

John the Baptist  
Matthew 3:1-12; 14:3-12; Mark 1:1-8; 6:17-29  
Luke 1:5-25, 39-80; 3:1-20

Section 9 - Lesson 2  
Sunday morning  
4-5 years old

PRE-TIME: Dot to Dot (His Name is John)  
A.B.C (Clothes for a man)

ATTENDANCE: (Have one student at a time mark their chart while the others complete the pre-time activity.)

PRAYER

BIBLE STORY

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Zechariah's wife? (Elizabeth)
2. Where did Zechariah work? (Temple - as a priest)
3. Whom did Zechariah see at the temple? (An angel)
4. What did the angel tell Zechariah? (He would have a son and to name the boy John)
5. Who were John's parents? (Zechariah and Elizabeth)
6. Where did John live? (In the wilderness)
7. John's clothes were made of what? (Camel's hair)
8. What did John eat? (Locusts and wild honey)
9. What river did John take people to baptize them? (Jordan River)

BIBLE FACTS

MEMORY VERSE: "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

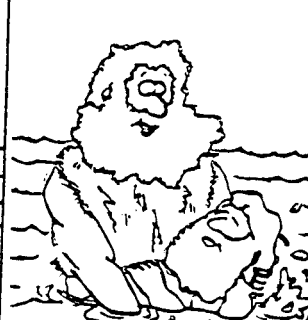
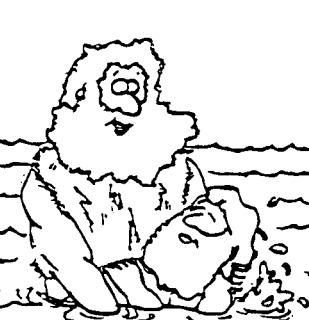
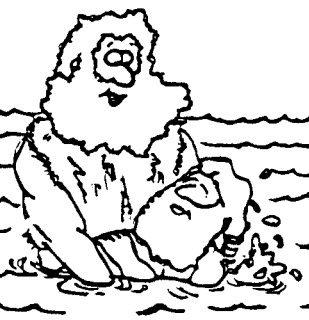
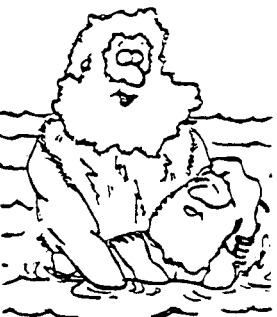
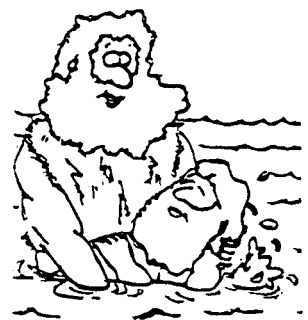
TAKE-HOME HANDOUTS: Color sheet - John the Baptist preaches about the coming Savior

