



Step 2 (20–25 minutes)

Exploration Stations

Before class, choose one or more stations suitable for your children and your schedule. Set up the supplies you will need. As children explore, chat informally with them, using the discussion starters provided with each activity.

Bananas, Bubbles, and Busy Bodies:

Baptism Bubbles

Get: blue masking tape, bubble solution and wand for each child, paper towels

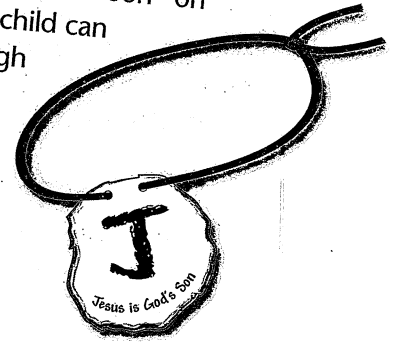
Today we learned that John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. We can't go to the Jordan, so we brought a river here! Divide children into two groups. One group lines up at one end of "river," while the other stands on both sides of "river" with bubble solution. If you're on the sides of the river, blow bubbles into the river. The rest of you run through the river and bubbles. After a while, groups switch places. Have paper towels handy for tile floors.

B-O-Zs and I-2-3s:

Jesus Jewelry

Get: 3" x 5" index cards, crayons, safety scissors, yarn, hole punch

Jesus is God's Son. What letter does Jesus' name begin with? That's right: J! We're going to make Jesus Jewelry to remind us that Jesus is God's Son. Jewelry also begins with the letter J. Give each child an index card, crayons, and a pair of safety scissors. Have them draw a large shape on their index card, cut it out, and write a J on the shape. Punch two holes on each shape and cut a length of yarn. Write "Jesus is God's Son" on each shape. Each child can thread yarn through the holes. Tie the ends together to make a necklace.



Celebrate Colors and Shapes:

Jesus Is Baptized

Get: paper, colors and shapes box, crayons

In today's Bible story we learned that John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Let's use colors and shapes to retell the story. Instruct children to draw a river at the bottom of their page. What shapes can we use for Jesus' and John's heads? (circles) How about their bodies? (rectangles) Glue your shapes so Jesus and John are standing in the river. What shape and color can we use for the sun?

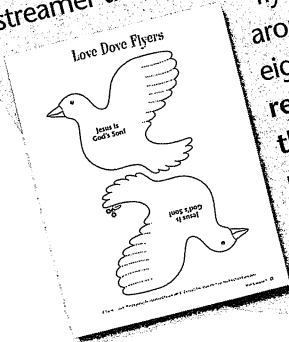
Have them glue the sun in the sky. How about the Spirit of God? Have them glue three triangles to make a dove.

Imagination Station: *

Love Dove Flyers
 Get: straws or craft sticks, 4" white crepe paper strips, clear tape, Love Dove Flyers reproducible (p. 15)

Today we learned that when John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, heaven opened up and the Spirit of God came down from the sky like a dove. Let's make our very own Dove Flyers! Help children tape the dove and crepe paper to one end of the straw or craft stick. The crepe paper forms a streamer at the dove's tail. Let them

"fly" their doves around in figure eights. Do you remember what this dove reminds us of? (the Spirit of God)



Friends and Helpers:

Baptism Story Bags

Get: Love Dove Flyers reproducible (p. 15), lunch-sized paper bags (1 per child), light blue paper, dove (Holy Spirit) stickers, crayons, precut blue construction paper, glue sticks, curling ribbon (6" pieces)

When Jesus was baptized, God told people Jesus was his Son and he loved Jesus very much. We can also tell people about Jesus and how God loves them. Let's make a picture of today's Bible story for a friend. Have children glue construction paper to bottom of their papers, then draw waves. Have them draw Jesus and John standing in the river. **Put your dove sticker in the sky.** Help them glue paper doves onto their bags under verse. Loosely roll pictures, tie with ribbon, and put in bags.



Grammie B.'s Rocker:

Read Aloud

Get: picture books about how Jesus is God's Son and his ministry

Add an intergenerational element to your preschool classroom; invite someone from your church family or community to come and read a storybook or preschooler's Bible to the children. Today, read stories about how Jesus is God's Son and his ministry.



Time to Move

God told everyone at the river that he was well pleased with his Son, Jesus. Let's please God by taking care of the things he's given us and cleaning up. After stations are cleaned up, have children sit in small groups.