

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Jesus' Baptism
from Mark 1:4-11.



Through baptism, we remember that we are beloved children of God!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- John the Baptist • Jordan River
- Repentance • Dove

Some people wondered if John the Baptist was Elijah, an Old Testament prophet who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire in 2 Kings. The prophet Malachi had foretold Elijah's reappearance before the coming of the Messiah, and people thought John could be the one.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 242-245

Spark Bible page 1100

Family Prayer

Dear God, As children of your kingdom, we pray that you guide us and protect us every day. Help us remember that through baptism we become part of your family. Thank you for welcoming us as your beloved children. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 How do you think Jesus felt when he was baptized?
- 2 Do you remember your baptism? Share how you felt on that day, or on the day someone close to you was baptized.
- 3 What kinds of people do you think came to be baptized by John? Was it rich people? Poor people? Both? Why do you think these people came out to the Jordan River?
- 4 What does repentance mean? What did John the Baptist say about repentance?

Eye Spark

When you see a body of water like a lake or an ocean, remember how the sacrament of baptism symbolizes our lives as children of God.

Ear Spark

When you hear the pastor say, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" in church, remember how we are baptized into God's family with these words.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a collage titled, "God's Beloved Child." Include pictures and drawings to show what makes each family member special as a child of God. How has God blessed you as part of God's kingdom? Display the collage at home and add to it when you think of new ideas.

For younger kids

Look at pictures of your baptism or a family member's baptism. Ask the people in your family to share stories about what they remember happening on that special day.

For older kids

Baptism is one of the big Christian sacraments, but there are more! Go online and research different Christian sacraments. What makes something a sacrament?

