

Children's Worship Lesson – January 10, 2021

**CELEBRATING BAPTISM**

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

**Purpose:** To experience Baptism as the special celebration that declares we are part of the followers of Jesus.

**Preparation**

Worship Table – **green** cloth

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** We light this candle to remember that God is always with us.

**Opening Prayer**

Thank you, God, for our church, for babies, and for your love.

We love you, too.

Amen.

**Introducing the Theme**

Today we're going to talk about families. We all have families. Some families aren't very big, with only a few members; other families are large. Today we're talking about a REALLY large family: the church. The church is a big family, and we all belong to it.

**SONG: "The Church is One Big Family" (tune: London Bridge)**

**The church is one big family, family, family,**

**The church is one big family,**

**The church is everywhere.**

**And in this family of love, family of love, family of love,  
and in this family of love, I know that I belong.**

**Exploring the Theme – "When Baby Jesus was Born"**

We have a special church service to welcome people into the church. It is called baptism. Can you say that word? Baptism. (*Have them repeat it.*) In baptism, the minister puts a little water on a baby's head as a special sign that this baby is a member of the church. Our church is like a big family. Baptism is a special service to show that the person belongs to the church family – that this person is a follower of Jesus.

## **Role Play: Baptizing a Baby**

Use a doll and a dish of water to act out a baptism. Adapt this as necessary to reflect the traditions used in your congregation.

- We need two children to pretend to be the baby's parents. **(Invite two children to play these roles and pass them the doll.)**
- The rest of us are church members, the congregation. We need to stand up.
- The parents are asked, "Do you love God?" What do you think the parents would say?
- Then the congregation is asked, "Will you help these parents teach their child about Jesus?" What do you think they would say?
- Next, the minister/priest places some water on the doll's head and says, "I baptize this baby for God, as Jesus told us to."
- **(Lift up the "baby," and face the "congregation.")** Now we welcome the baby by saying, "Welcome to our church family." Can you say that to the baby?
- Finally, the minister/priest will say, "This baby is now part of Christ's church."

You may wish to repeat this role play with different children playing the roles of parents. You could also have one of the children be the minister/priest.

### **Action Rhyme: "The Church is One Big Family"**

**The Church is one big family. (join hands)**

**The Church is everywhere. (circle with hands)**

**It's people tall and people small. (show height)**

**The Church is folk who share. (turn to neighbour and hold out hands)**

**And in this family of love**

**I know that I belong. (join hands)**

**The Church is people loving (smile at each other)**

**Through helping, prayer and song. (bow heads and fold hands)**

Review: "When Baby Jesus Was Born" Last week, we heard the story of when Jesus was born. **(Hold up the teaching pictures.)** Do you remember these pictures? **(Place the four pictures from the story in random order on the floor.)**

What did Mary and Joseph do to get ready for their baby? **(Mary made baby clothes and Joseph made a cradle.)** Who can find the picture that tells what happened next? **(Invite the children to tell what is happening in the picture.)** Which picture comes next? What is happening here? **(Continue in the same manner for the two remaining pictures.)**

Show the teaching picture "John Baptizes Jesus."

People can also be baptized when they are adults. Jesus was a grown man when he was baptized in the Jordan River by John the baptizer.

Show the teaching picture "Jesus and the Children."

You might remember this picture. We had it in our worship centre in the fall. Who is the man in the picture? **(Jesus)** Who is with Jesus? **(some women and children)**

This picture is showing a story from the Bible. Jesus was teaching on a hillside. Some women and their children were passing by on their way to get water from the well, and they stopped to listen to Jesus. Jesus' friends were worried that the children would make too much noise and bother Jesus, so they told the mothers to take their children home. But Jesus saw what was happening and said to his friends, "Let the children come to me." He took the children on his knee, put his hand on their heads, and blessed them. He told them how much God loves us all. Jesus loved children. Jesus loved everyone. So we welcome people of all ages – adults, teens, children and babies - into our church, just like Jesus did.

### **SONG: JESUS LOVES ME**

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.**

#### **Chorus:**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago.**

**Taking children on his knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to Me."**

#### **Chorus**

As the song says, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me." The picture of Jesus and some children is in the center of our poster. I'd like you to add yourself. On the blank paper around the picture – not on it – draw a picture of yourself. If you want, you can print your name beneath your picture.

**Memory Verse:** *"I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."* Mark 1:8

## Integrating the Theme – “Jesus Loves Me. I Belong to his Church”



**Materials:** craft knife

Tape

crayon

Construction paper

craft stick

activity sheet

**Instructions:** Cut off the section at the right end from each sheet and trim an oval around each child picture. Use a craft knife to cut

a slit along the dotted line. Bring crayons, tape, and a craft stick for each child. Do you remember the Bible story about Jesus and the children? Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.” We’re going to make pictures showing you going to Jesus. **(Hold up one of the child drawings.)** See this child. Colour it to make it you. Add a face, hair, and clothing so that it looks like you.

