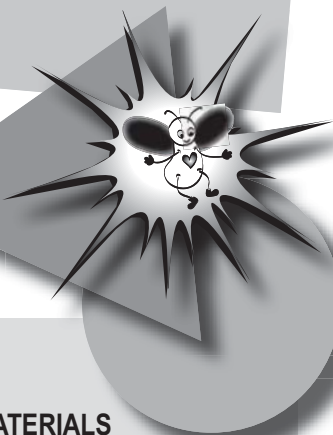


Baptized in the Spirit



MATERIALS

- WATER WONDERS**
dishpans
water
plastic dishes
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**
Bible
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
dolls/stuffed animals
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**
offering basket
- BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT**
poster board
fan pattern
crayons
- THE SPIRIT WITH US**
fans
confetti
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
take-home pages

Water Wonders

Place dishpans with shallow water in the bottom on a table. Provide plastic dishes for children to “wash” as they arrive. As you put the water play away, talk with the children about what it means to wash something clean. Explain that washing dishes is a little bit like being baptized. We are washed clean by the water so that we are ready to start fresh with God.

Scripture Discovery

Print each word on a large card and place the cards in the Bible for the children to find. Have children repeat words after they are placed in order.

**Jesus was
baptized.
—Mark 1:9**

Scripture Story

The scripture story (*page 8*) comes from Mark 1:4–11 (1:3–9 IV). Share today’s story with the class. Let children use dolls or stuffed animals to “baptize” as they pretend to be John the baptizer. Discuss the story together.

- Who was the voice from heaven?
- Who was the voice talking about?
- Have you ever watched a baptism? What was it like?

“Sharing Generously”

Tune: “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”

God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.
In faith we give because we care,
Sharing generously.
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,
See our money helping others,
bringing love to one another.
God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.



Disciples’ Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song “Sharing Generously.”

Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation

Take a walk to visit the baptismal font in the church. Let the children ask questions and tell what they know about baptism. As they stand in the font, explain that when they are older they can decide to be baptized. Show them how the elders will hold them to place them in the water for baptism. Explain that Jesus was baptized in a river. Sometimes people today are baptized in rivers, lakes, oceans, even swimming pools. Share the words which are prayed in the Community of Christ when someone is baptized.

“Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.”

—*Doctrine and Covenants 17:21c*

Explain that the prayer of confirmation following baptism is similar to the Holy Spirit which blessed Jesus after his baptism. The elders lay their hands on the person’s head and pray for the Holy Spirit to be with them.

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

Trace the fan pattern onto poster board to make paper fans. Trace each child's handprint on their fan then let them color it. Show children how to use the fan. As they create and feel the wind produced by the fans, explain that the wind is like the Holy Spirit that surrounds Jesus after his baptism. You can't see it but you can feel and see its effects.

FLYING DOVES

Find a large open space where the children can pretend to be doves flying. A dove flaps its wings for take off and to reach the desired height. Then it circles and soars on the wind, spiraling ever downward until it lands.

←
Fan Pattern

THE SPIRIT WITH US

Sometimes it's hard for people to understand who God is. It can be hard to believe what you can't see. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. We can't see the Spirit, but Jesus told us we could count on the Spirit always being with us. Use the following questions to help the children explore this concept.

- Where do you sleep at night? Who else sleeps in your room?
- Where do your parents sleep? Can you see them from your room when they are asleep?
- What happens if you need something in the night? What happens if you call to your parents?
- What happens if your blanket slips off and you get cold? Who comes to check on you and cover you up again?
- The Holy Spirit is a little like this. You can't see it or touch it, but it's still there. The Holy Spirit is a little like the wind.
- If I wave this paper fan close to your face, can you feel something? Is it the paper you are feeling? What is it that you can feel?
- If I sprinkle bits of confetti on the table, do they stay there or move around? What happens if I wave my paper fan close to them? What made the pieces of paper move?
- Close your eyes so you can't see where I am. I will fan you from the front, the side, the back, or the top. Without looking can you tell where the breeze is coming from?
- I promised to fan you, so you expected to feel something. You trusted me to keep my promise.
- Jesus made a promise too. He promised that when he was gone, God would send the Holy Spirit to be with us. We can expect to feel the Holy Spirit because Jesus told us so.
- The Holy Spirit doesn't just feel like a breeze. Sometimes the Spirit helps us feel calm when we are afraid. Sometimes the Spirit reminds us of something we forgot. Sometimes the Spirit helps us make the best choice.
- Let's tell God thank you for the wonderful Holy Spirit.

ECHO PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we thank you for showing us the way. Be with us this week in our work and our play. Amen.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 8) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.

Baptized by Water and Spirit by Marge Nelson

People heard there was a man named John down by the River Jordan. He was baptizing people by dipping them under the water and quickly bringing them back up. People called him John, the baptizer.

John had a reason for baptizing people. When they came to the river, he would tell them to repent. That meant they should tell God they were sorry for bad things they had done in their lives. John told them how important it was to be sorry for what you did that hurt someone and not do those things anymore.

To help the people remember their promise and to understand that God would hear and forgive them, John baptized them in the water.

“This is important,” John shouted so everyone could hear. “But there’s more to come. I baptize you with water. But someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. He is very special.”

People didn’t understand about the Holy Spirit. They could see the water. They could watch people walk down into the water with John. They could see him pray and then dip the person under the water and bring them back up. They could see the person who was all wet walk out of the water. But they didn’t understand what the baptism of the Spirit would look like.

Just then Jesus came to the River Jordan. “John, I need you to baptize me.”

John was shocked. He knew Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong to be sorry for. But if Jesus said do it, John would obey.

Jesus walked down into the water to stand by John. John lifted his hand and prayed. Then he dipped Jesus under the water and brought him back up.

But something was different! John looked up at the sky. The clouds moved apart and the sun shone through. John had no idea what the Holy Spirit was like, but he could tell God’s Spirit was coming down the way a dove would come down from flying high in the sky. The Spirit was coming right down and surrounding Jesus.

Then John heard a voice. It wasn’t coming from any of the people gathered at the river. It wasn’t coming from Jesus. And John certainly wasn’t saying anything! But the voice seemed to come right out of the clouds above.

“You are my Son,” the voice said. “I love you, and I am pleased with you.”

FAMILY CONNECTIONS



Jesus was
baptized.
—Mark 1:9



- **Let’s read today’s story together.**
- **The Holy Spirit is like the wind. We can feel it, but we cannot see it. Fly with me like a dove in the wind.**
- **Has anyone in my family been baptized? Tell me about their experience.**
- **Let’s pray together.**