

# The Baptism of Jesus

**Storyteller:** Once there was a man named John, who lived outside the city, in the wilderness. *Pick up the John the Baptist Doll.* God had sent John to help people get ready for Jesus. People travelled out to the wilderness to listen to John teach. He taught them that their wrong-doing, their sins, made them seem dirty to God. To come close to god, they needed to be sorry for doing wrong. *Put*

## Story Materials

- Jesus wire-armature doll
- St John the Baptist wire-armature doll
- Wooden River-of-Jordan waves cutout with stand

### Luke 3:15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*the river-water cut-out down in*

*front of you and hold the John doll behind it.* Then John would take them to the river Jordan and pour water over them to show that they were washed clean of their sins in God's eyes.

*Hold out the doll for the children to see.* John dressed in rough clothes: a tunic made of camel's hair with a leather belt. He ate food he could find in the wilderness: wild honey and locusts.

*Pick up the Jesus doll in your other hand, and hold it a little back from the John doll.* Most importantly John told the people that God would send someone else: someone so powerful and so important that John would not even be worthy to do up His sandals. John said "I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

*Hold the John doll down so he is "standing in" the water, and bring the Jesus doll forward to stand beside him.* Jesus came to John at the Jordon to be baptized by him. At first John said "No! You're more important than I am: you should baptize me!" But Jesus said, "This is what God wants me to do." So John baptized Jesus.

*Lay the John doll back in the basket and pick up the dove cutout.* When Jesus had been baptized, as he came up from the water, he saw the Spirit of God coming down to him like a dove. *Bring the dove cutout down slowly from as far up as you can reach, until it nearly touches the Jesus doll.* And a voice from heaven said "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."