Then you need to colour Jesus. (Show the sheet.) Why do you think he has his hand out? (Because he’s calling the children toward him.) When you’re done colouring Jesus, we’ll tape a craft stick to the picture of you so that your picture of yourself will be able to go to Jesus.

Help the children insert the stick through the slot and gently move toward Jesus.

**Dance Song – “Dance with Somebody”: Whitney Houston on YouTube**

### Closing Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

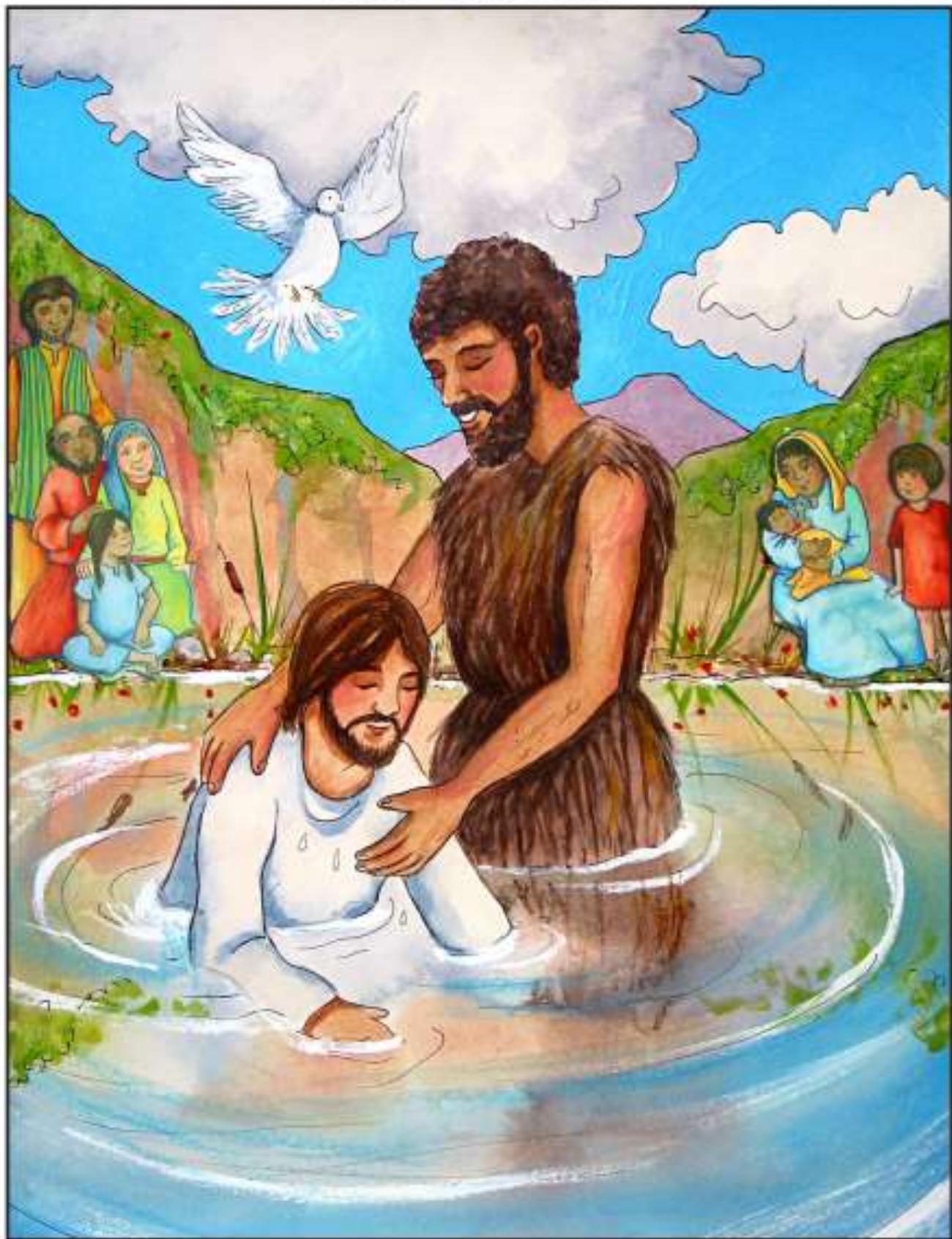
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields.

