



Gospel Story: John Baptizes Jesus

"No!" says John the Baptist, with surprise.

Jesus smiles. "It's God's plan that you baptize me, John." Jesus has come to the Jordan River to ask John to baptize him. Many others have come to be baptized, too.

"I'm sorry for hurting my friend," says one woman. "I want John to baptize me. I want to start over."

John dips the woman into the water. "God forgives you," he tells her.

(Call out, "Welcome to God's family!")

"I'm sorry I cheated," says one man. "I want John to baptize me. I want to be one of God's people."

John dips the man into the river. "You belong to God's people," John tells the man.

(Call out, "Welcome to God's family!")

But John knows that Jesus has done nothing wrong. "I ought to be baptized by you," John says. "Why have you come to me instead?"

"Let it happen," Jesus answers. "It's okay. This way, we both can do what God wants us to do."

John is amazed and uncertain, but he dips Jesus into the cold water, just like Jesus said.

Jesus comes up out of the water. Suddenly, he sees a beautiful bird, a dove, coming down from heaven and brushing its soft wings lightly against him. When that happens, he knows God's Holy Spirit has come to him. Then Jesus is filled with joy, as he hears a voice from heaven say, "This is my own dear Son. I am pleased with him."

(Call out, "Welcome to God's family!")

baptism