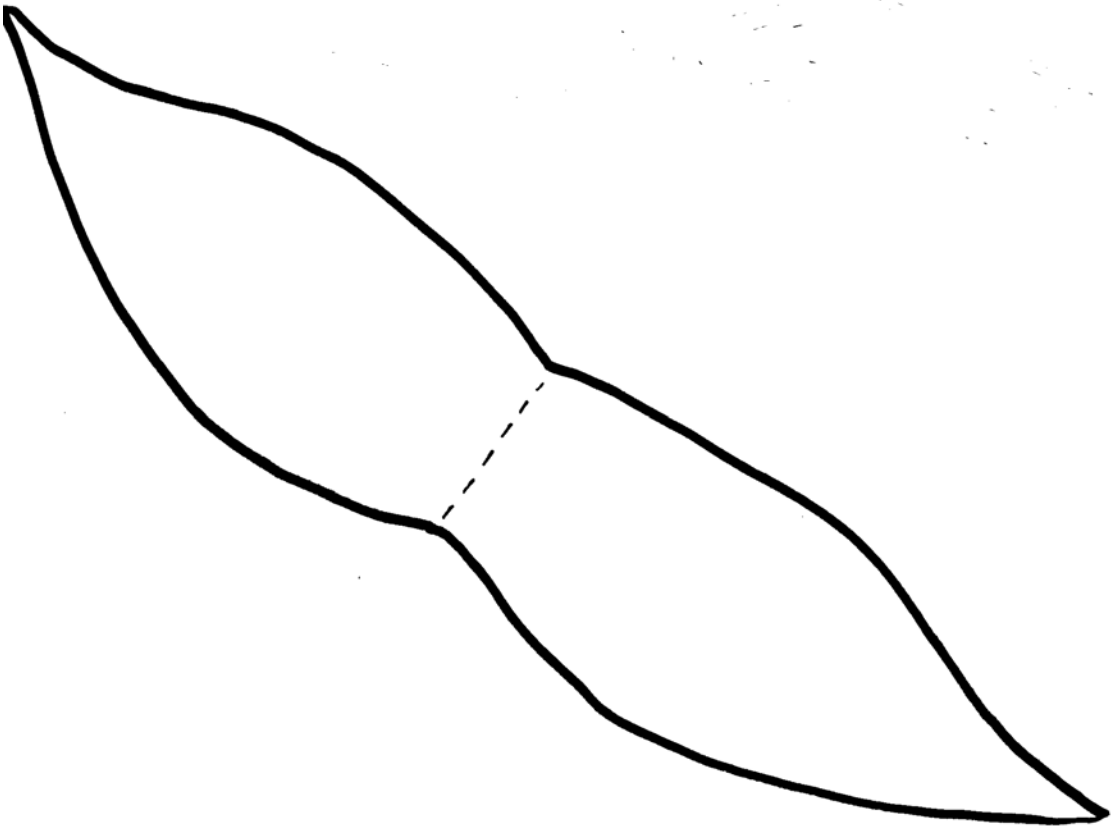
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost
Forevermore.

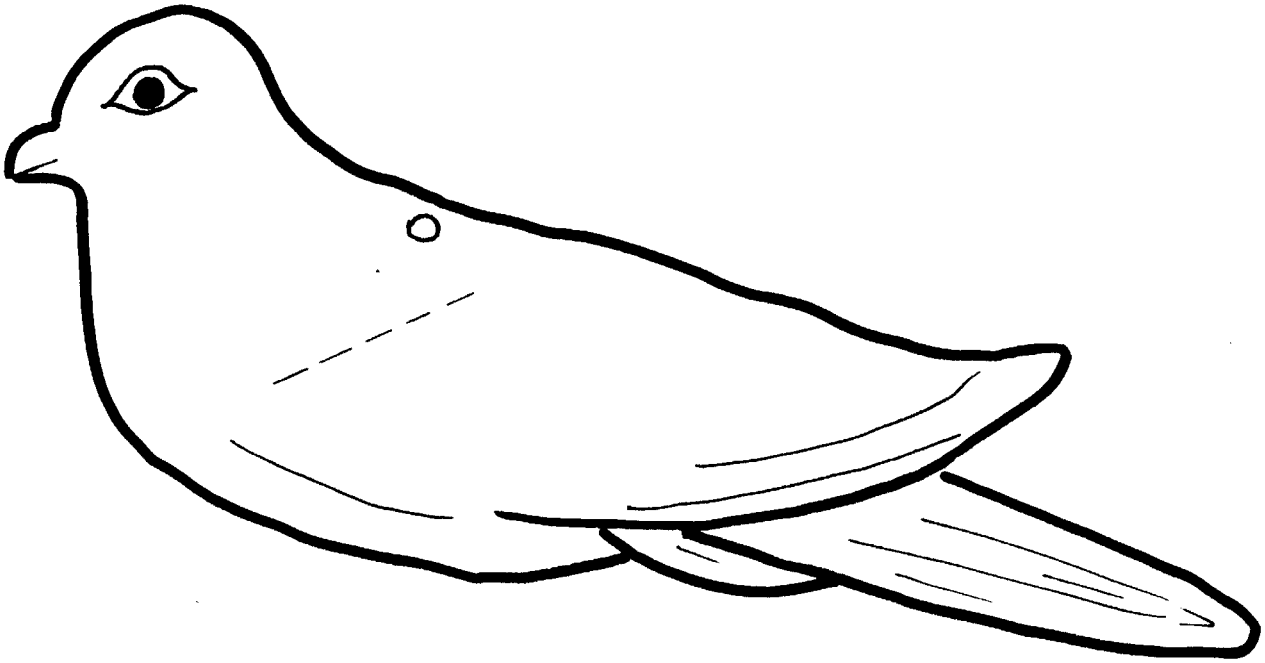
Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for showing us that, through His baptism, Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

