

John baptises Jesus



Read it from the Bible

Matthew 3:1-17

“I baptize you with water so that you will give up your sins. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” *Matthew 3:11*

Tell the story

John was calling out to all the people, “Get ready! Get ready! Someone special is coming!”

“Who is coming?” the people asked.

“Someone special is coming from God,” replied John.

“How do we have to get ready?” the people asked.

“Say sorry for the wrong things you’ve done,” John told them. “And come to the river and be baptised.”

One day, John saw Jesus coming. At once he knew that God had sent that person he had promised. And that person was Jesus!

“Baptise me!” Jesus said to John.

“But you’re God’s special one,” John said. “I can’t baptise you.”

“It’s what God wants just now,” Jesus told him.

So John baptised Jesus. Then two special things happened. A beautiful white bird seemed to come and rest on Jesus, to show that the Holy Spirit was there to help Jesus. Then God’s gentle voice was heard saying, “Jesus is my own Son. And I am very pleased with him.”

Talk to God

Thank you, God, that you forgive us when we say sorry

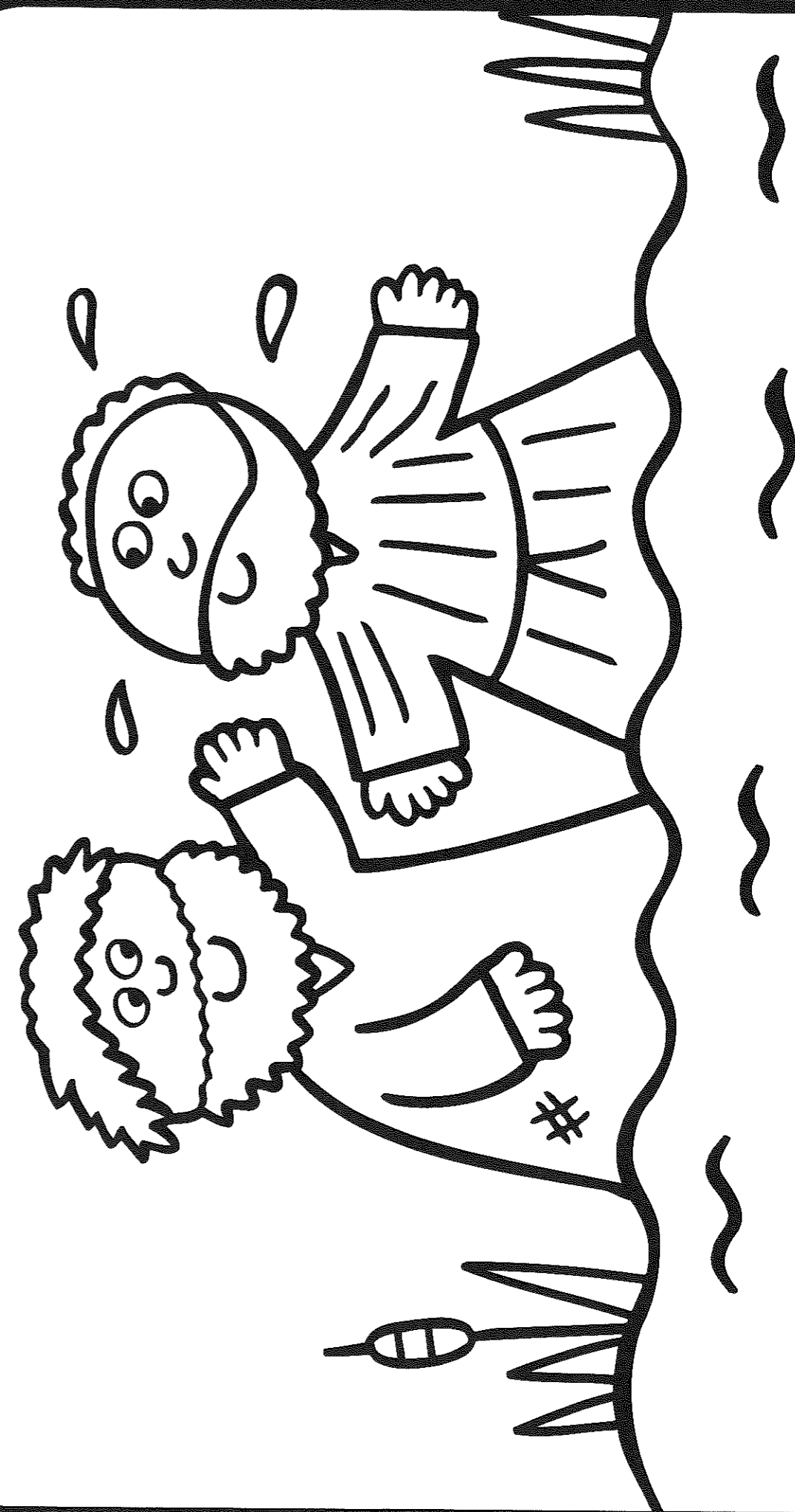
Use the picture

1 You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together.

2 Describe what is happening in the picture, using the word ‘baptise’. Point to John: he has been baptising lots of people. They go into the river and then dip under the water, and come up again. It is a way of showing they are sorry for doing wrong and that they are going to try to live God’s way.

3 Jesus has not done anything wrong, so John thinks he does not need to be baptised. But Jesus asks him – and John agrees.

4 Help John to baptise Jesus. First, colour in the picture. Then cut some strips of tissue paper, about 2 x 30 cm. Tape a few strips to the side of the picture, so they can be flipped across the lower part of the page, and cover John and Jesus with ‘water’.



John baptises Jesus *Matthew 3:1-17*