*Lesson in  
attendance*

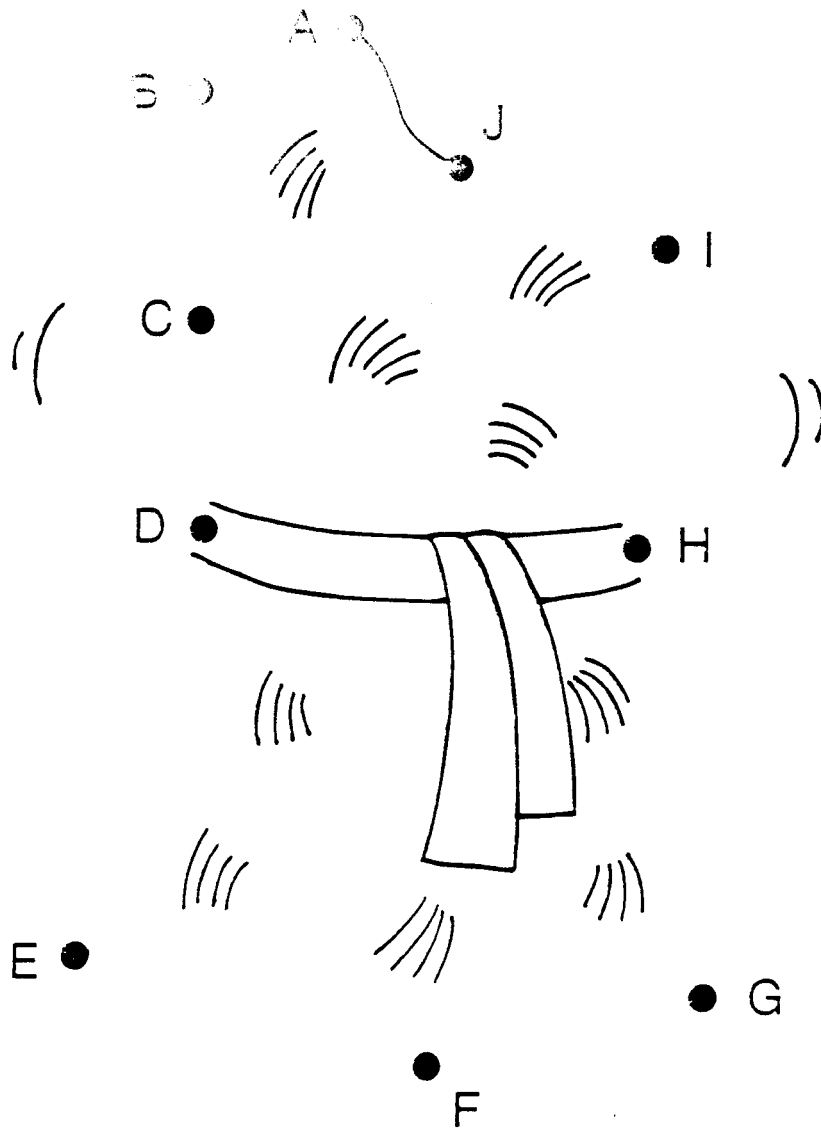


# The Life of Christ

Section 9

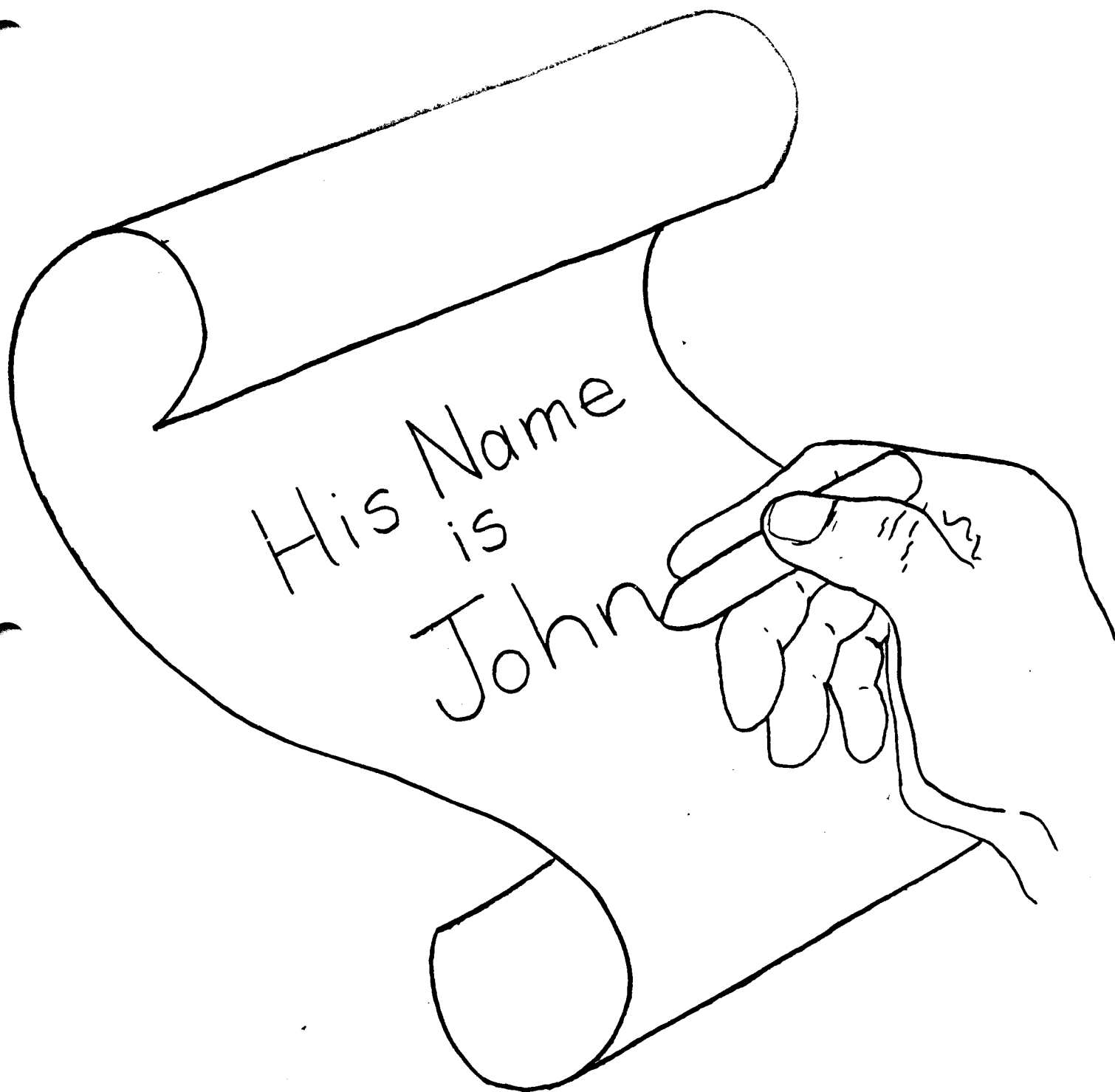


# Clothes for a Man



John was a very rugged man  
Grizzly like a bear.  
Here's a covering for him  
Made from camel's hair.

Write-out the  
name John  
and replace with  
dots to trace.



**Zacharias wrote the name of his son.**

Zechariah was a priest. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were godly people. The couple were old and did not have any children. One day, while Zechariah was in the temple burning incense to God, an angel appeared to him. The angel said, "Your wife, Elizabeth, will soon have a son. You are to name him John. He will be a delight to you and he will prepare the way for the Lord." Zechariah was shocked. He asked, "How can this be?" Because he did not believe, Zechariah was unable to speak until the baby was born. When Zechariah wrote "His name is John, then Zechariah could speak. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth praised God.

When John grew up to be a man, he lived in the wilderness. A wilderness is a place where there are no people or houses or towns. John wore clothes made out of camel's hair and wore a leather belt. John ate locusts ( like big grasshoppers) and wild honey. He told the people that Jesus was the Son of God and that He was coming soon.

Many people listened to John. John told them to stop doing bad and start doing good. He baptized people in the Jordan River.

Do you know what baptize means? When a person is baptized, he walks down into a lot of water. Then another person puts him all the way under the water and lifts him up.

John would take men and women into the Jordan River. He would dip them down into the water and then lift them up. God wanted the people to be baptized. John was call John the Baptist because he baptized people.

### Wednesday evening

When Jesus was thirty years old he left his home. He traveled to the Jordan River where John the Baptist was. He told John that he wanted to be baptized. John did not want to baptize him because he knew he was such a good man.

John said, "I ought to let you baptize me." Jesus told him to do it because he wanted to do everything God wanted him to do. John baptized Jesus.

As Jesus came out of the water the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. A voice came from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

God was pleased with Jesus for doing what he wanted him to do. He is pleased with us when we do the things he wants us to do.

PRE-TIME: Trace - Jordan River  
Maze - What happened next?