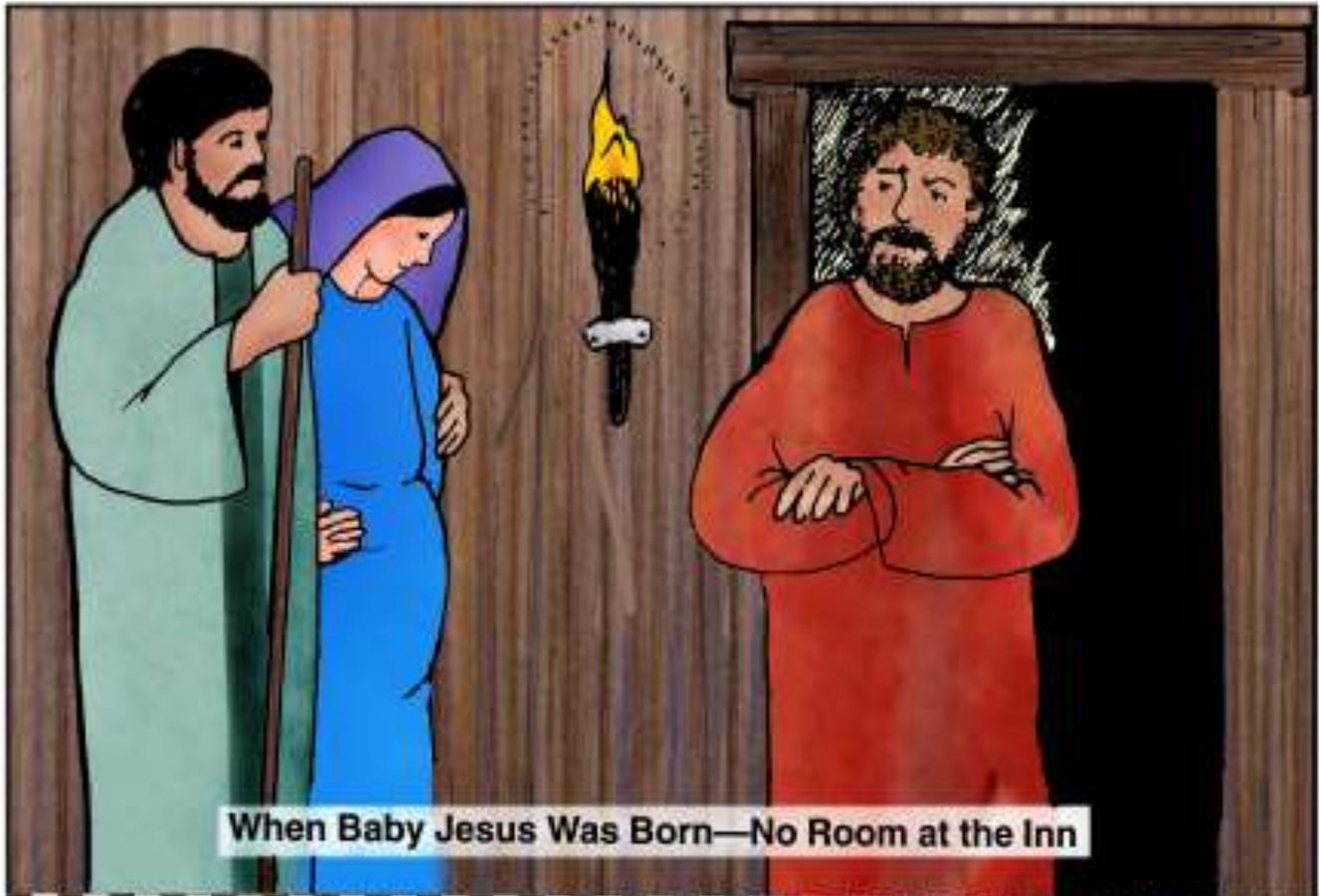
Until we meet again my friend, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Amen.

