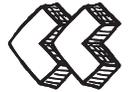
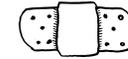


BAPTISM



At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, John baptized Jesus, marking him as God's Beloved Son. God's kingdom had come to earth! In baptism, we are also marked as God's children prepared to do God's work in the world.

Water cleans and washes, is powerful and nourishing, moves and takes many shapes. It also marks us as God's children in the act of baptism. During baptism, water reminds people of God's ability to change our lives.

Mark 1:9–11

The story of Jesus' baptism illustrates that Jesus' ministry was not only about God's work. John the Baptist called God's people to prepare for God's kingdom, but baptism was more than a call to repent and prepare for the work of God. It was a call to follow Jesus and his teachings.

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of Baptism!

- > **Luke 4:14–21** What happened when Jesus returned to Galilee after his baptism?
- > **John 3:22–30** What was John the Baptist's job?
- > **Acts 2:37–39** Why is baptism such a big deal?

Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > How do you think Jesus felt when he heard the words, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased"?
- > What baptisms have you experienced? What were they like?
- > Like Jesus, we are God's beloved children. What is God calling you to do as a beloved disciple?

What are preteens thinking?

Preteens often learn best from concrete examples. Exploring the tactile and tangible uses of water may help your child to better understand the meaning of baptism, Jesus' ministry, and our calling to follow him.

Try this!

Make a list of all the times you use water during the day. Choose one of these times to be set aside as a special time of prayer each day of the week.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for marking me as your beloved child. Help me to live out my calling in the world!