

Matthew 3:13–17

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Adapted version

One day Jesus came to John to be baptised.

Jesus wanted to belong to God's family.

And when Jesus was baptised he felt God's love with him.

John 2:1–11

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Adapted version

There was a wedding in Cana, and Jesus's mum, Mary, was there. Jesus and his disciples (friends) had also been invited.

When the wine ran out, Mary said to Jesus, 'They have no wine.' Mary said to the waiters, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the top. He said to them, 'Now take some out, and give it to the chief waiter.' So they took it. When the waiter tasted the water that had turned into wine, he did not know where it came from.

Jesus did this, the first of his miracles, and his disciples saw the miracle and believed in him.

Mark 10:13–16

Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Adapted version

People were bringing little children to Jesus so that he might touch them and the disciples were cross with the people.

But when Jesus saw this, he said "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them."

And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them and blessed them.

Matthew 26:26–30

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Adapted version

While they were eating Jesus took some bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which was given up for you."

He then took the cup, gave thanks to God and said, "Take this and drink from it. This is my blood which was given up for you."

When the meal was ended they went up to the Mount of Olives.

PROPS: bread, wine, peg people.

Alternatively, children could act it out.

Luke 1:26–38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Adapted version

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town called Nazareth, to a woman engaged to a man named Joseph. The woman's name was Mary.

The angel said, 'Hello, chosen one! The Lord is with you.' But she was confused about why the angel had come. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has chosen you. And now, you will have a baby boy, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of God. He will spread the message of God (Good News).'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can I be having a baby?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will be with you. The child to be born will be holy.'

(And now, your cousin Elizabeth, who cannot have a baby will also have a baby boy.)

For nothing is impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, to serve God.'

Then the angel left her.

IDEAS FOR THE STORY: felt story, iPads, hands on materials, role play, toilet roll/peg people, playdough/clay, lego characters, puppets. Use your hand to indicate the Holy Spirit over Mary.

Luke 2:41–52

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Adapted version

Every year Jesus and his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival had finished, the travellers headed home. After a day's travel, Jesus' parents realised that he wasn't with them.

They looked for Jesus everywhere but they couldn't find him so they headed back to Jerusalem.

Three days later they found Jesus, in the Temple, sitting and listening to the teachers and asking them lots of questions. Everyone who listened to Jesus was amazed at how much he knew.

Jesus' parents told him that they had been worried about him and Jesus said, "Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house? This is God's house!"

IDEAS: peg people (Mary, Joseph, Jesus and travellers, teachers for the Temple), road to Jerusalem (road sign), 3D Temple made from blocks or a shoebox. In the role play corner – create a temple, dress up with robes.

Luke 5:1–11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Adapted version

Jesus was standing beside a lake and people were waiting to hear the Word of God. There were lots of people there so Jesus moved onto a boat so he was able to speak to the whole crowd.

When Jesus had finished talking to the people, he asked his friend Peter to take the boat out deep and let down the nets. Peter told him that they had been fishing all night but had caught nothing, but Peter did what Jesus had asked him.

When they pulled their nets in they had caught so many fish that their nets were full. Peter's friends James and John helped him with all of the fish they had caught. It was a miracle and Peter was amazed.

Jesus said to Peter and his friends, "Follow me." They left everything and followed Jesus