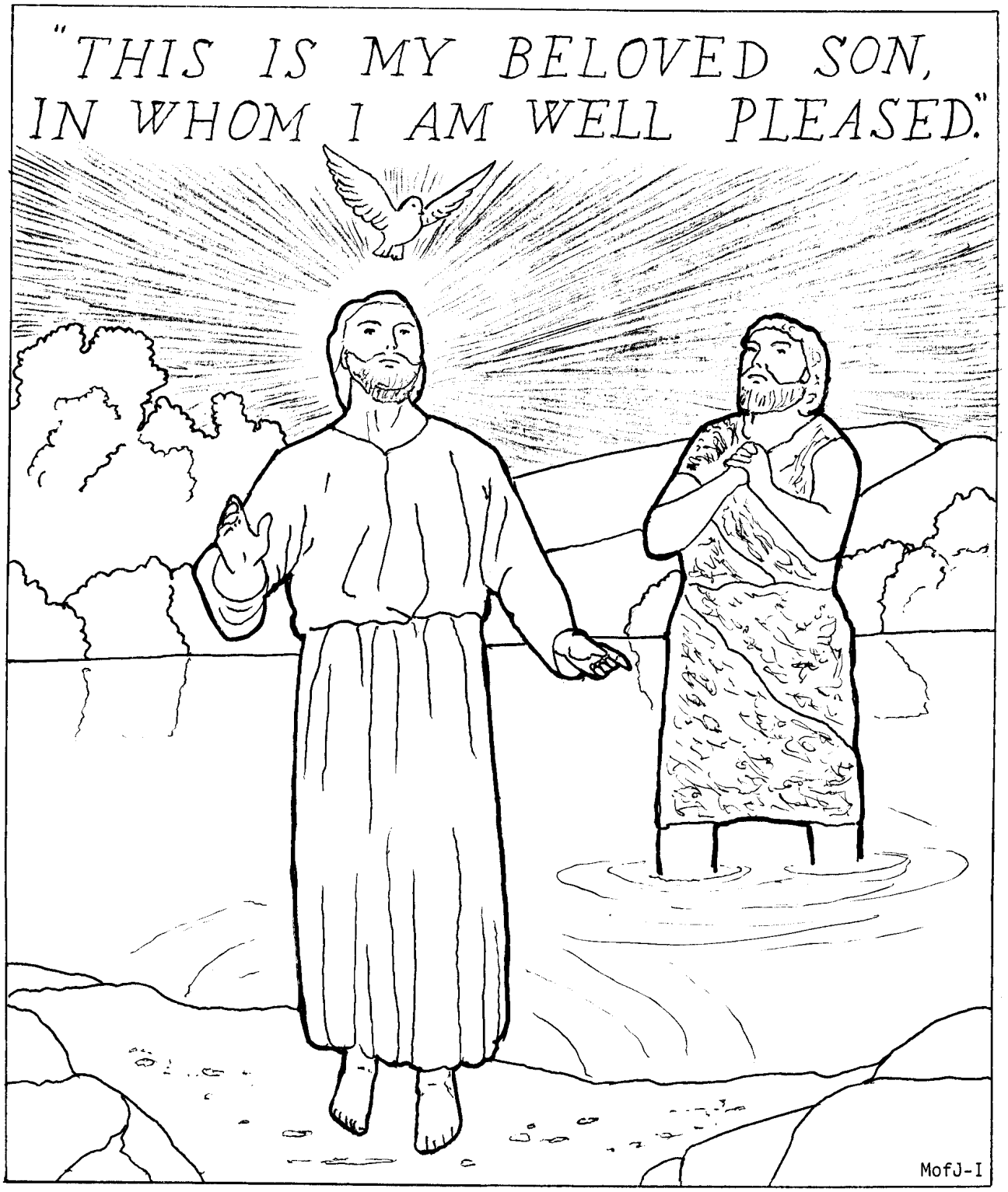
Activity One - Cut out the dove and wings along the outer lines. Slit dotted line in the dove and insert wings. Hole punch the small circle and draw a piece of yarn through. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus.





The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-34



The Story

Do you know when you were baptized? Why are we baptized? Today we will see that Jesus is baptized, not to wash away His sins, but to keep the commands of God perfectly for us.

Jesus had a relative named John. When John grew up he lived in the wilderness. He wore a belt and a camel hair coat. He ate wild honey and grasshoppers.

John preached God's Word. He told people to admit their sins. He wanted people to be sorry when they did something wrong. He told people Jesus was coming to save them. John baptized people in the Jordan River.

One day Jesus came to see John. John called Jesus the Lamb of God. Jesus wanted to be baptized. John did not feel worthy to baptize Jesus, but John did baptize Jesus in the Jordan River. A miracle happened after Jesus was baptized. The Holy Ghost came down to Jesus. The Spirit was in the shape of a dove. He landed on Jesus' shoulder. God the Father said, "You are My Son; in You I am well pleased."

Activity One - Use the words in the box to answer the questions. Write the letter of each answer on the line.

1. ____ What did John eat?
2. ____ What did John wear?
3. ____ Where did John live?
4. ____ Where did John baptize people?
5. ____ What did John speak?
6. ____ Who came to John to be baptized one day?
7. ____ Who said, "This is my son"?
8. ____ Who came in the form of a dove?

A. A camel hair coat
B. grasshoppers
C. God's Word
D. God the Father
E. God the Holy Spirit
F. in the wilderness
G. in the Jordan River
H. Jesus

Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.

Activity Two - Use the words to complete the sentences.

