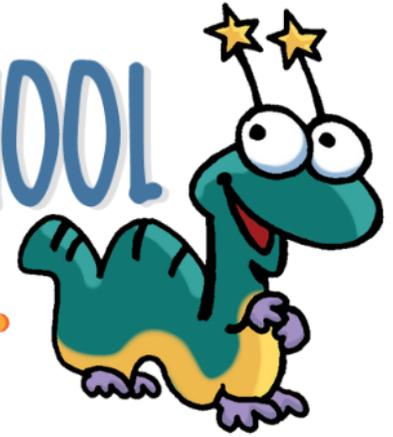


SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



Jesus is Baptized

Lesson Focus: **God Loves His Son, Jesus.**

Scripture Reference: **Mark 1:4-11**

Spark Story Bible **Pg. 242**

GATHER

Check-In Question: Think about the best and worst thing that happened to you this last week. If we pretend the worst things were mud puddles, how deep were they? If something really bad happened, you might say the mud was over your head. If something really great happened, you might have skipped right over the puddle.

Get a piece of paper and draw the messiest thing you've ever done or the messiest you've ever been. Whether it was dumping spaghetti on your head as a baby or exploring an algae-infested swamp. The goal is to think of the grossest experience ever. Share your experience with someone or post your picture or a short clip telling your story on our Sunday School Facebook Group.

How did you feel on the inside during your messy experience? You may have felt happy, sad, embarrassed or something else. Sometimes how we look on the outside and how we feel on the inside are very different. We might look fine on the outside and feel hurt on the inside, or we might be a mess on the outside and be overjoyed on the inside. Today we're going to learn about Jesus' baptism and how Jesus was washed on the outside and made clean on the inside. Baptism is more than just an outward thing.

STORY

Look up **Mark 1:4-11 in the NRSV** and listen along on our website. Or turn to **page 242** in the **Spark Story Bible**.

Questions to Ponder:

One reason we get baptized is because Jesus set an example for us. Baptism wasn't just something for the crowds. It was something for the Son of God, too.

- **And what happened when Jesus was baptized?**

There was more than just water being poured out as a symbolic washing. God's Spirit is present, too. We experience God's grace outside and inside by water and The Spirit.

In baptism, we are washed on the outside and clean on the inside. Not because of what we've done, but because of what God is doing!

RESPOND

Check out the activity pages that go along with this lesson to respond to God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Mark 1:11**. This is our Memory Verse for today.

You are my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

SEND

Responding to God's Word

*These are ways God uses us to come back for others!
Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!*

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

- ___ Make a cup of hot water and turn it into Hot Chocolate or tea. Make another one to share.
- ___ Water some plants.
- ___ In your Faith Journal, write about or draw pictures of three people you love.
- ___ Bless you with water
- ___ Hear about your baptism
- ___ Paint a water color picture of Jesus' Baptism
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- ___ Give you a big hug!
- ___ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- ___ Pray for _____
- ___ Say "I'm sorry" _____ My own idea: _____

PRAY

**Dear God, Swirling, whirling, swishing water
Washing all our sins away.
Help us, God, to love each other
As you love us, every day. Amen.**