## ATTENDANCE

## PRAYER

## BIBLE STUDY

## QUESTIONS:

1. Where did John live? (In the wilderness)
2. What did he tell the people about Jesus? (He was coming to save their sins.)
3. What did he say the people must do to get ready for Jesus? (Be baptized)
4. Why did people call him John the Baptist? (Because he baptized people)
5. How old was Jesus when he came to be baptized? (30 years)
6. Did John want to baptize him? (No)
7. What did John say Jesus ought to do? (Baptize him (John)).
8. Was Jesus baptized because God wanted him to be? (Yes)
9. When he was baptized and came up out of the water what came ? (A dove)
10. What did God say? ("This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.")

## BIBLE FACTS

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

TAKE-HOME HANDOUTS: John Baptizes Jesus



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Wednesday evening

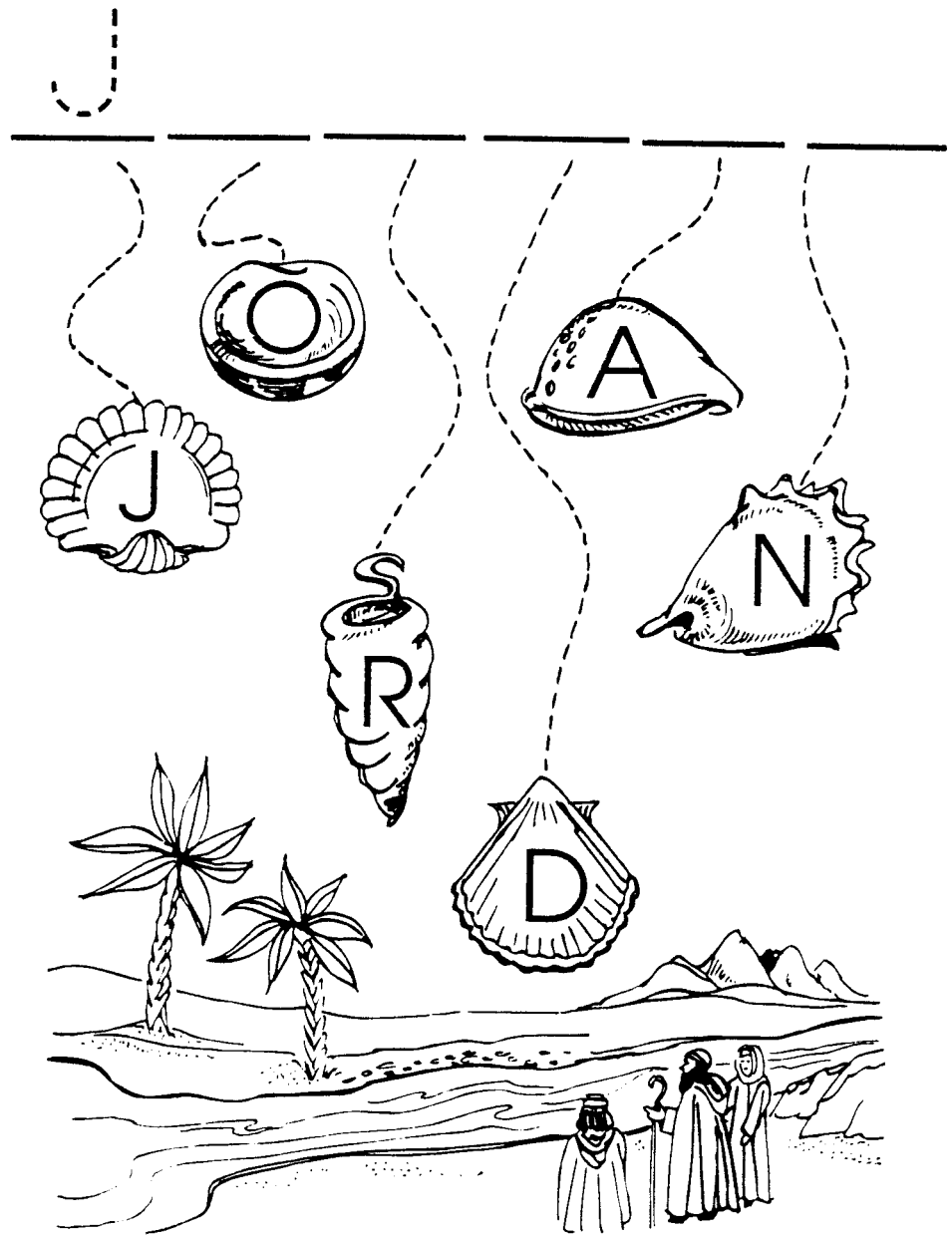
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God was pleased with Jesus for doing what he wanted him to do. He is pleased with us when we do the things he wants us to do.