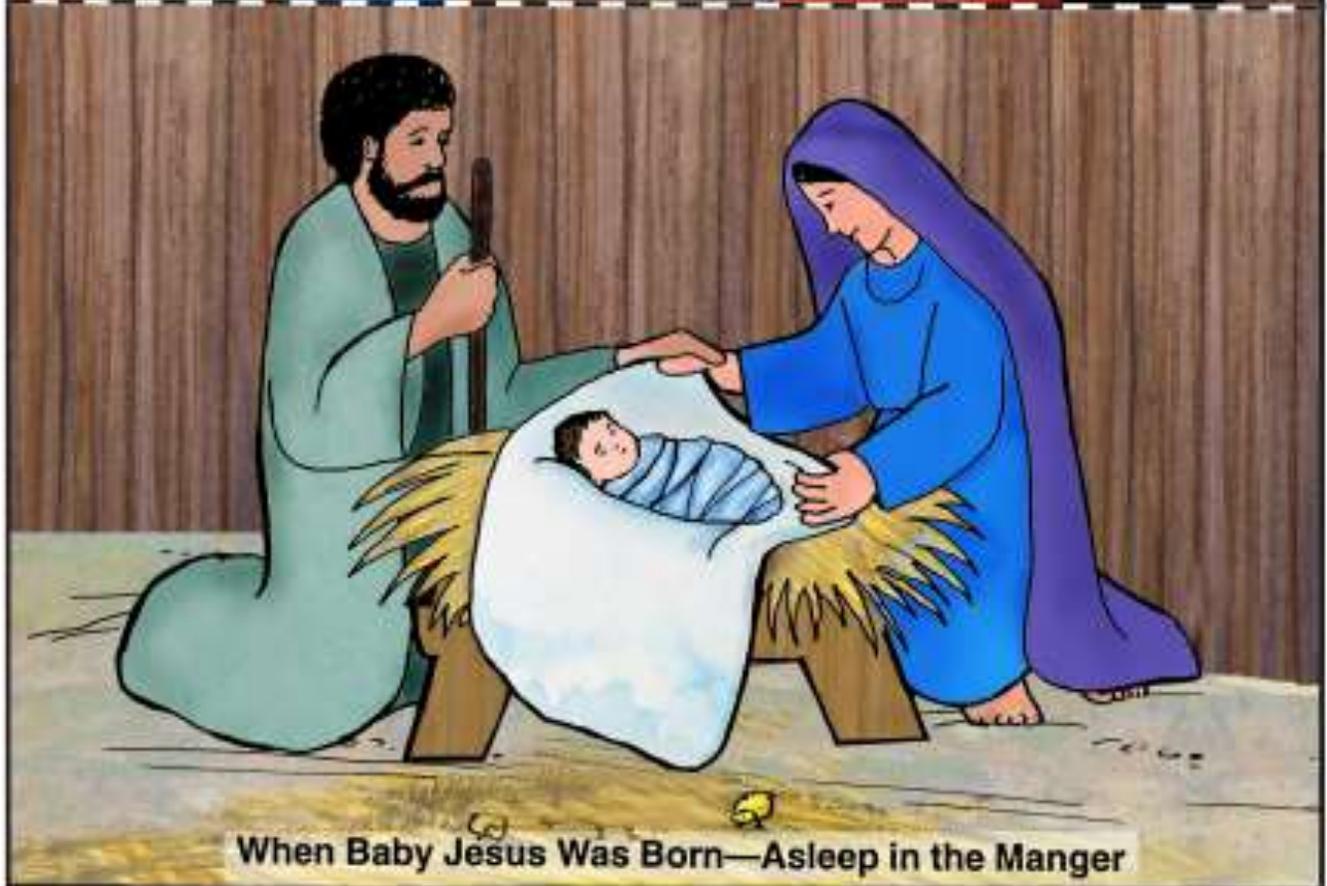
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## John Baptizes Jesus





**When Baby Jesus Was Born—No Room at the Inn**



**When Baby Jesus Was Born—Asleep in the Manger**



**When Baby Jesus Was Born—Hearing about the Census**

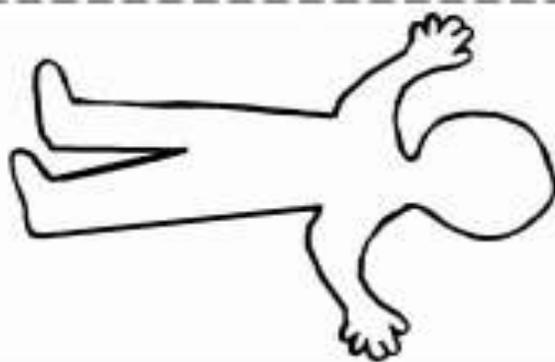
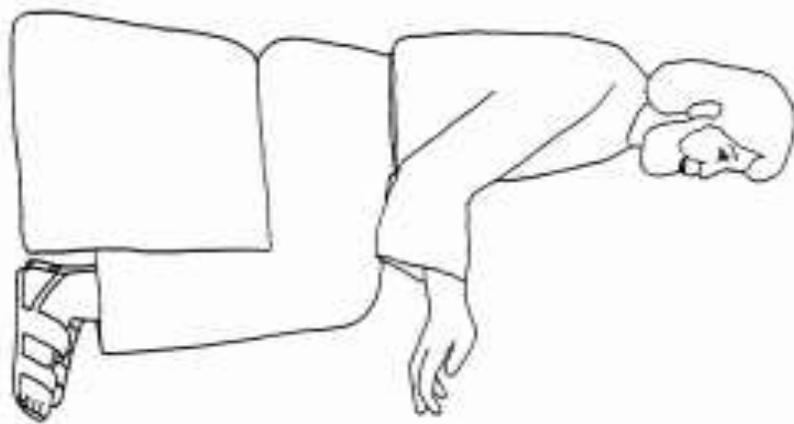


**When Baby Jesus Was Born—Traveling to Bethlehem**

## Jesus and the Children



Jesus loves me. I belong to his church.



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