1. God's _____ was spoken at my baptism. **child**
2. Some _____ was put on my head. **life**
3. I became a _____ of God. **sins**
4. God's Son gave His _____ for me. **water**
5. God took away all my _____ . **Word**

Passages

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

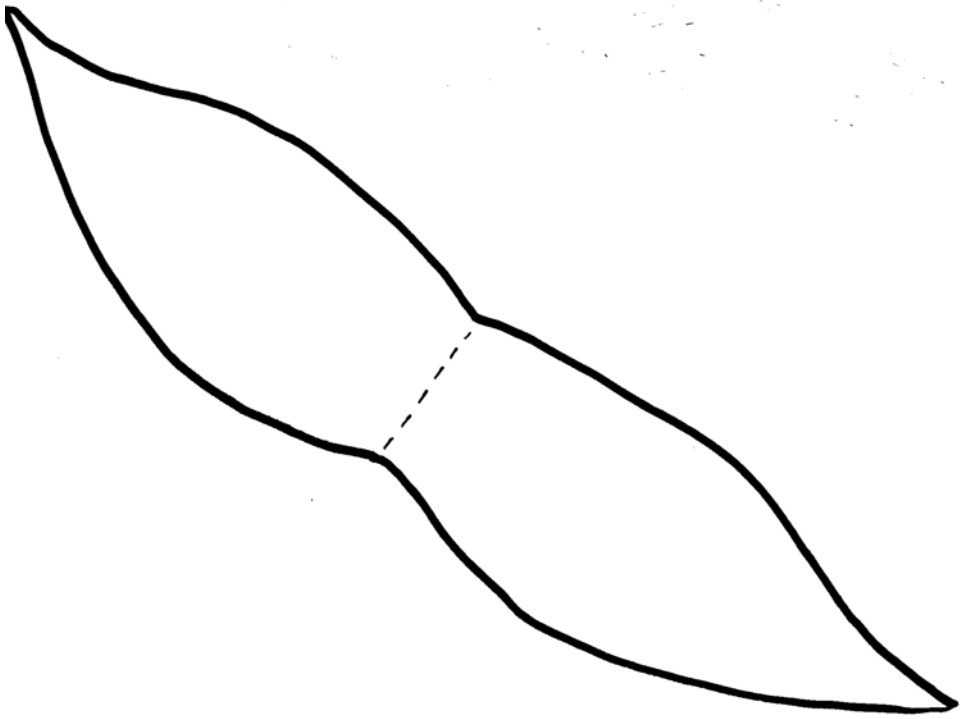
The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7b

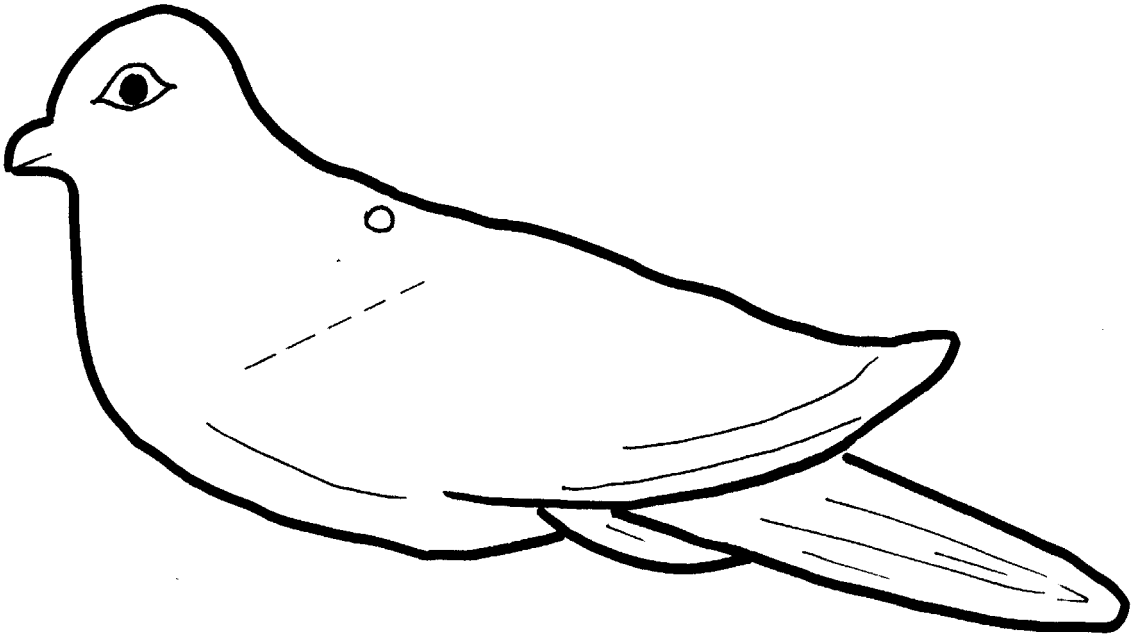
Hymn - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken,
For He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost
Forevermore.

Activity Three - Cut out the dove and wings along the outer lines. Slit dotted line in the dove and insert wings. Hole punch the small circle and draw a piece of yarn through. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus.





Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

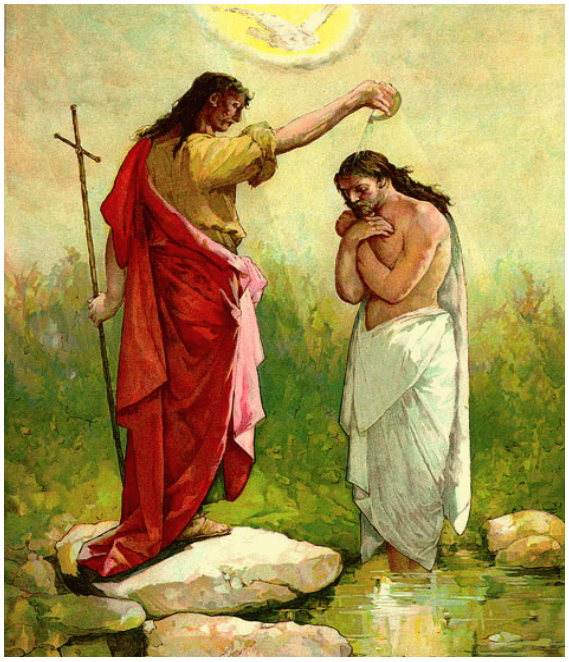
Thank You for showing us that, through His baptism, Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3b

This passage is a prophecy about John the Baptist. We will learn today how this prophecy was fulfilled.



