

## DESCENDING DOVE ☆

**A craft where the children can demonstrate how the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down upon Jesus when John the Baptist baptized Him.**

by Kristy Thornton

### TOPICS:

Baptism, God's Love, Holy Spirit, Jesus, John the Baptist

### MATERIALS:

Medium card stock  
 Picture of Jesus being baptized [PDF] [Click here](#)  
 Pictures of doves [PDF] [Click here](#)  
 White feathers (optional)  
 Crayons, glue  
 Scissors



[Click here for example of finished craft](#)

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, print out enough pictures of Jesus being baptized for each child. Using medium card stock, print and cut out one dove for each child. You can cut around the oval shape, or, if you have time, around the outlines of the dove.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the children color their picture of Jesus being baptized. Instruct the children not to color inside the small box at the top of the page. This is where they will glue the dove. When finished coloring, help each child fold his or her page along the dotted lines, so the top portion can collapse downward as shown in the example of finished craft.

Then, give the children each one dove. If you have white feathers, help them glue on feathers. Some feathers may need to be broken apart if they are too large. As an alternative, you can use small strips of white material, anything that will make the doves stand out. Finally, help the children glue their completed dove onto their picture.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today, we are going to make a craft to help us remember how the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove and how God told everyone that Jesus was His very own Son. (Read Luke 3:21-22 to the children.)

### Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Holy Spirit come down onto Jesus? (*In the form of a dove.*)
2. What did God say about Jesus? (*You are my Son, whom I love.*)

God said, "You are my Son whom I love." Let's change that around so that we are the ones speaking. I want everyone to repeat after me. "This is God's Son, whom I love." Now, you are the one saying who Jesus is.

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## LOVE OF THE FATHER ☆

**An illustration to show the children the depth of God's love for them.**

by Kristy Thornton

### TOPICS:

Family, God's Love, Jesus, Love

### MATERIALS:

Three hearts template [PDF] [Click here](#)

Construction paper

Tape, markers

### DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes



### PREPARATION

Before class, cut out three different sized hearts from construction paper using the template provided. Label the large heart "God's Love" and the smallest heart "Our Love." Leave the middle-sized heart blank.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will discuss how much God loves His Son Jesus and how much God loves us. You will then use concentric hearts to demonstrate how God's love for Jesus is the same as it is for us.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today, we are going to learn about how much God loves you and me. First, who is God's only Son? (*God's only son is Jesus.*) So, if Jesus is God's only Son, do you think God loves us more, less, or equal to His only Son? (*Allow for answers.*)

The truth is that God's love is the same for us as it is for Jesus. In John 17:23 Jesus says, "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." Jesus is saying that when we belong to Him, God's love for us is the same.

Let's show this by using three hearts.

(Hold up the large heart.) I have here a big heart. This heart shows how big God's love is.

(Show the middle sized heart) Now let's say that this heart represents Jesus. Will it fit inside God's love? (*Allow children to respond.*)

(Tape the medium sized heart inside the larger heart.) Look, it fits inside God's heart.

(Now hold up the small heart.) Now here is a very small heart. This little heart is you and I. We are so small, yet God's heart and love is the same size as it is for His Son. It is big enough for everyone. It doesn't change. Our heart fits inside of God's heart, and it fits inside of Jesus' heart.

(Tape the small heart inside the medium sized heart.) It fits! This means we are united. We are all part of the family of God, and He loves all of us equally.

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## WHO IS JESUS?

### LESSON 1: JESUS IS GOD'S SON ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Overview](#)

*In this lesson the children discover that Jesus was a child just like them, but He was also God's one and only Son. The children will also learn how God shows love for His Son and how He loves us just as much.*

by Kristy Thornton

#### TOPICS

Family, God's Love, Jesus, Knowing Jesus, Love

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Have paper and crayons ready for when the children arrive. Have them draw a picture of any baby animal. You may also want to have some pictures of animals on display as a reference for the children. After they all draw a baby animal, tell them to draw a father for the baby on the same page. When finished, ask the following discussion questions:

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the role of the father in your animal's family? *(To love, protect, guide, and provide.)*
2. What is the role of the baby in your animal's family? *(To love, listen, obey, and follow.)*
3. How are these traits the same or different in a human family? *(Allow for answers. Children are commanded by God to listen, obey, respect, and honor their parents.)*
4. Do you think Jesus listened, obeyed, and honored God? *(Yes.)*
5. In what ways did Jesus show that? *(Allow for answers.)*

#### WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

#### BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)

**"He was with God in the Beginning" John 1:2 NIV**

Have the children repeat this short verse several times. Then discuss each part.

1. Who is He in the verse? *(Jesus)*
2. Who was Jesus with? *(God)*
3. When was Jesus with God? *(From the very beginning.)*
4. Jesus and God were together in the beginning. When or what was the beginning? *(Even before the world was created.)*

Finish by have the children say the verse again from memory.

#### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

#### Introduction:

We don't know too much about Jesus' childhood. When He was about twelve years old, his parents found him left behind at the temple after a family trip to Jerusalem. However, the next time we hear about Jesus is when He is around 30 years old. During this time, John the Baptist is baptizing people in the Jordan River. He is telling the people to turn from their evil ways, and get ready, because someone who is more powerful and more worthy is coming soon. John said that this person will not baptize people with water, but He will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Of course, John is talking about Jesus.

#### Read Matthew 3:13-17 (Jesus is Baptized)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus come to the Jordan River to do? *(Be baptized by John the Baptist.)*
2. What opened up as soon as Jesus was baptized? *(Heaven.)*
3. How did the Spirit of God appear as it came to land on Jesus? *(Like a dove.)*
4. Who spoke from Heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love?" *(God.)*
5. Was God pleased that His Son came to earth? *(Yes.)*

#### FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

**Descending Dove (Craft)** [Click here](#)

#### ALTERNATE FUN TIME (5 MINUTES)

**Love of the Father (Object Talk)** [Click here](#)

#### PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Start by praying and thanking God for His Son. Thank Jesus for obeying and honoring God and being a good example to children. Provide graham crackers as snacks for the children. Give each child two graham crackers. Have them all think of an animal and then take bites out of the graham cracker squares to make a father and a baby of that animal. As you enjoy the snacks, talk about the relationships parents have with their children.

**CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)**

Have the children form two rows and line up back to back with another child. If you have an odd number of children, the teacher can fill in for one child. Have each pair of children stand with their backs touching.

Explain that when you say, "Go!" they are to turn to face each other, and the tallest person must quickly ask, "**Who is Jesus?**" The other child will quickly answer, "**He is God's Son!**"

Then, the children turn around so they are back to back again. For the next round, you can choose another criterion, such as the child with the darkest hair or the biggest shoes, to determine the one to ask the question or give the answer. Play several times. As an option, have the children line up occasionally with a different partner.

**NEXT WEEK**

This lesson series is called "Who is Jesus?" Today, we discovered that Jesus is God's Son. However, there is much more to learn about Jesus. You don't want to miss our next Sunday school class.

**TAKE HOME PAGE**

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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Dove