Find the name of the river where Jesus was baptized. Trace the lines. Write the letters where they belong.



## What Happened Next?

Follow the maze to tell the story. Can you tell it?

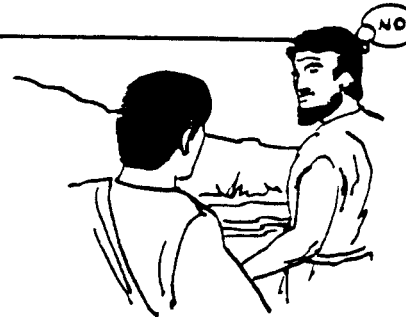
START



Jesus came to John.



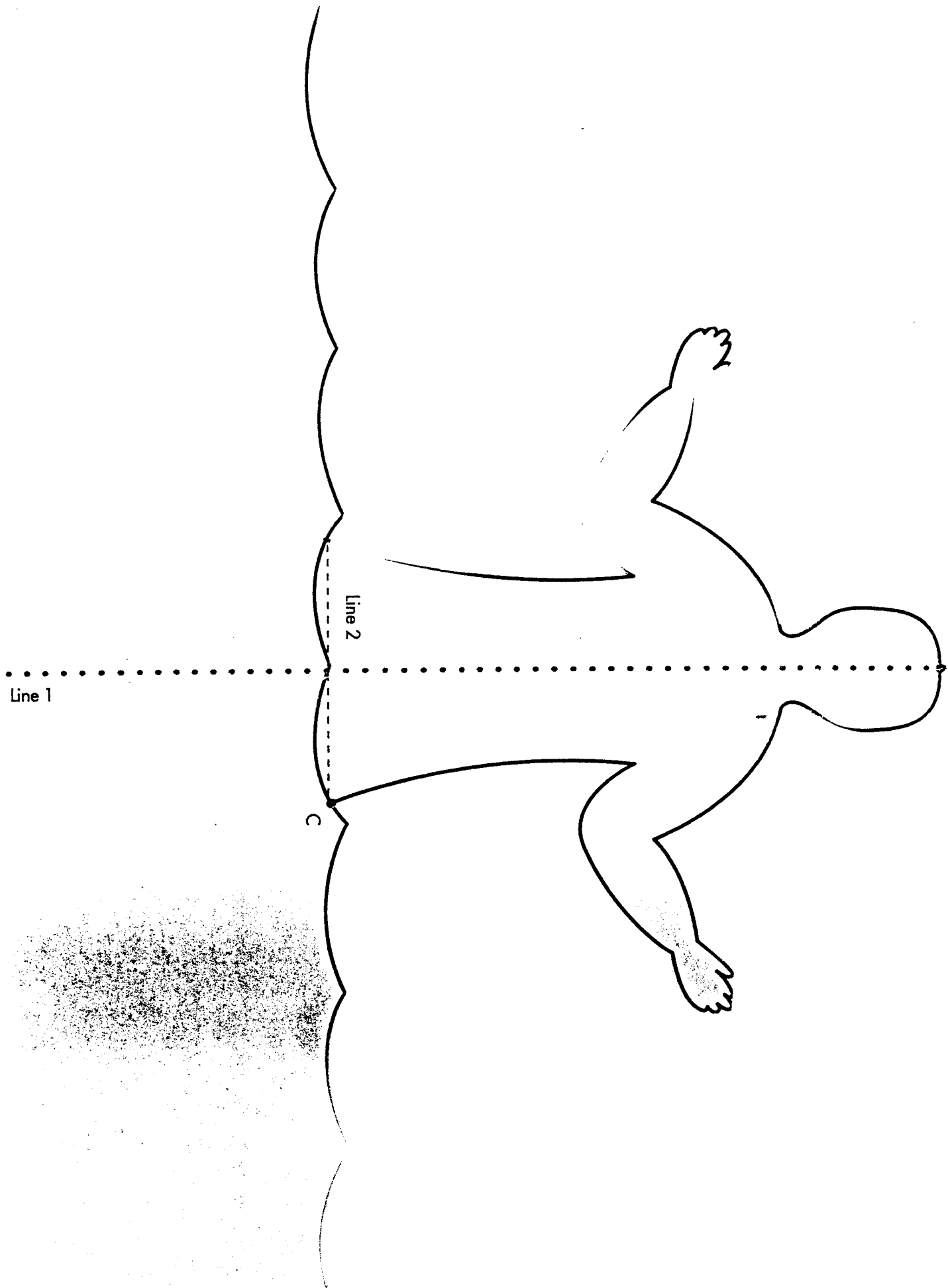
Jesus was baptized.

