The whole world changed

Mark 1.4-11 Baptism of the Lord

This passage is the first appearance of Jesus as an adult and comes at the beginning of his ministry. His baptism is a new beginning and a transformation. John the baptizer says that he is not worthy to untie Jesus' shoes. He recognises that Jesus will be able to do much greater things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week we explore the opportunity for a new beginning that comes with Jesus.

Prepare your children's session

Read Bible notes on WEB.

Our new beginnings come through the forgiveness God offers which is not just a once in a life-time opportunity, like baptism, but something that God offers us each and every day. Take an opportunity now to say sorry to God and receive forgiveness.

Children face many new beginnings that can transform their lives, e.g. learning to read, changing school. Reflecting together on the transitions those in your group have made recently may help children understand how significant this episode was for Jesus.

Provide the following play materials for very young children throughout the session: plastic toys, e.g. dolls, bowls of water and sponges to wash them.

Go to **www.rootsontheweb.com** for all links, templates and images. Extra ideas can be found on page 12.

Children's session

Gather

Use the song, prayer and activity to gather the group and introduce the theme. (5 mins)

♪ Sing to the tune: *The wheels on the bus*

Welcome back to church this year, church this year, church this year.
Welcome back to church this year, we're glad to have you here.

Loving God,
we thank you for John the Baptist
whose voice spoke truth;
for the voice at Jesus' baptism
which spoke of delight;
and for Jesus himself
whose voice calls us to follow him to new beginnings.
Amen.

Wash your hands E S

You will need: a bowl of water, soap, towels – or this can be an imaginary activity.

- Invite the children and adults to take turns to wash their hands to prepare for the session.
- Ask when they usually wash their hands. Talk about the occasions when we wash our hands and how it can mark the end of one, possibly messy, activity and preparation for a new activity, such as eating.

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness. ✻ He was a strange-looking man, clothed in a hairy camel skin, with a leather belt around his waist. And he ate strange things: locusts and wild honey.

John was announcing a message of forgiveness of sins if people repented ✻ and were baptized. People came from all over to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. They came from the city of Jerusalem and from the countryside all around.

John shouted loudly, 'Someone else is coming. Someone more powerful than me. I am not important enough even to untie his shoes!' John said that although he baptized people with water, the one who was coming would be different. He would baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

Then one day he came. Jesus came from Nazareth to the River Jordan, to be baptized by John. And as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were torn apart and a dove came down; the Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son. I love you and I am pleased with you.' ✻ **Mark 1.4-11**

✻ See *Share the Word*.

Spiritual styles (as defined by David Csinos) key: **W**ord, **E**motion, **S**ymbol, **A**ction.
Find out more WEB in *Worship and learning support*.