

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 16
The Lord's Baptism (Mark 1:1-11)

Theme: Jesus Begins His Ministry

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord came on earth among the Jews because they had the Word and lived in the Holy Land.
- B. John the Baptist fulfilled the prophesy in Malachi, tying together the Old and New Testaments.
- C. People had to see and put away their sins before they could accept the Lord.
- D. Those who truly wanted to be good accepted the Lord.
- E. Baptism with water is a symbol of the desire to have our souls made clean by truth from the Word.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the story
 - 1. Read Malachi 3:1 (quoted in Mark). It was necessary for someone to prepare the way of the Lord. This messenger was John the Baptist. He prepared the people for the Lord. He told them that the Lord was coming, and he baptized them.
 - 2. Do you know what baptism is? Maybe when you were a baby, the minister put a little water on your head and you were "baptized." Or maybe you've seen a baby be baptized at a church service? Baptism is a sign that we follow the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a "Christian" sign. "Christians" follow "Christ."
 - 3. John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan River.
 - 4. Our story tells us how the Lord, when He was in the world, taught us about baptism by being baptized Himself.
- B. Tell/read the story
 - 1. Mark 1:4-11
- C. Ideas to discuss
 - 1. Who was sent to prepare the way for the Lord? (John the Baptist)
 - 2. How did he prepare people? (Telling them the Lord was coming, and baptizing people)
 - 3. Where did he baptize people? (In the Jordan river)

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4. What did the Lord see when He was baptized? (The Holy Spirit descending from heaven like a dove)
5. What did He hear? (A voice from heaven saying: "You are My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.")

D. Further ideas

1. Do we see a dove or hear a voice from heaven when we are baptized? No. This was a very special baptism!
2. Baptism with water was a sign that the life of the person was to be "clean." How is a person's life clean? (By being good)

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. Lori Song: "You Are My Beloved Son" (Lori's Songs; tape 3, side A, song 1)
2. "Wash Yourselves" (Lori's Songs; tape 3, side B, song 12)

B. Activities

- a. Clean with water
 - i. Give the children a dirty cup (preferably ceramic), a smudged hand mirror, or anything that will shine when cleaned with a little bit of water and a sponge or toothbrush. Explain that the Lord can clean our minds and hearts in the same way that the water can clean the dirty dish.
- b. Show a picture of a dove (or bring in a real one.) Mention that a dove is a gentle, peaceful, clean-looking bird that coos very softly.

C. Project

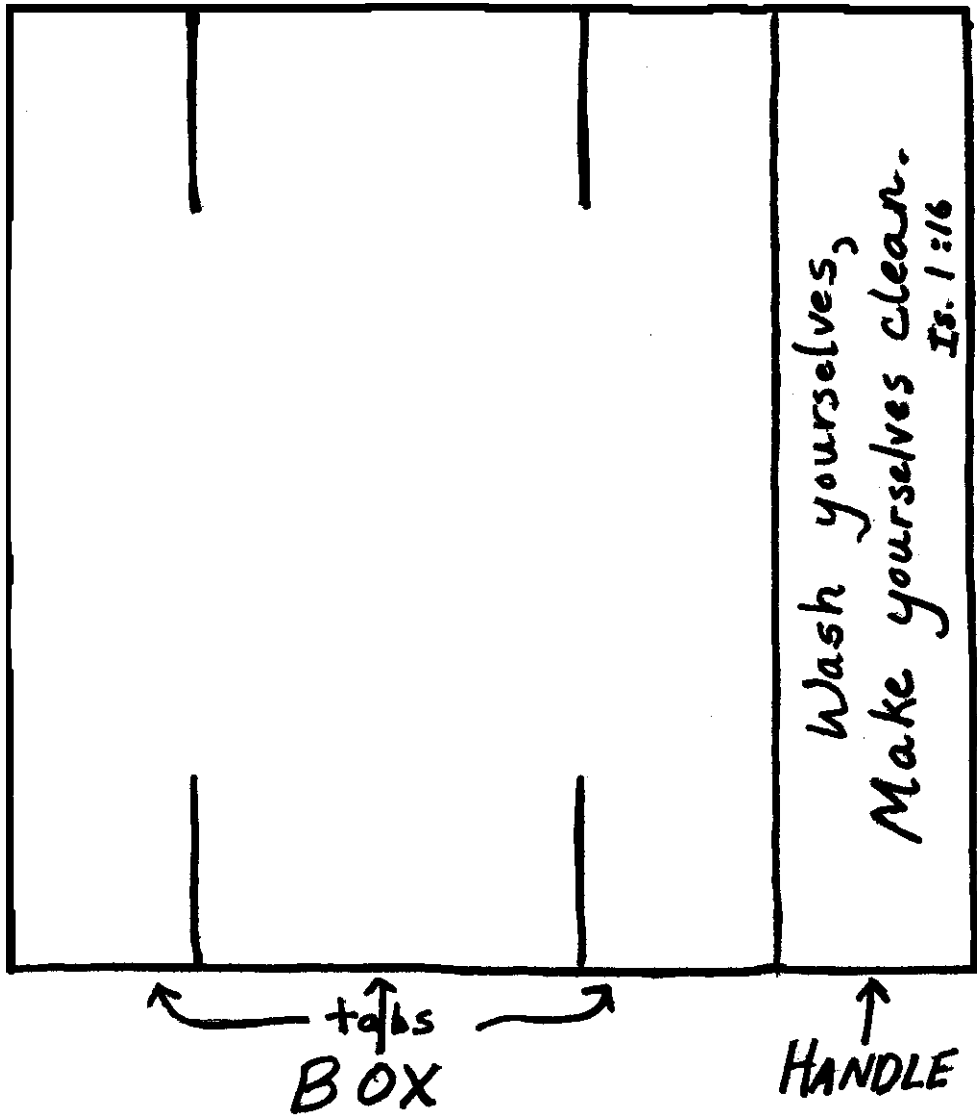
- a. Read *The Dove* by Shanon Junge Smith. Have the children color the included picture.
- b. Purchase small pretty soaps. Let each child choose one. Have the children prepare little boxes for their soaps by coloring and decorating precut pattern pieces. (See included pattern below.) Staple or tape the pattern pieces as shown.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Felt board figures

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

Basket Template



Before Class

Cut out all lines for box and handle

During Class

Children decorate box piece.

Teacher folds tabs in on both ends of box piece and tape or staple them in place to form box. (illustration A)

Teacher tapes or staples handle in place. (illustration B)