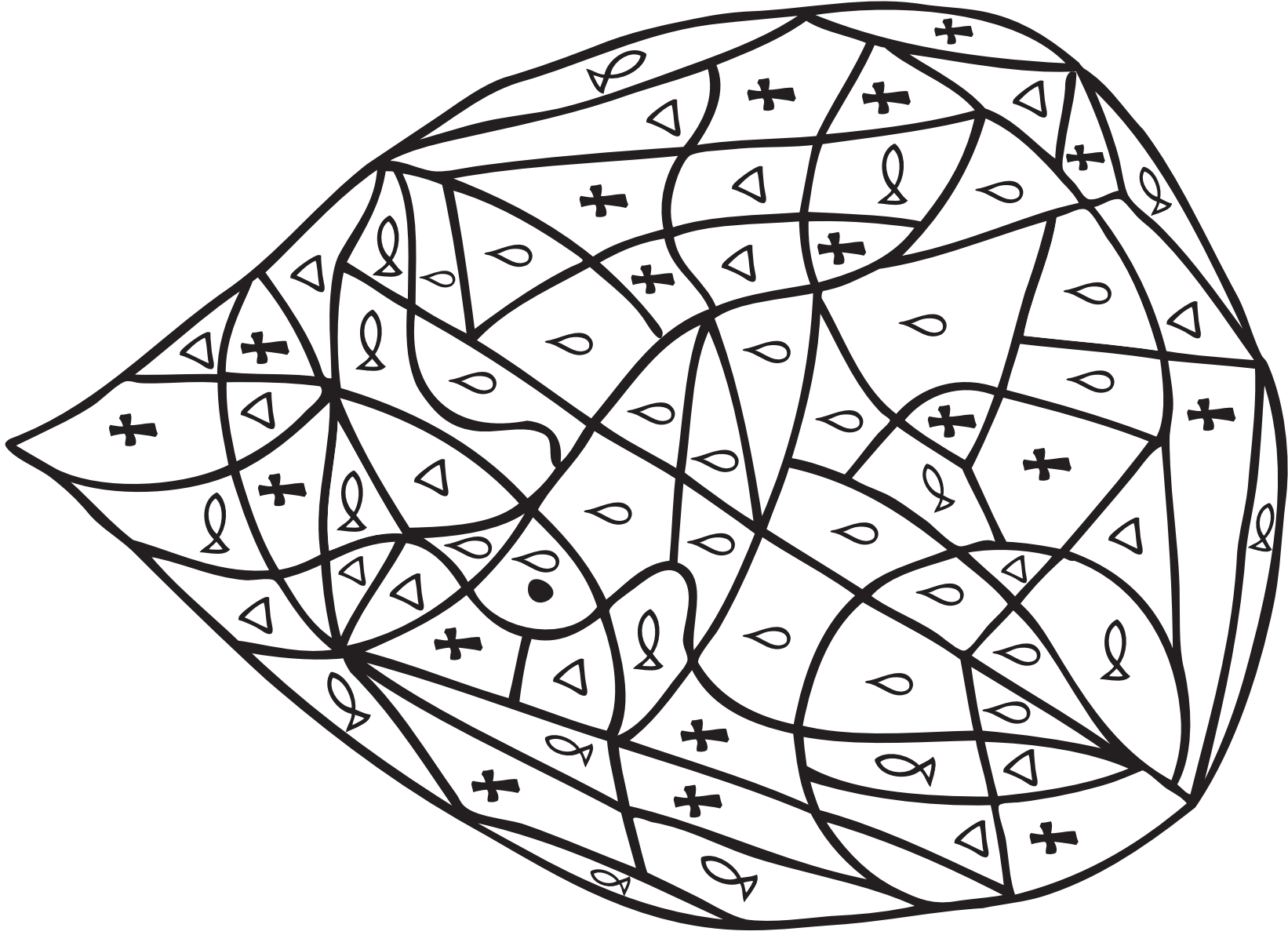
Jesus' Baptism



“I baptize you on the outside with plain old water from the Jordan River, but this is nothing compared to what and who is coming!”

