

At the River
Mark 1:4-11

“Turn away from your sins!” warned John the Baptist, standing by the river Jordan. He looked odd, dressed in clothing made from animal skins. “I’ll baptize you in the river’s water and God will wash away your sins.”

Many people did just that. John dipped a girl into the water. “God loves you,” he said. John dipped a man into the water. “God forgives you,” he said. John dipped a woman into the water. “Wait for God’s Spirit to come to you,” he said.

“How will God’s Spirit come?” someone asked.

“Someone way more important than I am is coming,” said John. “I baptize you with water, but he’ll baptize you with God’s own Spirit.”

One day Jesus came to the river. “Baptize me,” he said.

So John dipped Jesus into the water. When Jesus came up, he saw heaven above open. God’s Spirit, like a dove, come down on him. He heard a voice saying, “You’re my own dear Son. I’m very happy with you!”