

Lesson No. ( 20 )

## Jesus Meets John the Baptist

### References

Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1.

### Notes for Servants

- ★ It is surprising that the Lord humbles Himself and empties Himself and asks John the Baptist whom He created to baptize Him.
- ★ By baptism, we are born anew and we put on the robe of righteousness and purity which we lost and by Holy Chrism we are established in Christ so that we may lead a life of holiness.
- ★ Note how gentle and quiet Jesus was when He talked with John.

### Objectives

**General:** The effect of baptism in our lives.

**Specific:**

The children will be able to ...

- A. Understand that we all must be baptised.
- B. Learn a little about baptesim.
- C. Know that baptism makes us all brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Bible Verse

**" This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. "**

(Matthew 3:17)

### Teaching Aids

The icon of baptism surrounded with candles. The children carry the icon and go around saying, "Epiphany feast, Epiphany feast" while holding candles in their hands.

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### Introduction

- (1) Review last week's lesson.
- (2) Who remembers the verse?
- (3) Remind the children about the church occasions for the coming week.
- (4) Servant shows the children that the rite of baptism is performed by immersion three times.

## Story Time

John was the son God gave to Elizabeth and Zechariah. When John grew up, he began his special work. He began to tell people to get ready for the Saviour. John went into the desert to preach to the people. John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

Many people came to hear John preach. John told them, "You are all sinners-every one of you. Turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Ask God to forgive your sins. Be baptized and receive God's forgiveness."

People walked up hills and down valleys to hear John. Many believed John's message from God. These people wanted to be baptized. They wanted God to forgive their sins.

So, John baptized them. He baptized them in the Jordan River. John baptized so many people that they called him John the Baptizer.

Some people thought John was the Christ - the Saviour God had promised long ago. John told them, "I am not Christ. He is much greater than I. I am not good enough to even carry His sandals. I baptize with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

A little later Jesus came to John. Jesus was about 30 years old. It was time for Him to begin His work as the Saviour. Jesus found John at the Jordan River. Jesus asked John to baptize Him.

John said, "I need to be baptized by You, but You want me to baptize You?" Jesus said, "God wants it this way." So, John baptized Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized, He came out of the water. Then the sky above Him opened up. The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus. Then, a voice came from heaven. The voice said, "You are My own dear Son. I am pleased with You." Now John was sure that Jesus was the promised Saviour.

## Discussion

- 1 - Follow up the story by talking about it with the children.
- 2 - Continue the discussion while they do the activity.

## Learning Activities

Colouring page.