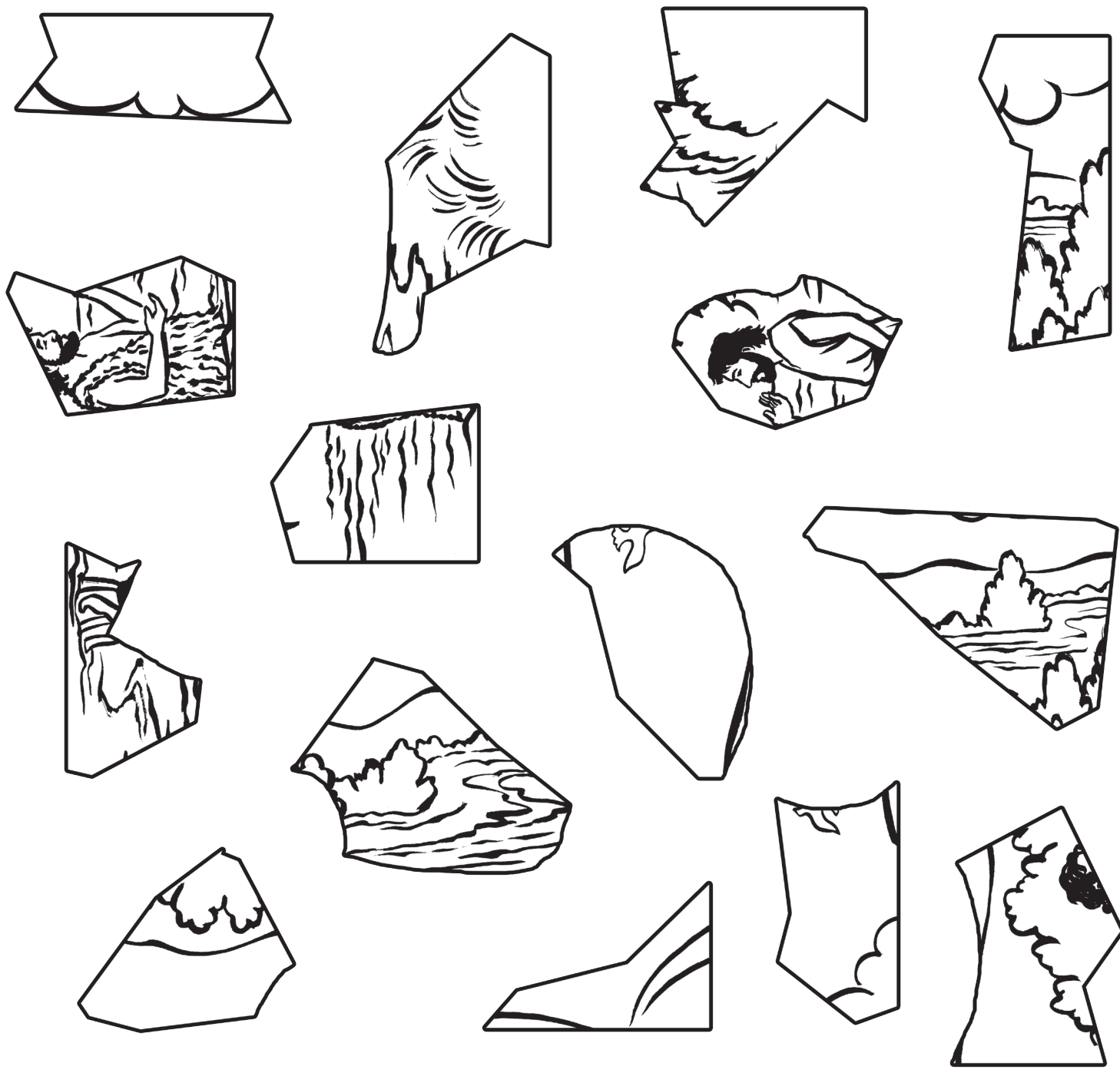
Sent from Above

God sent a message to let everybody know how loved Jesus is. Can you find the messenger? Color in the pieces of the picture that have a water drop in them to see what God sent.



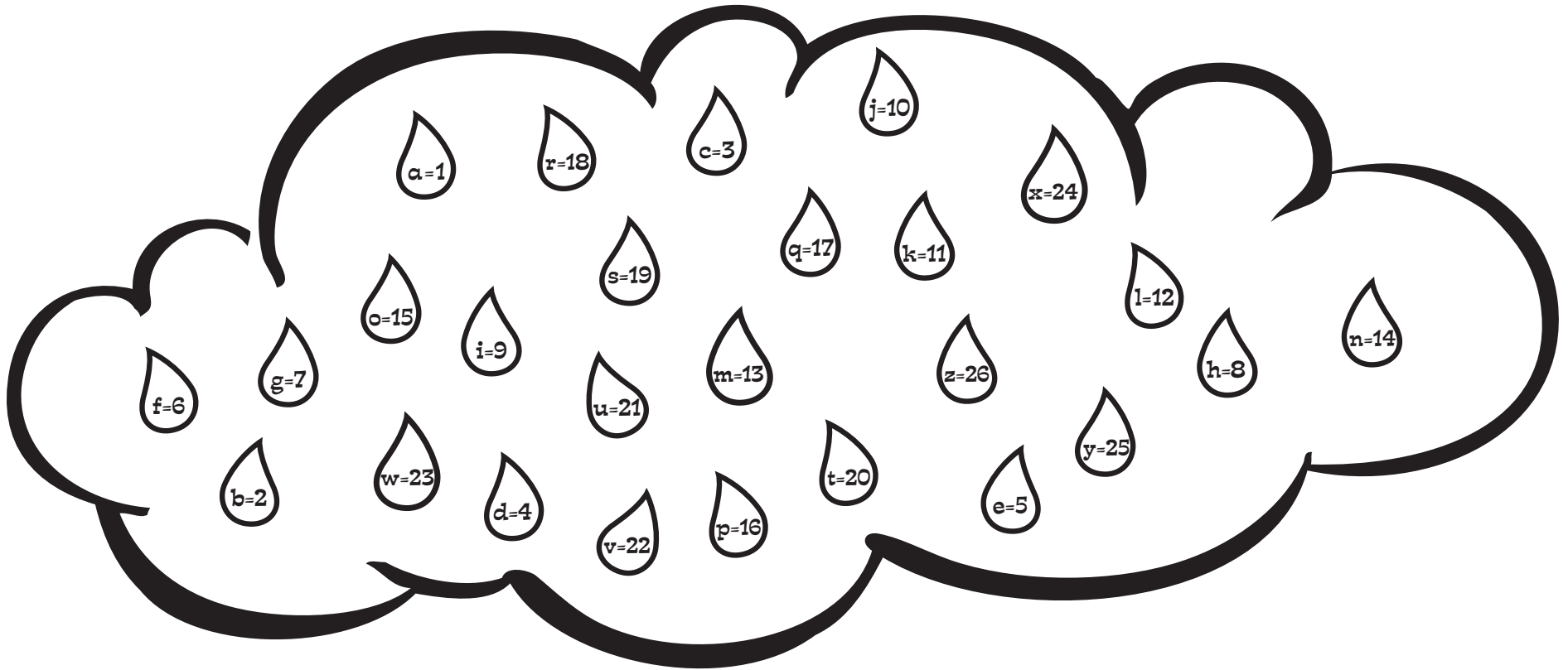
Puzzling Baptism

Something slightly odd happened at Jesus' baptism. God had a special message for the people who were there! Can you figure out what the message was? Cut out these pieces and fit them together to see what happened!



Wash With Water

When we are baptized, we're washed clean. God has a message for Jesus – and us – on Jesus' baptism. Crack the code in each rain cloud to figure out the message.



23	9	20	8	25	15	21	9	1	13	
23	5	12	12	16	12	5	1	19	5	4