



# 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

November 23-24, 2013

Kingdom Come Journey Week 7: Celebrate!

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 3 and 11

Baptism Shows Others That We Follow Jesus

WHERE TO FIND IT

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today is a review of the Kingdom, with an emphasis on baptism. Even though we're reviewing, kids who are here for the first time should be able to engage easily.

## check-in/out

Encourage them (with their parents!) to learn more about baptism by picking up a baptism packet at the KC info desk—or visiting the link on the Parent Page.

## large group heads up

While parents are responding to their Journey experience through baptism, kids are learning about what baptism is and celebrating the way God wants to expand his Kingdom through us.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away, while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

- As each kid enters, give him/her a **piece of paper with a prayer on it** (It's broken down like this):
  - You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name.
  - Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.
  - Give us our food for today.
  - Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
  - Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.
  - Matthew 9:9-13
- Each kid's job is to find kids who have the other parts of their verse and form a group. (Only one part per group, so there will be many groups of 6.)
- Once kids find their groups, they should put the verse in order and check it with a volunteer. Then put it in Kingdom context:
  - LOVE: Ask kids to underline any part that shows us how God loves us, or how we can love others.
  - OBEY: Ask kids to circle any part that shows us that God wants our obedience.
  - FIGHT: Ask kids to highlight (with yellow marker) any part that shows us how to fight for God's Kingdom.
  - SEEK: Ask kids to double underline any part that shows them how we should look for God's Kingdom.
  - KINGDOM COME: Ask kids to put a square around any part that shows them that God wants his Kingdom to get bigger!

**This is also a time for you to connect with kids: While kids do the activity, ask them their names, talk to them about their week, and even remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior.**

**KEEP THE COMPLETED VERSES. KIDS WILL REFER TO THESE DURING SMALL GROUP.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand that God wants US to expand his Kingdom and (2) recognize that baptism is one way we can show the Kingdom to others.

**Why?** People should see a difference in the way Christ-followers love and serve others. Baptism (or a willingness to talk to our friends) shows people *why* we love and serve.

**Tip:** Before today's lesson, go to [crossroads.net/baptism](http://crossroads.net/baptism) (click on K-8<sup>th</sup> graders; then click on the link for tips for parents.) Or, look through the **baptism packet** in the small group bin. It'll help prepare you to talk to kids about baptism.

## small group

### REACT / DIG DEEPER

1. Did anybody hear God say something/show them something about his Kingdom or following Jesus?
2. Why does it look "crazy" to follow Jesus?
3. Why would people want to be a part of God's Kingdom?
4. What's the special job God gives us? Why?
5. How do people "announce" they are following Jesus? (baptism) What are other ways we can show we follow Jesus? (Kids can refer to any Christ-like action, but no need to brainstorm in-depth. We'll talk about this during the activity.)
6. *Why* do we get baptized? (We want to show we're following Jesus, Jesus did it, we want to make the Kingdom bigger, etc. Kids may also say it's a picture of Jesus' rescue, it's a picture of God cleansing us, etc.)
7. Does anything about baptism or today's large group seem confusing? (Refer to the **baptism packet** if you want! And tell kids they can get one to take home.)

### ACTIVITY: CREATE KINGDOM ROOMS

Remind kids that when we choose to follow Jesus, we are choosing to be a part of God's Kingdom (whether or not we've been baptized yet!). And the reason God wants us to make his Kingdom bigger is because God loves us ALL so much! To consider what it's like in God's Kingdom, we're going to create Kingdom Rooms.

- Refer to the highlighted Connect Time verse and read it aloud.
- Ask kids: If you were going to create a Kingdom room in your house, what would you put in it? What colors? What furniture? What surprises? Let kids work in groups of 2-4 to design and create their "Kingdom Room" with markers on a **blank sheet of paper**. (They can use anything they know about the Kingdom from the Journey or elsewhere.)
- Share rooms with the group.

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- Then discuss:
  - If this is what the Kingdom is about (refer to designs), how *exactly* can WE expand the kingdom? Be specific. (E.g. If kids put a yellow couch because the Kingdom is joyful, talk about how we can bring joy to people now. Refer to things like telling friends about Jesus, serving together, etc.) Kids can mention baptism, but be sure to list other examples.

**\*Pray together, and thank God that he gave us the special job of showing his Kingdom to others.**

*Extra time? Use all the Kingdom rooms in your small group to build a Kingdom "house." Share with other small groups. Or play one of the games from the Journey like "Red Light Green Light" or "Simon Says." Tie it to submitting to Jesus our King through obedience!*

## special notes

We'll focus on reviewing the things we've learned about the Kingdom and on understanding what baptism is and what it means. Maybe some of them have parents getting baptized today!

## presenter tips

Make it clear to kids that baptism is an announcement that we follow Jesus, NOT a prerequisite for following him!

## script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here today. Before we get started, did any of you memorize the verse from Connect Time? Raise your hand if you think you know it (let kids respond). That's awesome! I'm not going to ask anybody to say it, but God loves it when we memorize his Word.

See, when we memorize a verse, we know it so well that God can bring it to our mind at anytime, and we can remember his truth or even share it with others. Remember, one way we can SEEK God is by studying the truths in the Bible. Another reason we should learn verses is because Jesus did. And what does it mean to follow Jesus? (Let kids say: do what he did.) That's right! It means we do the things HE did.

### **INTRO: FOLLOWERS OF JESUS LOOK DIFFERENT**

So, we've been talking about God's Kingdom, where *everyone* follows Jesus. The thing about God's Kingdom is that ANYONE can be a part of it. In fact, once we're a part of God's Kingdom, our job is to make it bigger by loving God and loving and serving other people.

When we follow Jesus, people see us doing acts of love. And they'll probably start wanting to know and love Jesus--and be a part of his Kingdom of love, too. We're going to watch a short video about some of the crazy things we do when we're following Jesus in his Kingdom. As we watch this clip, enjoy some of the funny "backwards" things that are happening. But also, see if you can figure out ways this person was acting like Jesus.

### **Clip: Channel 34, Episode 6 Clip (about 3 minutes)**

Pretty crazy, huh? So how was the woman acting like Jesus and being a part of God's Kingdom? (Let kids respond: letting people go first in line, giving up her scooter, sharing her sandwich, cleaning, and giving up her coat.) Wow, great job!



script continued

## **FOLLOWING JESUS REVEALS THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Let's think for a second about just one of those things: sharing her sandwich. Why would people think that's surprising? (Let kids say something like; she wouldn't have anything to eat.) Yep, she *didn't* get to eat that sandwich if she gave it away, which probably means she was pretty hungry.

But, raise your hand if you'd like to live in a world where every time you were hungry, somebody shared a sandwich or something else delicious with you (let kids raise their hands; raise your hand, too). That would be pretty great, wouldn't it?! Well, that's what it's like in the Kingdom of God. And when you show others what that looks like, they'll want to be a part of it, too!

And guess what? Our JOB is to make God's Kingdom bigger by following Jesus and loving him and others. In fact, Matthew 28:18-20 says:

**Matthew 28:1-20: Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."**

## **OUR JOB IS MAKING DISCIPLES AND BAPTIZING**

Hmmm...so our job is to make disciples—that means showing people how to follow Jesus. We're supposed to baptize them and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. Now—hold on a second—does anybody know why we're supposed to baptize people? (Let kids respond.) Baptism is the way we *show* people we're following Jesus.

(**Show gif of baptism.**) Who can tell me what baptism is? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it's when a Jesus-follower covers us in water in the name of the Father—God, the Son—Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. You can get baptized in a pool like this in a church (refer to the picture) or a lake or river or bathtub. It doesn't matter! What matters is that a person does it with some friends or family members because it's a BIG announcement. It's like saying, "I follow Jesus!"

## **WHY WE GET BAPTIZED**

Now, ever wondered WHY we get baptized? Why we get dunked in water instead of yelling, "I FOLLOW JESUS" as loud as we can or doing something else? Stand up if you think you know one reason we get baptized. Let's take some guesses (wait for most kids to stand, then call on a few. Don't tell them if they're right or wrong—just take guesses and respond ambiguously. Then continue):

Well, those are some great guesses. Go ahead and sit down and I'll tell you three reasons why we get baptized.

FIRST, (**show picture of Jesus getting baptized**): Jesus did it! Reason enough, huh? This is a picture of John the Baptist baptizing *Jesus*.



## script continued

**SECOND (show slide of Jesus' rescue next to Jesus' baptism)**, baptism is a picture of Jesus' rescue. When we go under the water, we show that we believe Jesus died and was buried--and we choose to get rid of (or bury) our old life of disobeying God and not being close to him. When we come up out of the water, we show that we believe Jesus came back to life, which means he got rid of death--and now we can learn to live like Jesus did.

And **THIRD, (show picture of a bath next to Jesus' baptism)** baptism is a picture of how we have been made clean by God. When Jesus rescued us, it was like he wiped away all the wrong things we had done, just like water washes away dirt. The water in baptism shows people that we told God we're sorry for all the wrong things we've done. We've asked God to forgive us for all we've done wrong and make us clean through Jesus.

### **HOW BAPTISM HELPS US EXPAND GOD'S KINGDOM**

Baptism is great because it helps us do our job. We can make God's Kingdom bigger by *announcing* that we are following Jesus. When people know we're following Jesus, we're inviting them to learn more about God's Kingdom by watching the way we love and obey.

Now, remember, we can follow Jesus and be a part of God's Kingdom **RIGHT AWAY**. We don't have to get baptized to start following Jesus and make his Kingdom bigger. We can start doing things like giving food to the hungry, praying for our friends, or giving up our place in line to show people that the Kingdom of God is a **GREAT** place to be.

### **WORSHIP**

For now, let's follow Jesus together now by standing up to sing to him!

**Song: Before I Go, I Stop**

**Song: Because You Love Me**

### **PRAY**

Thank God for giving us such a special way to announce that we follow him. Ask God if he has anything he wants to say to us about his Kingdom or about following him. Give kids a minute to listen for God's voice.



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# PREP needs



## connect time supplies

### Markers

1 strip of paper per kid (with ONE of the following parts of the Lord's prayers)

- You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name.
- Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are

obeyed in heaven.

- Give us our food for today.
- Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
- Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.
- Matthew 9:9-13

## small group supplies

Baptism packet  
Bible  
Blank sheets of paper  
markers

\*baptism packs in rooms for kids to take home

## large group supplies

Bible

## a/v needs

1. Video: Channel 34, Episode 6 clip: 5:49-8:18
2. SLIDE: Matthew 28:1-20: Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am

always with you, to the very end."

3. GIF: baptism
4. Image: Jesus getting baptized
5. Slide with 2 images: Jesus getting baptized next to Jesus' Rescue
6. Slide with 2 images: Jesus getting baptized next to bath tub
7. Song: Before I Go, I Stop
8. Song: Because you Love Me (with hand motions)

## connect questions

Tell me about baptism.

Why does God want everyone to be part of his Kingdom?

## parent page

Today, we wrapped up the Kingdom Journey for kids. Like adults, they learned that baptism is how we publicly show that we are following Jesus. If your kids have questions, ask for a baptism packet at the KC Info Center. Or find it online at [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net) by searching for "baptism."