



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, January 11, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings for January 11, 2026 – Third Sunday after Christmas or The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Is 42:1-9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-43; Mt 3:13-17; Third Preface of the Lord's Day

Sunday School Lesson Plan

January 11, 2026 – The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)

Bible Readings

- **Isaiah 42:1–9**
- **Psalm 29**
- **Acts 10:34–43**
- **Matthew 3:13–17**

Lesson Title / Theme

“Jesus Is God’s Beloved Son”

Big Idea

When Jesus was baptized, God told everyone how much He loves Jesus—and God loves us too.

Lesson Focus for Kids

Jesus shows us how to follow God. At His baptism, we learn that we are loved by God and part of God's family.

Scripture Readings – Kid-Friendly Language

Isaiah 42:1–9

God says, “Here is my servant. I delight in him. I have put my Spirit on him. He will bring light and hope to the world.”

Psalm 29

God's voice is powerful and loving. God's voice brings peace and blessing to His people.

Acts 10:34–43

Peter tells people that God loves everyone. Jesus went around doing good, helping others, and showing God's love.

Matthew 3:13–17

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. When He came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit came like a dove, and God said,

“This is my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him.”

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

- Welcome children and gather in a circle.
- Ask: *“Have you ever been near water like a river, lake, or bathtub?”*
- Explain that today's story is about **Jesus being baptized with water**.

Opening Prayer:

“Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for Jesus, who shows us your love. Help us listen and learn today. Amen.”



Memory Verse

“This is my Son, whom I love.” – Matthew 3:17

👉 Teach with motions:

- *This* (point)
 - *is my Son* (hug arms)
 - *whom I love* (hands on heart)
-



Bible Story Time

Tell the story with simple actions or pictures:

1. Jesus goes to the river where John is baptizing people.
2. John pours water over Jesus' head.
3. Jesus comes up out of the water.
4. The Holy Spirit appears like a dove.
5. God's voice says, “*This is my Son, whom I love.*”

Key message: God loves Jesus—and God loves us too.

Ask:

- “*What did God say about Jesus?*”
 - “*How do you know God loves you?*”
-



Craft / Activity

Craft: “Jesus’ Baptism Scene”

- Materials: paper, crayons/markers, cotton balls, blue paper, glue
 - Children draw Jesus in the river, add cotton for clouds, and a dove above Him.
 - Write at the bottom: “*Jesus is God’s beloved Son.*”
-

 **Game****Game: “Follow Jesus”**

- Leader does simple actions (walk, hop, wave).
 - Children copy the actions.
 - Explain: Jesus shows us how to follow God.
-

 **Song Suggestions**

- “Jesus Loves Me”
 - “This Little Light of Mine”
 - “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
 - “God Is So Good”
-

 **Snack Suggestions**

- Blue Jell-O cups (representing water)
 - Fish crackers
 - Apple slices
 - Water to drink (talk about baptism water)
-

 **Wrap-Up & Reflections**

Ask:

- *“Who did God say Jesus is?”*
- *“What happened at Jesus’ baptism?”*
- *“What does it mean that God loves us?”*

Reinforce: Every child is loved by God.

Closing Prayer

“Loving God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for loving us and calling us your children. Help us follow Jesus every day. Amen.”

Take-Home Idea

Send home:

- A **coloring page of Jesus' baptism**
 - Memory verse card
- Encourage families to talk about baptism and God's love at home.
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Teacher Notes

- Focus on **love and belonging**, not theology details.
- Emphasize reassurance: God's voice brings peace, not fear.
- If children ask about their own baptism, affirm that baptism means being welcomed into God's family.

Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord

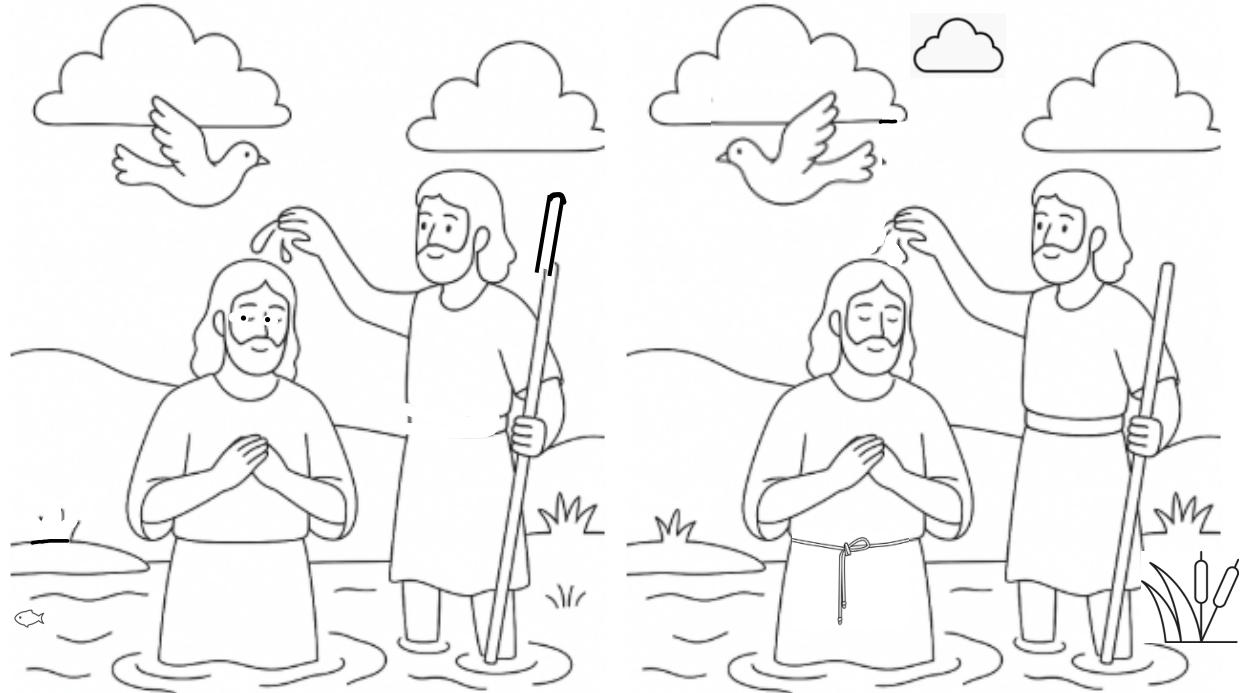


"This is my beloved Son."

Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord

Can you find 10 differences between the two pictures?

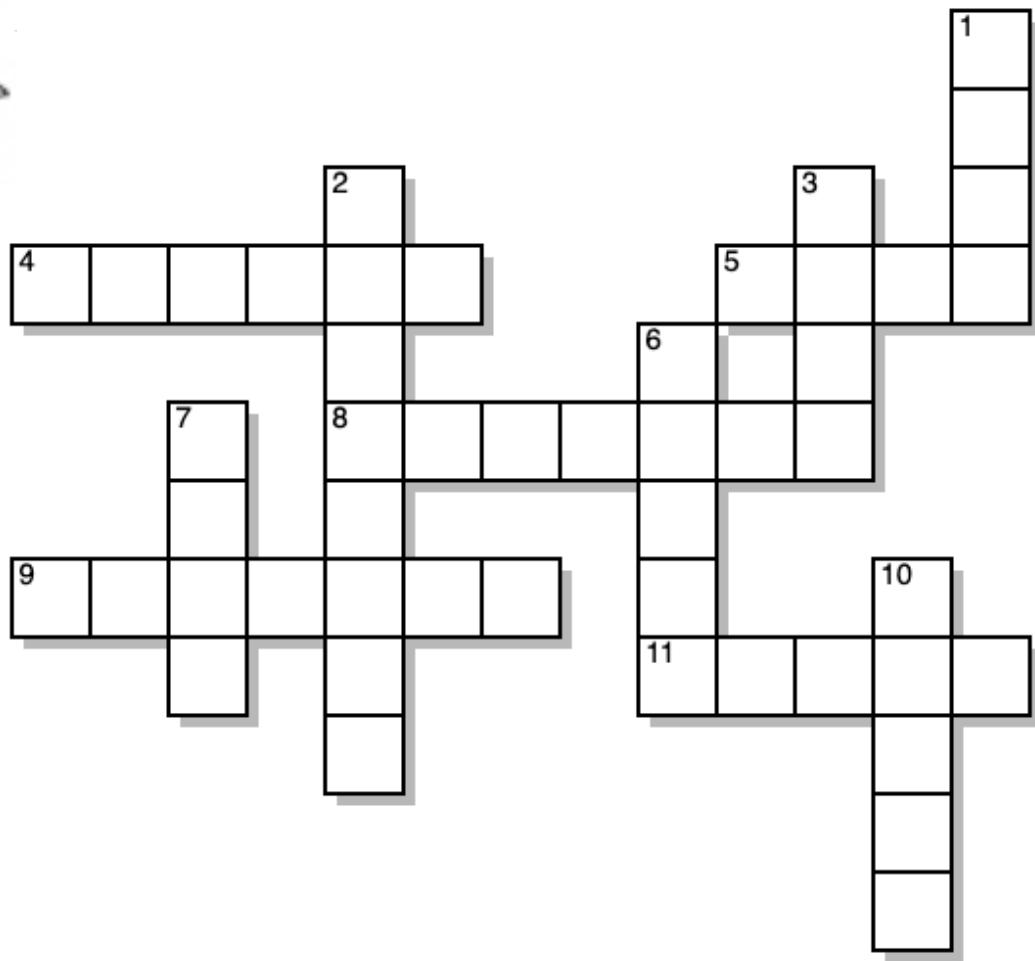


This is my Son, whom I love.

This is my Son, whom I love.

Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord



ACROSS

- 4 Kinsfolk
- 5 Squab
- 8 Maid
- 9 Christening
- 11 Stream

DOWN

- 1 Adore
- 2 Benediction
- 3 Baptistry
- 6 Aqua
- 7 Expect
- 10 God's son



Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord

R	N	M	D	L	Y	J	L	R	W	X	K
D	N	Y	S	B	W	A	T	E	R	T	X
T	R	M	B	I	F	Q	L	V	N	N	L
G	G	L	W	A	T	M	E	A	K	O	D
L	N	R	M	M	N	P	V	V	V	W	T
P	T	I	J	S	G	R	A	E	O	N	P
J	L	V	S	U	E	Q	V	B	O	D	R
Y	K	E	Z	S	H	L	K	F	B	W	D
Y	B	R	J	E	E	O	M	D	L	Y	G
Q	Y	Q	R	J	J	L	P	T	N	B	J
G	Y	T	Q	X	R	T	B	E	B	Q	Y

Baptism
Jesus
Love
Family
Servant

Hope
Blessing
Water
River
Font
Dove



Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

25	19	10		11	20	17	19		22	17	12	13	12													
20	25	10		23	17	17	19																			
23	25	15	6	9	18	17	10	,	22	13	12	6														
25	12		20	17		26	25	4	17		13	15														
21	8	24	4		6	20	17		11	25	6	17														
12	13	10	10	17	19	7	2		6	20	17															
20	17	25	5	17	19	12		11	17	8	17															
24	15	17	19	17	10		6	24		20	9	4														
25	19	10		20	17		12	25	11		1	24	10													
12		12	15	9	8	9	6																			
10	17	12	26	17	19	10	9	19	1																	
7	9	3	17		25		10	24	5	17																
25	19	10		25	7	9	1	20	6	9	19	1														
24	19		20	9	4																					



Jesus is God's Beloved Son

The Baptism of the Lord

Epiphany is a word that describes a profound insight. It is a moment when something complex becomes clear, often leading to a deeper understanding or breakthrough. In the church it refers to the Christian feast celebrating the truth of Jesus to all of us.

Fill in the blanks of the story with the words in the box.

Words to Use				
Baptist	baptize	dove	Jesus	Jordan
love	loves	loving	pleased	sky
Son	Spirit	water		

Jesus Is Baptized

_____ went to the river _____. John the _____ was there. John said, "Jesus, you are very special."

Jesus said, "It is time. Please _____ me."

John gently poured _____ on Jesus.

When Jesus came out of the water, the _____ opened. God's _____ came down like a _____.

A _____ voice said, "This is my _____. I _____ him."

Jesus knew God was _____ with him.

And God _____ us too.



Spot the Difference - Key:

1. Dove flying in opposite direction.
2. Water above Jesus' head.
3. Grass leaves missing on left.
4. Jesus' eyes.
5. Fish in water.
6. Bullrushes in the water.
7. Length of John the Baptist's staff.
8. John the Baptist's belt.
9. Jesus' belt.
10. An extra cloud.

Crossword – Key:

Across	Down
4. Family	1. Love
5. Dove	2. Blessing
8. Servant	3. Font
9. Baptism	6. Water
11. River	7. Hope
	10. Jesus

Cryptogram – Key:

Matthew 3:16

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Fill in the blank – Key:

Jesus Is Baptized

Jesus went to the river Jordan. John the Baptist was there. John said, "Jesus, you are very special."

Jesus said, "It is time. Please baptize me."

John gently poured water on Jesus.

When Jesus came out of the water, the sky opened. God's Spirit came down like a dove.

A loving voice said, "**This is my Son. I love him.**"

Jesus knew God was pleased with him.

And God loves us too.