

Remembering Baptism

WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

Baptize means to dip under, immerse, or submerge. When we respond to the call of Jesus and profess our faith, we are immersed in the waters of baptism, by going under water or having water poured or sprinkled on our heads. God claims us as God's own beloved child, just as God did with Jesus when he was baptized in the Jordan River.

- Baptize is a funny practice because we don't practice baptizing people. The community of faith is called to baptize. What we can do is practice what it means to be God's beloved child.
- Before getting out of the bath, shower, lawn sprinkler, or pool, hold your breath for a moment, and then let it go. Feel the air filling and leaving your lungs. Walk around wet for a few minutes. Feel the water on your skin and dripping from your hair. Imagine these feelings of breath and water as reminders of baptism.
- Decorate a candle to remember your baptism each year. Use a white pillar candle and a hot glue gun (with adult help!) to add ribbon or cording in a water drop, dove, or cross shape, or to wrap around the candle. If you want to make it sparkly, add sequins. Think about adding the date at the bottom of the pillar. Light the candle each year to celebrate your baptism.

God, you claim us as your own beloved child. Help us to remember what it means to "walk around wet" with the waters of baptism upon us. Amen.

Trace the letters below.

Baptism

Use the key to decode the message.

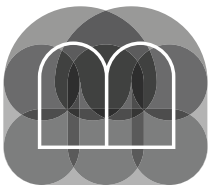
KEY	
	A
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_____ , _____

Circle the symbols that help us remember our baptism.



Answers: I am God's beloved child.
water; shell; fish; cross; dove



BIBLE STORY

Based on Mark 1:1-11

Long ago, there was a man named John. He was known as John the Baptist, because he was baptizing people in the Jordan River. John called the people to *repent*, meaning to turn away from doing wrong and to follow God's ways of living. Many people came to hear John and be baptized. They would get in the water, and when they got out, they felt all clean and new.

John was kind of different from other people who talked about God. He wore simple clothes and ate what he could find, sometimes even locusts and wild honey. John listened to God and told people that someone much greater than he would come and that this man would baptize with not only water but also the Holy Spirit.

One day, Jesus came from his hometown to where John was preaching by the river. There were many other people there listening to John talk about God too. Jesus asked to be baptized. John was surprised because he knew this was the man he had been waiting for, the one who would show people how to follow God's ways.

John and Jesus went into the river and Jesus went under the water. Just as he was coming up, the Holy Spirit, like a dove, came down, and a voice from heaven said, "You are my son, my beloved child, and I love you."

