



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus comes out of the water, the Gospel gives us a family picture of the Holy Trinity. The heavens open, a voice proclaims Jesus as God's beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit—in the form of a dove—hovers over Jesus. This is a sign of Jesus being chosen (anointed). God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit are the Holy Trinity. They are united in love. Connect the Gospel to your family life by sharing photos and memories of your child's Baptism.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your family. Help us follow you and share your love with others. Amen."
- Activity • Introducing . . . My Family** Have your child imagine they are presenting to a classroom. You might have your child tell about your family: how many members, the work you do, where you live, what you enjoy doing together, what makes your family special, etc.
- Story • Sarah Becomes Part of Jesus' Family (page 2)** Have your child turn to page 2 of *Promise*. **Ask:** When did you become a member of God's family? *Baptism*. If your child was baptized as an infant, explain that an older child, like the seven-year-old in this story, also celebrates Confirmation and First Communion right after being baptized. Read this story aloud together. Then review the story by **asking:**

- What sacraments did Sarah celebrate?
- Whom did she invite to be with her?
- How did Sarah feel about becoming a member of the Church?

Review the signs and symbols of Baptism by **asking:**

- Why does the priest pour water over Sarah's head? *Water is a sign of life and washing. Sarah's old life and her sins are washed away. She is a new person, a member of God's family.*
- Why does she put on a white dress? *A white garment is a sign that she is putting on a new life as a follower of Jesus.*
- Why does Sarah receive a lighted candle? *It is a sign that Jesus is her light.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is God's Beloved Son (page 1)** Have your child turn *Promise* to its cover and place it faceup as you proclaim the Gospel:

John the Baptist baptized many people in the Jordan River. People wondered if John was the Messiah.

John said: "I baptize you with water. Someone is coming who is much more important and powerful than I am. I am not good enough to undo his sandal straps. He will baptize

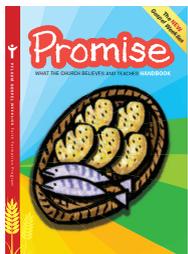
you with the Holy Spirit."

One day, John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came out of the water, the skies opened up. The Holy Spirit came down to Jesus in the form of a dove. A voice spoke from Heaven. The voice said, "You are my beloved Son. I am pleased with you."



Invite your child to color the picture of Jesus' baptism on page 1. **Ask:** Which man is Jesus? Who is the other man? Whose voice came from Heaven? What did the voice say to Jesus? Who is shown as a bird? Help your child understand that the Holy Spirit is not really a bird by using the example of teams called Tigers or Pirates. These images tell us what the teams are like, but the people on the teams aren't really tigers or pirates.

- Cover Activity • I Make the Sign of the Cross (page 1)** Pray the Sign of the Cross together, using the words and gestures. **Ask:** What do the words we say mean? *The Father is God the Creator. The Son is Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the One who came to Jesus in the form of a dove at his baptism. We honor these three Divine Persons—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit—when we pray the Sign of the Cross. They are Three Divine Persons in One God. We call this the Holy Trinity.*



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 13. Read aloud the title. As you read the top two paragraphs, have your child draw a line under the following words: love, holy, God, family. The underlined words will help with the crossword puzzle. Invite your child to look at the words of Baptism in the third paragraph. **Ask:** What prayer is like these words? *The Sign of the Cross.*

Have your child complete the crossword puzzle. **Answers:** Down—1-holy, 4-love; Across—2-God, 3-family.

Use page 14 as a guide to share the story of your child's Baptism.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 2.

- Word of the Week • Baptism (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Baptism makes us children of God and members of God's family, the Church.*

Live the Gospel

- Activity • We celebrate Baptism. (pages 3-4)** Look at the pictures on page 4 together. Identify the individual pictures as mother, father, baby, the priest, baptismal font, white garment, and candle. Have your child cut out each picture.

Then have your child lay out the pictures on a desk or table. Identify them again, and have your child turn them over one by one to see what is on the other side. The parent figures have two other people on the reverse. These can be the godparents. Invite your child to use the cutouts to tell the story of a Baptism to you.

- Closing Prayer** "We thank you, Loving God, for making our family members of your family. Amen." (Conclude by making the Sign of the Cross.)



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
 Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture