

MATTERS OF FAITH LABORATORY

Golf Course Road Church of Christ Children's Ministry

Bible Background

Matthew 3:13-17

Focus

John Baptizes Jesus

Memory Verse

"A messenger is calling out, 'In the desert prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight road through it for our God.'"

-Isaiah 40:3

Materials Needed:

- bowl with water and dye and rubber gloves
- white cloth
- 3 beakers
- iodine
- spray starch
- water
- bleach
- liquid water colors
- paper towels and droppers



Lessons in this Rotation:

Sunday Morning:

- Museum of Biblical History:* John the Baptist Fulfills Prophecies
- How Great Thou Art Studio:* John the Baptist in the Desert
- Matters of Faith Lab:* John Baptizes Jesus
- Let there be Light Theatre:* John's Birth Story

Wednesday Night:

- Good News Game Room: Review of John the Baptist
- World Changers Central:* India and John's Persecution
- Heart and Soul:* Father, Son and Spirit
- Connect:* Doubt

Sunday Rotation Schedule:

DATE	MUSEUM	SCIENCE	ART	DRAMA
2/2/2020	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
2/9/2020	2nd	1st	4th	3rd
2/16/2020	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
2/23/2020	4th	3rd	2nd	1st

Introduction

Today we are going to be talking about water and it's importance. We are going to start by watching a video about how dirty water can be made clean and drinkable.

Play video from Khan Academy Flocculation: Making Clean Water (3rd and 4th grade)

Play video from YouTube Why Is Water Important for Our Bodies? by Alyse McDermott (1st and 2nd)

From the video we just watched we are reminded that water is very important to life. Did you know that a human being can survive three weeks without food but only about three days without water? God gave us water to give us life.

Another important way that water is used is for cleaning. Let's think back to the story of Noah. Water is an important element in that part of the Bible. How did God use water during the flood? **Allow for answers.** God sent the flood to cleanse the earth of sin. We use water to clean things like our bodies, pets, cars, dishes, clothes, etc.

Water is an important part of our story today. Let's read the Bible and find out more.

Story

Let's read Matthew 3:13-17. **Read these verses out loud or have a student read them.**

Have bowl of water with dye in it in front of you and the rubber gloves.

So Jesus has come to John the Baptist to be baptized by him. Can anyone tell me what baptism is? **Allow for answers.** The word that is used means to immerse or submerge in water. This word, baptize, was actually used by people in John the Baptist's day who worked with dying fabrics. A cloth would have been baptized or submerged in water that had dye mixed in, and when the cloth was removed from the water, it would look completely different. I have a bowl of water and I've already placed the dye in the bowl and mixed it. Let's see what happens when I take this white piece of fabric and place it in the dye. I will wear gloves so I can completely 'baptize' the piece of fabric. Do you think the cloth will look different when we take it out of the water? **Allow for answers.** This fabric can no longer be called white. It is now a totally different color.

John the Baptist was encouraging people to repent and turn from their sins. He would then baptize them and their sins would be forgiven. When Jesus came to be baptized by John what was John's response? **Allow for answers.** John said, "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you so why are you coming to me?" (Matthew 3:14, NLT) Did Jesus have sin that needed to be washed away? **Allow for answers.** Jesus had no sins to repent of but Jesus was baptized by John to show His obedience to His heavenly Father and to set an example for us.

Remember how we said earlier that water is used to give life and to clean? John's baptism brought cleansing or forgiveness of sins but it did not give life. Baptism into Jesus offers cleansing AND new life. Baptism has many meanings and much significance. It is a reenactment of the death of Jesus. Going under the water is like being buried and coming out of the water is like His resurrection. Like the baptism of cloth in a dye that changes it's color, we too are identified differently after baptism as a follower of Jesus. And

most importantly, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit that lives inside us and empowers us to live like Jesus did.

We are going to do an experiment to demonstrate the cleansing, life-giving power that comes to us when we believe in Jesus.

Experiment

Have 3 beakers, iodine, spray starch, water and bleach on table.

Set up: Fill the first beaker 1/3 with water and add enough iodine to just barely discolor the water – it should still look pretty clear. Fill the third beaker 1/3 with water and add about 1/4 cup of bleach. Spray the 2nd beaker lightly with spray starch.

Set the beakers on the table. Point to the first beaker. This is like you when you are born. You are clean before God. You have no sin in your life. But as we get older we begin to do things that are wrong and, more importantly, we know they are wrong. Sometimes we are unkind to our brothers and sisters. Sometimes we talk ugly to our parents. We become dirty before God. **Pour the contents of beaker 1 into beaker 2. The liquid should turn black.**

How can we have sin washed away from our life? **Allow for answers** By believing that Jesus, the Son of God, died and rose again from the dead and then being baptized, we are made clean again and given new life. **Pour the contents of beaker 2 into beaker 3.**

Thank you God for the cleansing you give us through the blood of your Son Jesus.

Craft



You will now get a chance to experiment with some water colors to create a unique project. Notice as you drop the water color onto the paper towel what happens to it. Does it stay in one place?

Allow for answers. No it tends to spread and combine with the colors next to it. Our lives are like these water colors. When Jesus lives inside of us we become world changers and everyone around us is affected.

Using liquid water colors, droppers and paper towels, allow the children to create abstract art in the remaining time.