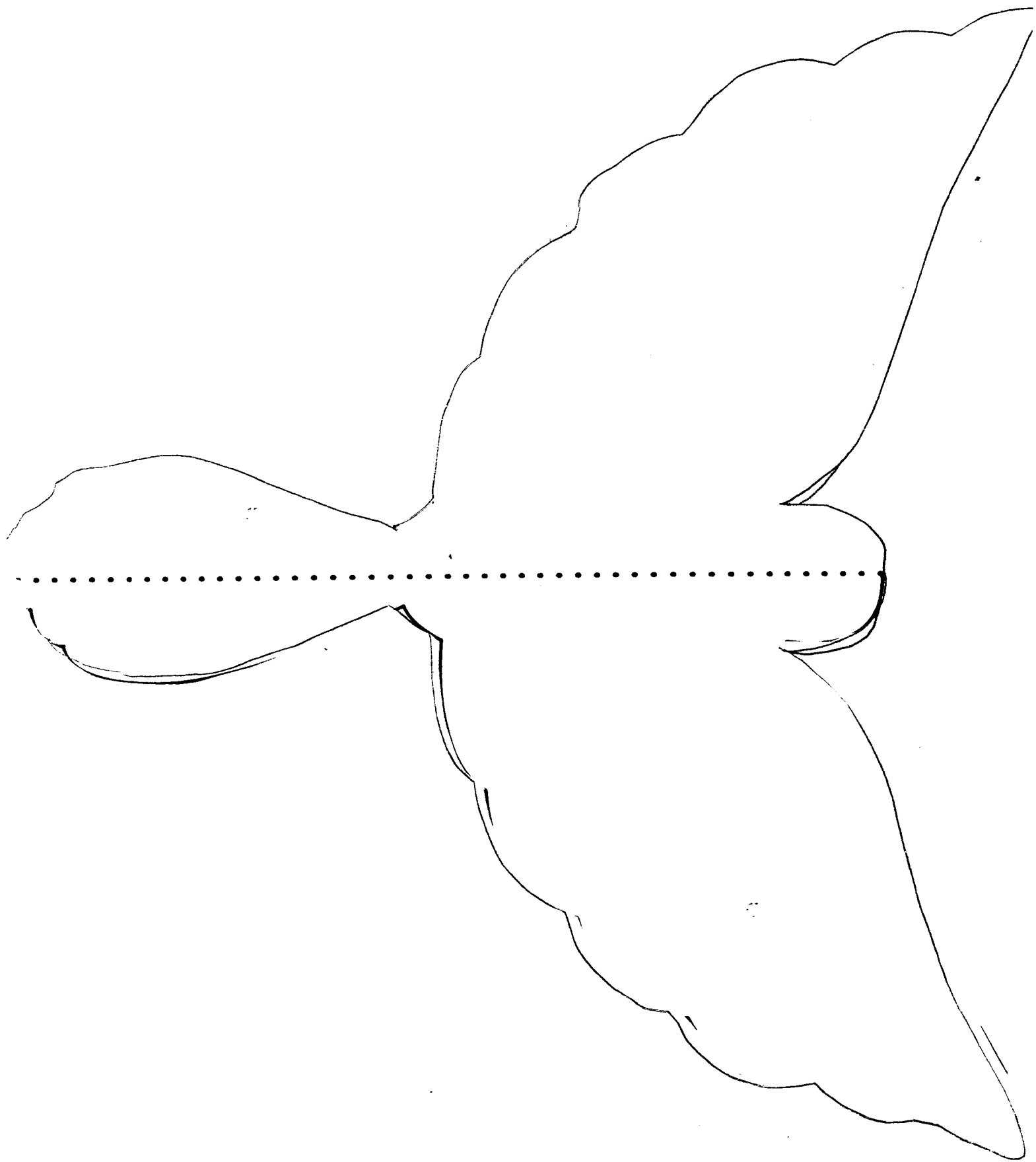


John did not want to baptize Jesus at first.



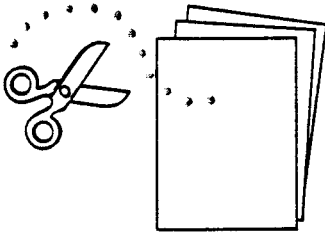
The Spirit of God came upon Jesus.





# JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS


## PREPARATION



Copy Figure 1 (John) onto blue paper. Copy Figure 2 (the dove) onto white paper. The patterns for this story are on pages 84 and 85.


## THE STORY

John the Baptist lived in the desert.

 *Fold Figure 1 in half on Line 1.*

What do you think it would be like to live in a desert? What would you eat if you lived in the desert? John ate locusts and wild honey. I would like wild honey, wouldn't you? But locusts are bugs—I'm not sure I'd like to eat bugs.




 *Cut from A to C, unfold the figure, and fold forward on Line 2.*

God called John to live in the desert and gave John a very special job to do. John's job was to help people learn about God and announce that Jesus was coming. An Old Testament prophet told about John hundreds of years before John was even born. The prophet said that there would be "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord.' "

So John began to preach, and believe it or not, people came out to the desert to hear him. "Repent!" he said. That means to be sorry for the wrong things you've done and to decide not to do them anymore. John also said, "The kingdom of heaven is near." John knew that God was about to do something very special on earth.




 *Refold Figure 1 on Line 1. Cut from B to C and unfold.*

Many people who believed John's message and really wanted to live for God went to the Jordan River where John baptized them. John gently dipped them into the river and then raised them back up again. By being baptized, people showed that they wanted to turn away from lives of sin and live lives that would please God.

"I baptize you with water," John said, "but someone is coming who is much more powerful than I am. The one who is coming after me is so great that I'm not even fit to tie his sandals! He will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Spirit."