The Baptism of Jesus

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for showing us, through our study of His baptism, that Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the Law for us, to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance. Help us to understand that in our baptism Jesus washed us clean from all our sin and worked faith in our hearts. Keep us in that faith throughout our lives, we pray. Amen

The Story

John was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. John and Jesus were relatives. As the forerunner of the Messiah, John was God's last prophet for the children of Israel.

John lived in the wilderness. He wore camel's hair for clothes, with a belt around his waist. He ate grasshoppers and wild honey. He preached to many people from Jerusalem and Judea, telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized. That is why he is called John the Baptist. His job was to get people ready for the coming of Jesus.

One day some Pharisees came, and John called them a "brood of vipers," meaning they were as dangerous as poisonous snakes. He knew they did not believe in the promise of the coming Messiah. They thought they would be saved because they were born from Abraham's line. John warned these men that if they did not have faith they were like a tree that would be burned because it did not bear fruit.

On another day John saw Jesus coming to be baptized. John said,

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" John did not think he was worthy enough to baptize Jesus. Jesus commanded John to do it, and John obeyed. When the baptism was over, the Holy Spirit landed on Jesus in the form of a dove. From the sky came the voice of God the Father saying, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." All three persons of God were present at this baptism. The words were from the Father, Jesus was and is the Son, and the dove was the Holy Spirit.

Outer Aim **Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.**

What the Story Tells Us - Use the Bible references to answer the questions

1. What name did the prophet give John?(Mk. 1:2)
2. What did the prophet say John would do?(2-3)
3. Where did John preach and baptize?(4)
4. What did John preach?(4)
5. Who came to hear John?(5)
6. What did John wear?(6)
7. What did he eat?(6)
8. What did John call the Pharisees, Sadducees?(Mt.3:7)
9. What did he tell them to do?(8)
10. What did John say about Jesus?(11)
11. Who came to be baptized by John?(13)
12. What did John think about this?(14)
13. What happened after Jesus was baptized?(16-17)
14. What did Jesus now begin?(Lk. 3:23)
15. How old was Jesus at this time?(23)

What God's Word Tells Us

Why do we get baptized? (check Mt. 28:19 and Acts 22:16)

Why did Jesus get baptized? (check Mt. 3:15)

Your Turn- Place an X in front of each True statement.

1. _____ John the Baptist lived and preached in the city.
2. _____ John the Baptist preached about repentance.
3. _____ John the Baptist wanted Jesus to baptize him.
4. _____ Jesus baptized John.

Inner Aim God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior.

Passages

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1 John 1:7, 9 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Ephesians 5:25-26 - "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

Puzzle Time - Find these words in the puzzle below.

JOHN THE BAPTIST	JORDAN	CAMEL	DOVE
WILDERNESS	LOCUST	VOICE	VIPERS
REPENTANCE	PHARISEE	SADDUCEE	GOD

D	A	Y	R	I	L	H	H	H	F	E	S	I	J	V	W	V
B	O	M	D	P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E	R	G	P	I	G
B	T	V	O	I	C	E	D	R	A	J	U	Y	C	P	L	Q
V	Y	K	E	L	A	J	Z	T	D	H	I	T	E	O	D	W
C	C	J	I	K	W	O	G	O	D	F	R	R	V	I	E	E
U	A	F	P	H	E	R	X	Y	U	S	S	P	B	I	R	R
Y	M	S	I	G	R	D	L	O	C	U	S	T	N	U	N	T
R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E	A	T	O	M	U	E	T
E	L	R	J	O	H	N	T	H	E	B	A	P	T	I	S	T
I	O	E	U	F	D	Z	C	Y	T	W	Y	O	M	Y	S	Y

Hymn/Prayer - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken,
For He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost
Forevermore. Amen.

The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17

About thirty years after Jesus' birth, His cousin John began his ministry in Judea. Isaiah had prophesied about John in chapter 40:3,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD. Make his path straight."

John preached in the wilderness, where living off the land was difficult to do. His clothing was camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was simple also--locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey. He called for the people to repent of their sins, and when they did he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many people of Judea and Jerusalem came out to confess their sins and be baptized by this prophet of God. His work was to prepare the people for the coming of the promised Messiah and His ministry.

As John's ministry continued he drew not only the attention of the people, but also of the chief religious leaders, namely, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. When he saw them coming he confronted them by calling them a "brood of vipers!" Some Pharisees and Sadducees thought that since they were descendants of Abraham, they were assured of salvation. John warned them that without true repentance for sins they would be like a tree that does not bear good fruit and is thrown into the fire. Many people consulted John on how to bear fruits of faith. When speaking to tax collectors, John advised them not to collect more than was due them. John counseled soldiers not to intimidate anyone, falsely accuse anyone, or complain about their wages.

Many people wondered if John was the Christ. John humbly rejected this expectation, preaching that the One coming after him was mightier and greater than he. John believed he was not even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. John baptized with water, but the coming Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of Jesus

Jesus journeyed from Galilee to John at the Jordan so He could be baptized. When John saw Jesus approaching, he declared Him to be "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." At first, John was reluctant to baptize Jesus, thinking that he was not worthy to baptize Him. Jesus told John to baptize Him, and John obeyed. Immediately after the baptism the

heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, flew down and landed on Jesus. The Father's voice from heaven declared, "This is My beloved Son in who I am well pleased."

