

## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist tells people that someone greater than he is coming. Jesus comes to John for baptism. When Jesus is baptized, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends upon him as a dove, and a voice proclaims, "You are my beloved Son." God is revealed to us as Trinity, Three Persons in One God.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Loving God, you welcomed us into your family at our baptisms. Thank you for calling us your children. We promise to love one another. Amen."
- Story • Vincent's New Brother** Share this story:

Vincent's dad called him at his grandma's house. "You have a new baby brother," Dad said. "His name is David. I will come get you tomorrow so our whole family can be together." Grandma gave Vincent a big hug. "It will be fun to be a big brother," Grandma said. "Let's get ready to welcome David."

Grandma took out a sheet of white paper. She folded it in half to make a booklet. She took one of Vincent's school pictures and put glue on the back. "Put it right in the middle," Grandma told Vincent. He put the picture on the paper and pressed so it would stick. "What should we write by your picture?" Grandma asked. "I will print my name," Vincent said, and he printed VINCENT above his picture. Underneath,

Grandma printed, "I am your big brother."

Grandma opened the booklet. "What else should we tell your little brother?" she asked. Vincent said, "I will draw a picture of a book, and you can write that I will read to him." Vincent drew, and Grandma wrote. "Now," Vincent said, "I will draw a picture of a baby bottle." Vincent drew, and Grandma wrote, "I will help feed you."

Grandma turned the booklet over. There was one more space to fill. Vincent grabbed the red crayon and drew a big heart. Inside the heart, he wrote, "I love you." Grandma and Vincent read the booklet together. "Now we are ready to welcome your baby brother," Grandma said.

Talk about what it is like to be welcomed. Perhaps your child has welcomed a new brother or sister, or a new student at school. **Ask:** How did you help with welcoming? Explain that Baptism is how we are welcomed into God's family.

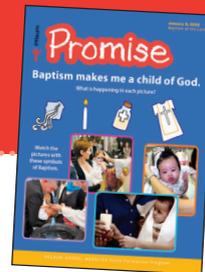
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • John the Baptist baptizes Jesus. (page 2)** Invite your child to look at the pictures on page 2 as you share the Gospel:

When Jesus' cousin John grew up, people came to listen to him and be baptized by him. John told the people that God had promised to send the Messiah, the One who would save God's people.

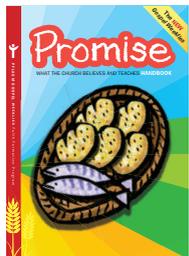
Some people thought John might be the Messiah. But John told them: "The one who is coming will be so powerful that I am not good enough to untie his sandal straps. I am baptizing with water. When he comes, he will baptize with the Holy Spirit."

John baptized people in the Jordan River. People who were sorry for their sins stepped into the water, and John baptized them. One day, Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. When Jesus came out of the water, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit came over Jesus in the shape of a dove. A voice from Heaven said: "You are my own dear Son. I am very pleased with you." John knew then that Jesus was the special person God had promised to send.



Explain that the Persons of the Blessed Trinity—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit—were all at Jesus’ baptism. Help your child identify the Trinity in the Gospel.

- **Cover Activity • Baptism makes me a child of God. (page 1)** Invite your child to describe the cover photos and match the symbols with the photos. Explain that these symbols are ways to show on the outside what is happening on the inside of the person who is baptized.



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 13.** Take turns reading each line. As you read, invite your child to underline the following words: *love, holy, God, family*. Explain that Baptism is the first sacrament we receive. To be holy is to be like Jesus.

**Ask:** Do you know what the priest or deacon says at a Baptism? What prayer do you know that uses those words? *The Sign of the Cross*. Explain that making a Sign of the Cross with holy water as we enter and leave church is a reminder of our Baptism.

Talk about the promises of Baptism. God says, “You are my child.” The person who is baptized promises to live as a child of God. **Ask:** How can babies make this promise? Explain that parents and godparents make the promise for the baby or child. They also promise to teach the child about God so that someday the child can make the promises on his or her own. Invite your child to solve the puzzle. **Answers:** 1-holy, 2-God, 3-family, 4-love. Then turn to page 14 and help your child complete each sentence to tell the story of your child’s Baptism.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 4.*

- **Word of the Week • Baptism (page 4)** After your child finds the Word of the Week, share this definition: *Baptism makes us children of God and members of God’s family, the Church.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • My Baptism (pages 3-4)** Have your child use the Baptism information from the handbook to fill in the blanks on page 4. Have your child first cut off the strip and then the blue and yellow rectangle on page 3. Fold the blue rectangle in half, cut on the cutting lines, and assemble the slider. Your child can pull the words of Baptism through the window. Mime the motions of scooping up water with your hand and pouring it as your child reads the words of Baptism.
- **Activity • ‘Receive the light of Christ’ (page 4)** Invite your child to turn over what remains of page 4. Read aloud the heading and directions. Give your child time to complete the sentence. **Answer:** *I will walk as a child of the light.*
- **Closing Prayer** “Jesus, thank you for making us your brothers and sisters through Baptism. We will try to follow your way of loving one another. Please help us. Amen.”



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday’s Scripture