

UNIT 2: INCLUDE • SESSION 6:

"Jesus' Baptism"

MATTHEW 3:13-17

INCLUDE

To welcome all of God's children in God's love.

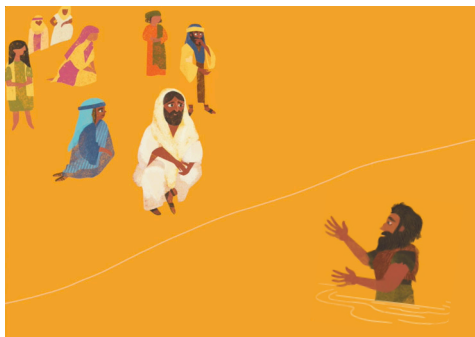
JESUS GROWS UP AND IS BAPTIZED:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem his family fled to Egypt to keep Jesus away from the evil King Herod. His family eventually moved back to Israel to the city of Nazareth where he spent most of his childhood. Not much is known of Jesus' childhood, teenage years and time in his twenties. We do know that he studied religious teachings and carpentry and was a smart and curious young man. He was the oldest of several brothers and sisters and loved his parents. He grew up and found that his gift was spreading God's teachings of love and being an example to all of how to live. He was about 30 years old when he was baptized. **Baptism** in Jesus' time was a ritual of cleansing with water to give your heart and mind to God before worshiping in the Temple and to accept Jesus as God's son. For us now we have water sprinkled on our heads as an outward symbol of accepting Jesus into our lives and beginning a new life in Christ and joining into the community of faith.

BIBLE STORY:

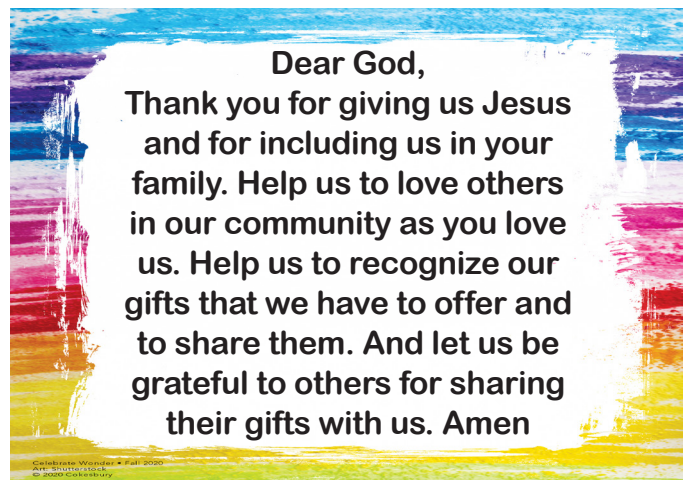
In today's Bible story, we learn about Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan.

When Jesus grew up and was ready to begin his ministry, he went to the Jordan River to see John the Baptizer. John was baptizing people in the river. Jesus asked John to baptize him, but John tried to stop him. "I need to be baptized by you!" said John. Jesus said to John, "Please baptize me. It is important for my ministry," So, John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened to him, and he saw the spirit of God come down like a dove and rest on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son. I love him. He makes me happy."



The LORD is good to everyone and everything; God's compassion extends to all his handiwork!

Psalm 145:9



Dear God,
Thank you for giving us Jesus and for including us in your family. Help us to love others in our community as you love us. Help us to recognize our gifts that we have to offer and to share them. And let us be grateful to others for sharing their gifts with us. Amen

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- Who do you think was there at the river when Jesus was baptized?
- What does it mean to be part of a community of faith? How can you share your gifts with your faith community?
- Have you been baptized? If so, were you a baby? Many people are baptized as a baby and then again when they are older as their choice. Anyone can be baptized at any age.
- Describe water. What does it symbolize to you?
- Have you ever seen a dove? What did it look like?
- **We all have special gifts that God has given us. Do you see gifts in those around you? Create a thank you card for someone in your life and thank them for sharing their gifts.**

(for example: Dad might be great at cooking, Mom can fix things, your sibling might be really good at cheering you up, your friend might be a really good soccer player, etc...)

Baptism is a way God claims us and honors our gifts and offers us grace. Baptism uses water. Water is a symbol of new life, starting fresh and second chances.