After Jesus' baptism, He began His ministry. Many people listened and believed. As Jesus' following grew, those that followed John became fewer and fewer. King Herod, upset that John had rebuked him for a public sin, imprisoned John. Eventually, as a favor to his daughter, he had John beheaded.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us that through His baptism Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the Law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Outer Aim **Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.**

Answer the Questions

1. Where did John the Baptist preach? (Mt. 3:1)

2. Which two Old Testament prophets foretold John's coming? (Mk. 1:2-3)

3. What did Malachi call John? (2)

4. What did Isaiah call John? (3)

5. What was John's message to the people? (4)

6. What did John wear? Eat? (Mt. 3:4)

7. Who went to hear John preach? (5)

8. How did many people respond? (6)

9. Which two groups of skeptics also came to hear John? (7)

10. What did John call these people? (7)

11. What did John tell them to do? (8)

12. What did they think was their automatic ticket to heaven? (9)

13. What warning did John give them? (10)

14. Whose coming did John announce? (11)

15. When Jesus arrived, what did He want John to do? (13)

16. How did John try to prevent this? (14)

17. Why did Jesus want to be baptized? (15)

18. What happened after the baptism? (16)

19. What did a voice from heaven say? (17)

20. How did all three Persons of the Trinity appear in this story?

Inner Aim

God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior.

Discuss It

What is repentance?

How does this story support the biblical truth that our God is triune?

What God Tells Us - Mark each statement(T)rue or (F)alse.

1._____John the Baptist lived and preached in the city.

2._____John the Baptist preached about repentance.

3._____John the Baptist wanted Jesus to baptize him.

4._____Jesus baptized John.

Passages

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1 John 1:7, 9 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

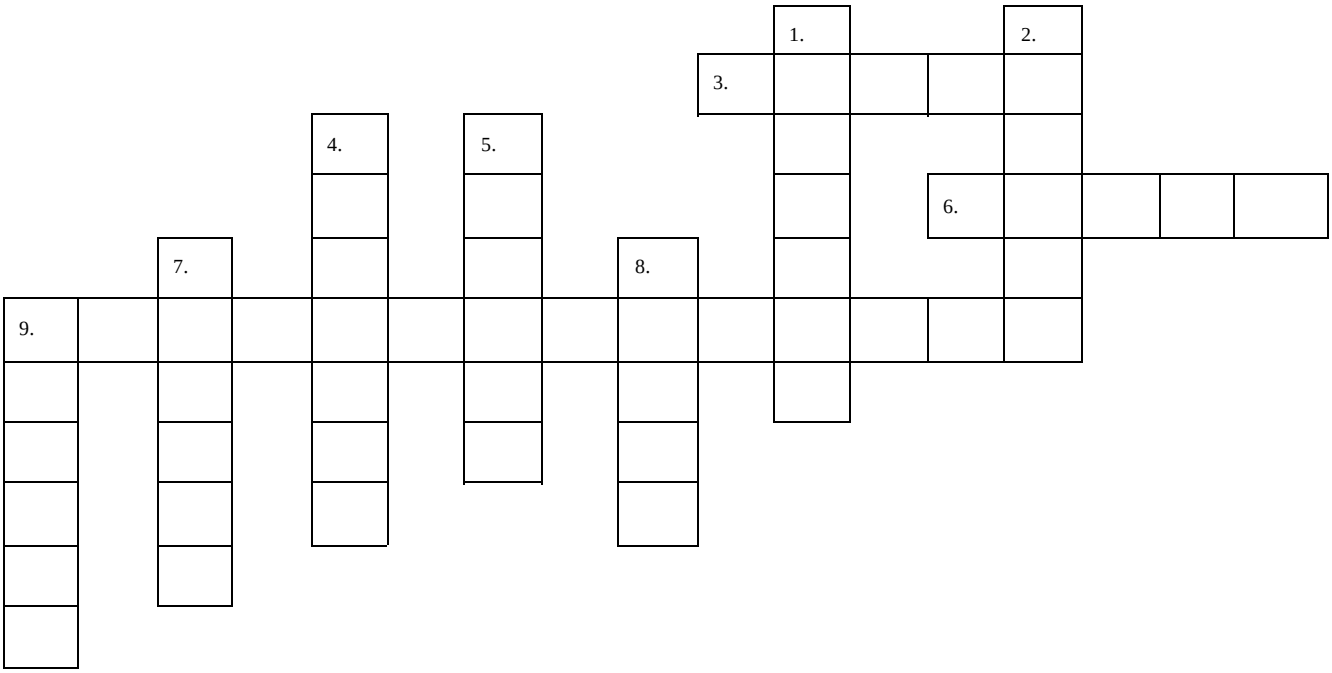
Ephesians 5:25-26 - "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Crossword Fun

ACROSS
3. The form of God the Father
6. He was baptized by John
9. He preached repentance in wilderness

DOWN
1. John ate these insects
2. Be sorry for sin, have faith in Christ's forgiveness.
4. The application of water along with God's Word
5. Poisonous snakes
7. Jesus' age when He began His ministry
8. John's coat was made from hair of this animal
9. The river in which Jesus was baptized by John



Hymn - Read through Hymn 63 v. 1-3 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry." Use this hymn as a closing prayer.

6/12/2012

STORY

The Ministry of John and Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:1-17
(Note: the focus is on the baptism of Jesus and less so on the work of John the Baptist)
(Also see for John's ministry: Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-8; John 1:19-28;)
(Also see for Jesus' baptism: Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34)

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, in this world today many teach that people can be saved by any religion. Yet at
the Baptism of Jesus, you proclaimed that Jesus is Your Son and that He is the only Savior of the world. Only Jesus kept the law perfectly in our stead, then suffered the punishment of our sins to purchase our forgiveness. Help me to teach the students in my care to trust only in Jesus for forgiveness, the One You have declared to be our Savior. In Your name I pray, Amen.

VOCABULARY

John the Baptist - He was the first one whom God authorized to baptize. If the students get this confused with "the Baptists", you might refer to John as "John, the one who
baptized" or "the Baptizer". You may need to distinguish between John the Baptist and John the Apostle, the inspired writer of 5 books of the New Testament.