Do you know who John was talking about? Jesus!


 *Fold Figure 2 on the center line and begin cutting the outline of the dove.*

Jesus was even more special than John, because Jesus was God's own Son. Jesus came to earth to be our Savior and take away the sins of the whole world. That's why John was so surprised when Jesus came and asked to be baptized.

John said, "You're the one who should baptize me!"

But Jesus understood that there was a special reason for him to be baptized. So John finally agreed, and he gently dipped Jesus into the water of the Jordan River.

When Jesus came up out of the water, something wonderful happened!

 *Open the dove, and pretend to "fly" it toward the children.*

Heaven opened, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son. I am very pleased with him."

After his baptism, Jesus was ready to begin preaching, teaching, and healing people. But John was put in prison, because the leaders of the country didn't want to repent of their sins and live for God. They didn't want to hear John's preaching, so they put him in prison to keep him quiet.

However, the people who had listened to John were ready to listen to Jesus and to accept Jesus as God's Son. John had done a wonderful job of getting people ready to hear Jesus' message.

*You may wish to use this opportunity to teach children your church's view of baptism. Simply say, "We still baptize people today." Then explain how your church practices baptism.*

*Teach children this song to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."*

Oh, John the Baptist told the people, "Repent—today."

He taught them to turn away from sin and live God's way.

He baptized the people and Jesus, too.

That's the job that God gave him to do.

Now we'll all follow God, and we'll do

What is right

From day 'til night.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

(repeat)