Jesus' Baptism

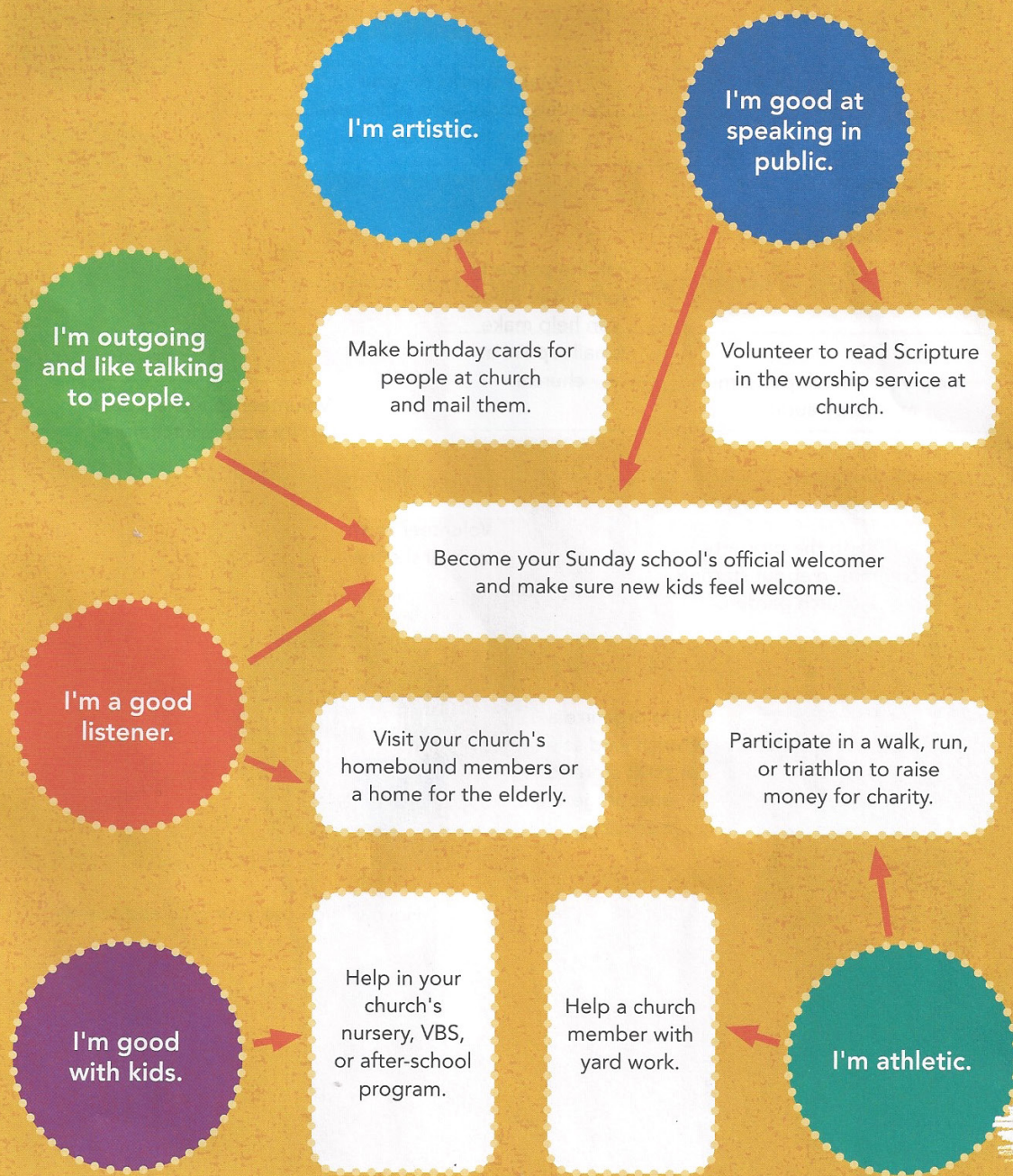
Spiritual Gifts

CELEBRATE
WONDER
Session 6 •

Instructions

Follow the path on this page or on the next that best describes your interests or personality to find ways to use your gifts, as John uses his gifts in the Bible story. Then answer the question at the end.

Gifts & Talents Quiz, Page 1



Gifts & Talents Quiz, Page 2

I play a musical instrument or sing.

Volunteer to fold bulletins, set up the room for worship or coffee hour, or shelve books in your church library.

I'm shy and like helping behind the scenes.

Join your church choir or volunteer to play your instrument during worship.

Make snacks for your Sunday school class or for your church's fellowship hour.

I'm a good cook.

Help your church perform an energy audit.

Ask the property committee if you can help make small repairs at church.

Volunteer to make a meal for a soup kitchen.

Talk to the property committee about starting a church garden.

Volunteer at an animal shelter.

I love animals.

I have a passion for nature.

Help organize a church yard sale or thrift store to encourage upcycling.

I like working with my hands.

How will you use your gifts and talents to honor God?