Baptize - literally means "to apply water". The method of baptism isn't clear in scripture beyond that meaning. Apparently Jesus was in the water of the Jordan River for His baptism (cf v 16) but nowhere
are we directed to immerse for a proper baptism.

Pharisees and Sadducees - Two groups of religious leaders of the Jewish people of Jesus' time. They are often portrayed in scripture as leaders who falsely claimed they kept the laws of God perfectly and expected perfection of the people. They became enemies of Christ, eventually orchestrating His crucifixion.

Brood of Vipers - very poisonous, dangerous snakes.

Repentance - Sorrow over sins and faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

Winnowing fan, purge, chaff - At harvest time, grain was purged (cleaned) by hand using a method called winnowing - to separate the kernels of grain from the chaff, husks, and extra leaves that were thrown away. The winnowing fan was used to pick up the mixture of grain and other items to throw it in the air so the wind could blow away the chaff, while the grain fell back down to the threshing floor.

Messiah - (the term is not in the scripture itself but used in the Inner Aim.) the Old Testament word for
the New Testament Word "Christ". Both words mean "Anointed One." Anointing was the symbolic ceremony used to place a person into an official office: Prophet, Priest, or King. Jesus served in all three
of these offices.

Triune - The special quality of our God of being three distinct Persons in one True God.

OUTER AIM
Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.

INNER AIM
God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior.

BACKGROUND
(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 64-74 and pp. 75-78)
When Jesus was thirty years old, it was time for Him to begin the public journey that would lead Him to the cross. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His ministry (His service for us) and identifies Him as the promised Messiah. Review the story of the birth of John and what it means that he was the forerunner of Jesus, i.e., to prepare the way for Jesus.

*** John's ministry ***
(Note: Because the focus of this lesson is on the baptism of Jesus, the notes for John's ministry are only based on the account from Matthew 3:1-17 and not other references.)

Matthew 3:1
This verse marks the beginning of a new time period, the beginning of the ministries or public service of John the Baptist and (about 6 months later) Jesus. Jewish law didn't allow men to publicly teach or preach until they were 30 years of age or older.

v. 2
- John preached both the Law and the Gospel.
- The Law shows the people their sins, calling them to repentance and preparing their hearts for Jesus, their Savior.
- The Kingdom of heaven is God's ruling activity over our hearts and lives through the Good News of Jesus, Who was already on the scene.

v. 3
- Isaiah proclaimed God's promise that God would send a messenger who would preach in the wilderness to prepare the way for God Himself to come to people's hearts.

v. 4
- John's clothing and food showed the simple, humble life he led as one whom God had dedicated to the special mission of preparing people to meet their Savior.

vs. 5-6
- People from a wide area around the Jordan and Southern Palestine went to hear John's message.
- God blessed his ministry so that the people not only heard but responded to his important message.

v. 7
- Scripture in various places exposes the Sadducees and Pharisees as hypocrites who acted holy but were not truly holy.
- John's harsh words were meant to break down their trust in their own holiness.
- They needed to repent of their sins and seek forgiveness so they wouldn't be condemned by God's anger against sin.

vs. 8-9
- The Pharisees and Sadducees often trusted that because they were descendants of Abraham, God would forgive them their sins.
- John told them that true repentance with faith shows itself in works that demonstrate genuine sorrow over sinfulness and faith in God's forgiveness.

v. 10

- This was a picture of how God condemns to the fires of hell those who do not repent of their sins through faith in Jesus.
- True repentance and faith show themselves with the good works.

v. 11

- John here spoke of Jesus coming among them.
- John's work was to prepare people to know Jesus when He came.
- In humility John realized that he did not deserve to serve Jesus in even the simplest way because Jesus was greater than John.
- Jesus would bless the people with the Holy Spirit and powerful faith.

v. 12

- (see vocabulary) The wheat God would keep, but the chaff or waste from the winnowing process would be gathered for burning.
- This pictures God separating the repentant believers from unrepentant unbelievers, sending the former to heaven and the latter to hell.

*** Jesus' Baptism ***

v. 13

- Galilee was the northern region of Palestine where Jesus spent a good part of His ministry.
- John was baptizing along the Jordan river east of Jerusalem. See a map.

v. 14

- John recognized that Jesus was the Son of God.
- John knew his own sinfulness and need to repent and be cleansed by Jesus, so John questioned why Jesus wanted John to baptize Him.

v. 15

- John's baptism was a Means of Grace that bestowed the forgiveness of sins, similiar to the baptism later instituted by Jesus.
- Jesus was without sin, and did not need the forgiveness offered by baptism.
- Jesus urged John to permit Him to be baptized because it was the right thing to do.
- When Jesus explained that it was intended to “fulfill all righteousness”, John baptized Jesus.

v 16

- As soon as Jesus was baptized, some amazing events followed that marked the beginning of Jesus' public service or work for us.
- Luke 3:21 mentions that Jesus was praying when the events took place.
- The heavens were opened in a way that scripture leaves to our imaginations, not giving distracting details.
- Both Jesus and John (and others probably) saw the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) in the form of a dove (see Luke 3:22) descending and landing on Jesus. (cf. John 1:32-34 also: Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18ff, Is 49:8,9; 61:1,2).

v. 17

- And at the same time, a voice from heaven (God the Father) announced that God was well pleased with Jesus, His beloved Son.
- This was God's public stamp of approval on Jesus as the Messiah and Savior at the beginning of His ministry.
- Compare also Jesus’ transfiguration (Lesson 16).

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us that through His baptism Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the Law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Note: Whole sermons are preached on the work of John the Baptizer. In this story, time constraints may require you to summarize John's work and mission. God sent him to prepare people's hearts for Jesus. He did that by preaching the law that showed people their sins, calling for them to repent with words and deeds. John also preached the Gospel when he pointed them to Jesus as their Savior.
The focus of the lesson will be on Jesus' baptism which marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as our Savior.

