

Baptism - Picture the River

Objects to Bring:

- Cup of water or a water bottle and a wash cloth
- Small plant, leaves, or grass
- Sound clip of a river or birds
- Fresh laundry scent, like a dryer sheet

Picture the River Activity:

Start with singing the Baptism song.

Ask the children what they think it might have been like for Jesus when he got baptized.

Lead the children to sing through the song again and ask them this time to picture and try to visualize the Jordan river and what happened there.

Ask the children what they pictured – what images did they visualize?

As you talk about different elements of a river, you can bring and show objects from the scene. Post the picture included here or your own from the Gospel art kit. What do they specifically notice about the setting?

- Who is baptizing Jesus?
- Who else might have been there?
- What do you think the water felt like?
- What different sounds might there have been?

Show different objects to help the children really picture the scene and help the Baptism story come to life. Bring in some cold water and wash cloth to help the children feel cold water on their hands and imagine what a cold baptism may have felt like. Bring in a sound clip of birds to help set the scene. Another object I plan to bring is a dryer sheet to demonstrate how clean we feel after we are baptized!

Extension Ideas:

- Have the children draw the river scene on the whiteboard. You can add one element at a time, or have them draw a little bit of the scene each time you sing through the song.
- Ask for the children to share their Baptism experiences / stories.
- Take a “field trip” to see the Baptismal font in your ward building. You’ll need to make prior arrangements to make sure the room is available and can be opened for you. Talk about the contrast to the river and our modern baptismal fonts.
- Ask a series of questions about their senses. Ask each questions and have the children think about the question while they sing, then take answers!
 - What does it LOOK like?
 - What might it SMELL like?
 - What things might you have HEARD?
 - What do you think Jesus might have TASTED?
 - What do you think it FELT like? (Tie in both physical and spiritual feelings!)