APPLICATIONS

1. Why was Jesus baptized? Jesus was baptized to obey the Law of God perfectly for us because we are not able to do that. He was acting in our place in order to be able to be punished for our sins in our place. How does your baptism compare? Our baptism cleanses us from sins through faith that Jesus forgives us our sins because He suffered for them already on the cross, although Jesus was not guilty of any sin.
2. God told us at Jesus' baptism that Jesus was His Son so that people then and now would know He is the Savior whom God sent to save the world from sin. There is no one else like Jesus!

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

<u>Lower</u>
John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

<u>Middle</u> any of the above and...
1 John 1:7, 9 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<u>Upper</u> any of the above and...
Ephesians 5:25-26 - Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.
Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

HYMN CHOICES

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (TLH 63 1-3)
"God Loved the World so that He Gave" (TLH 245 1,4,5)
"He That Believes and is Baptized" (TLH 301 1-2)

The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-34

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Jesus had a relative named John. His father was Zacharias and his mother was Elizabeth. John was to prepare the people for Jesus' coming. He is sometimes called John the Baptist.

When John grew up he lived in the wilderness. He wore a camel hair coat and a belt. He ate wild honey and grasshoppers.

John preached God's Word. He told people to admit their sins. He wanted people to be sorry when they did something wrong. He told people that Jesus was coming to save them. John baptized people in the Jordan River.

One day Jesus came to see John. John said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus wanted to be baptized. A miracle happened after Jesus was baptized. The Holy Spirit came down to Jesus in the shape of a dove. The Holy Spirit landed on Jesus. God the Father spoke from heaven and said, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.

We have been baptized and will want to tell others about Jesus, the Savior.

Review Questions:
Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
Who came down in the shape of a dove? (Holy Spirit)
What did God the Father say? ("You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.")

Passage

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Hymn - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

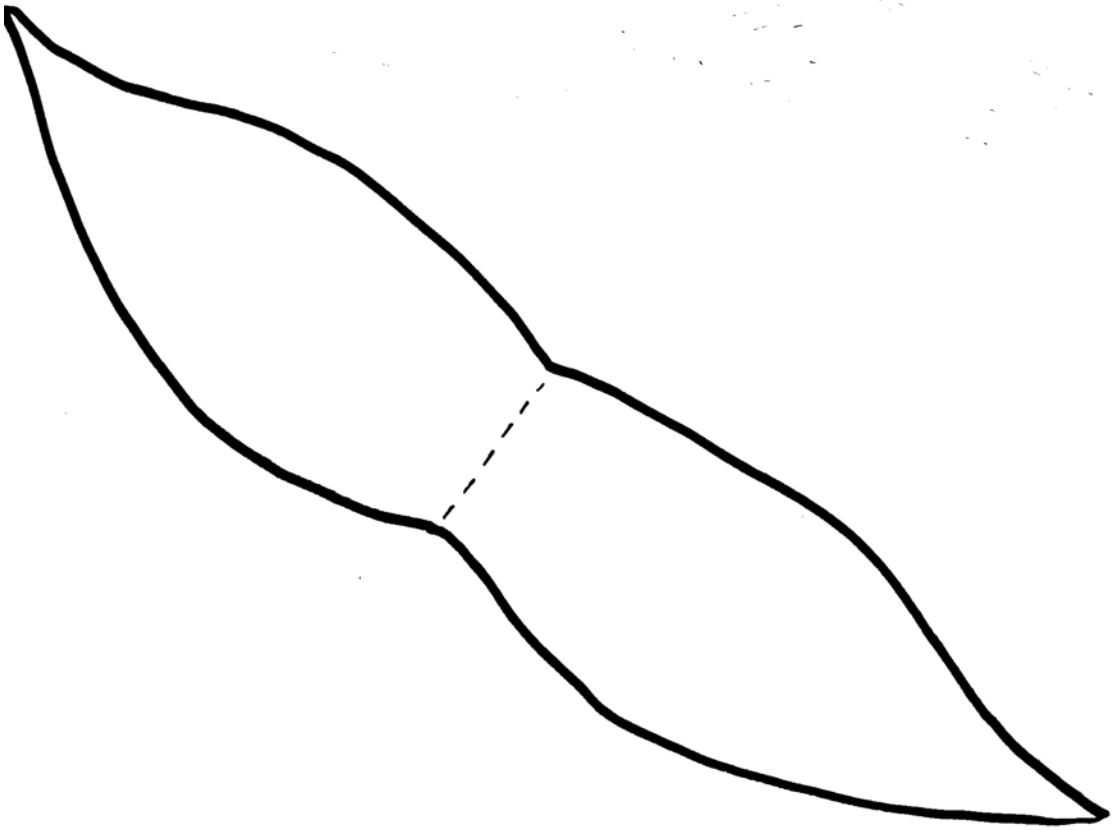
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

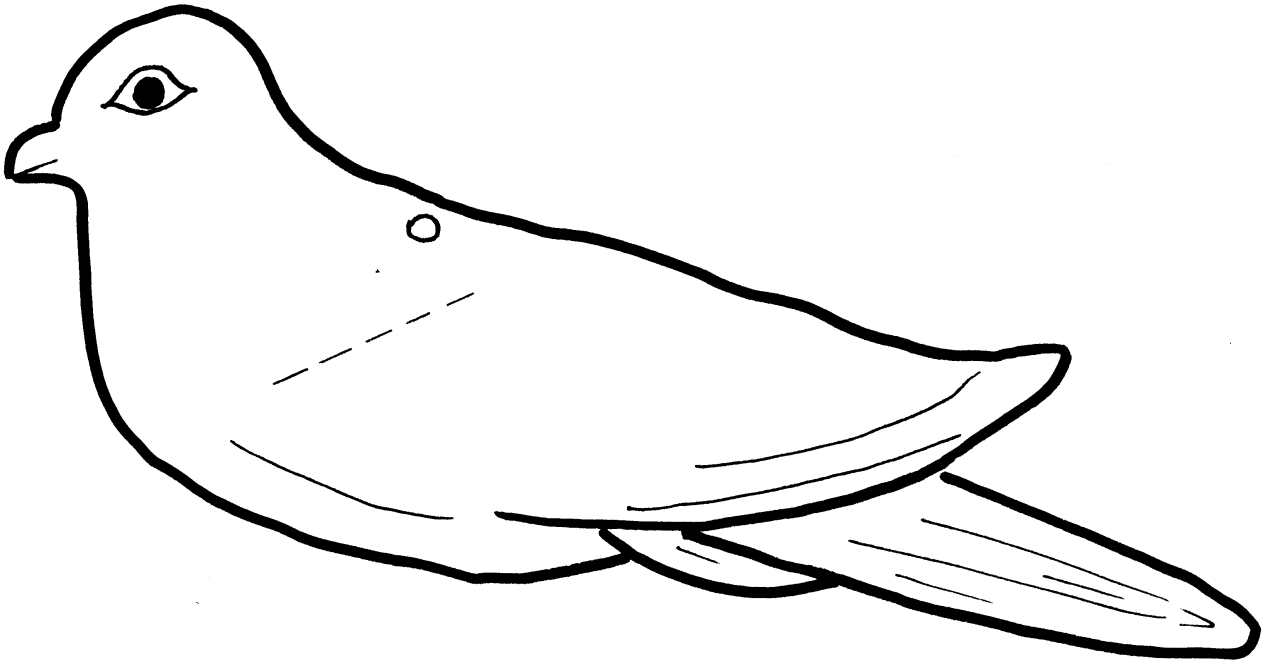
Prayer

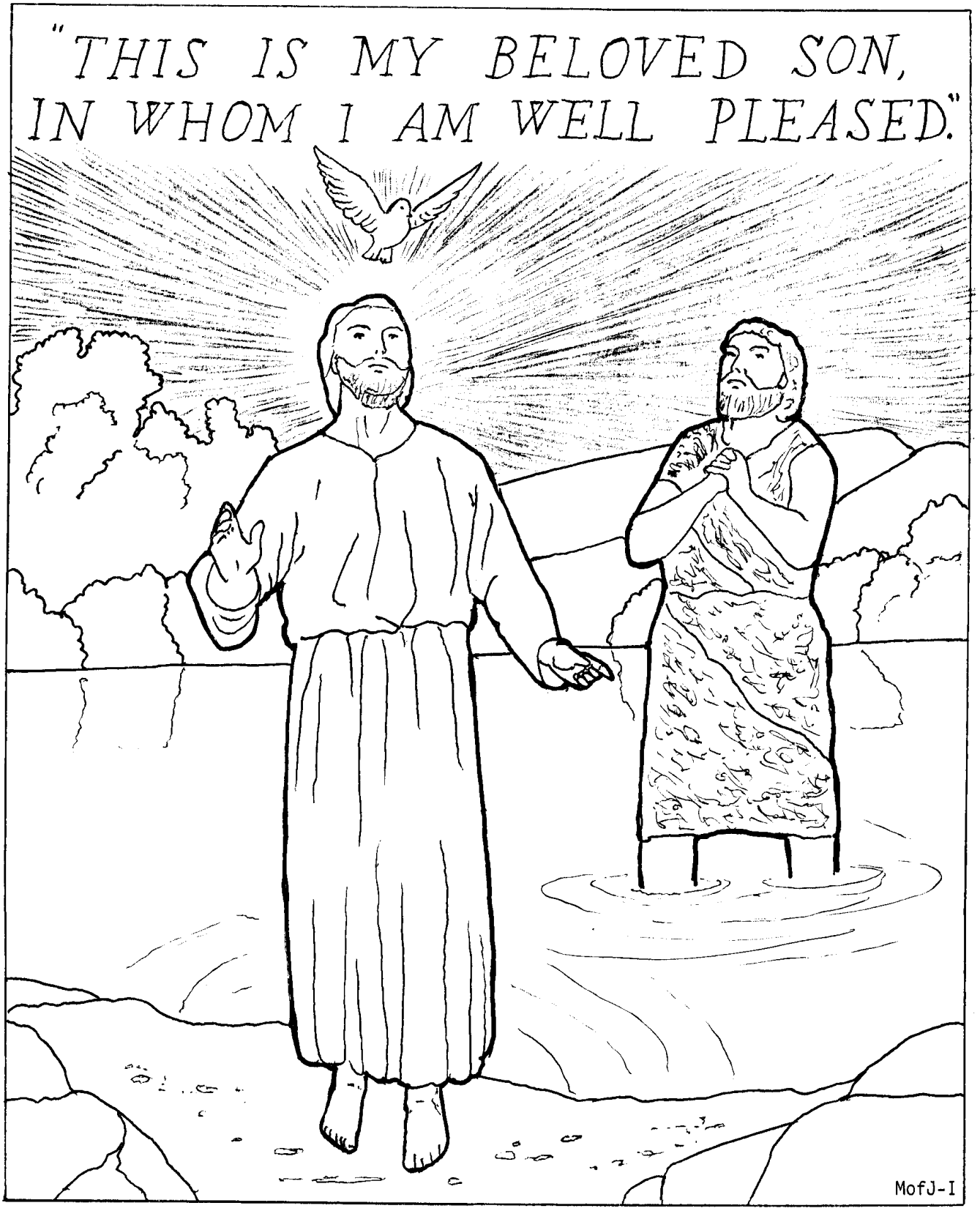
Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for showing us that, through His baptism, Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Classroom Art Activity - Cut out the dove and wings along the outer lines. Slit dotted line in the dove and insert wings. Hole punch the small circle and draw a piece of yarn through. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus. Use the dove to review the lesson using the questions below the story.






"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,
IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."
MofJ-I