Preschool–Grade 5

Jesus Baptism Craft

The hanging dove with a fan wing · Matthew 3:13–17 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



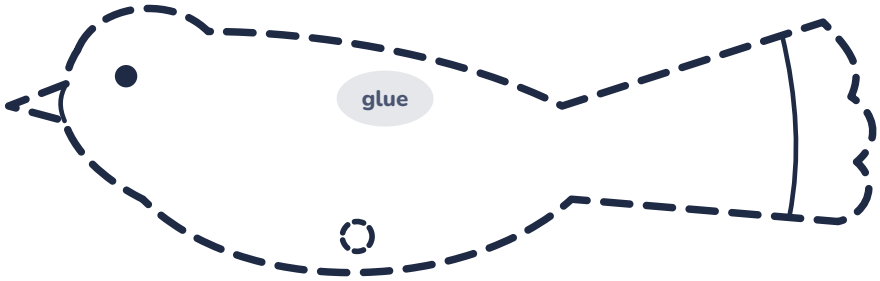
Harder

Both levels are a white paper dove with an orange beak and a folded fan wing that opens above its back, because when Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit of God came down "like a dove" (Matthew 3:16). Medium (left): the dove hangs on a piece of yarn tied through the top of its wing. Harder (right): the Jordan River from page 3 hangs below the dove on a short piece of yarn.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



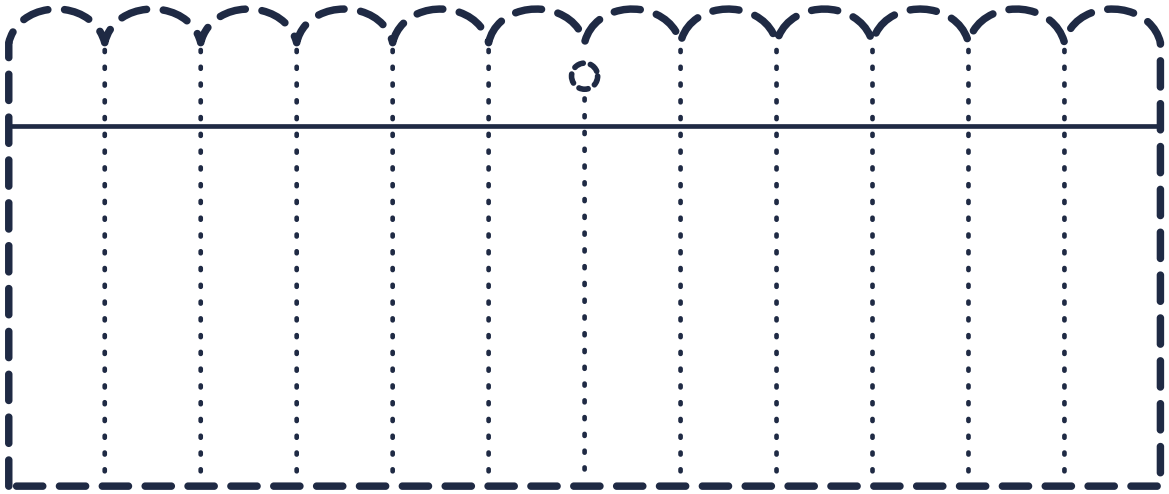
And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17 (KJV)

Dove: leave it white

beak: orange · tail tips: light gray · small belly hole: harder level only

Verse card: glue on back



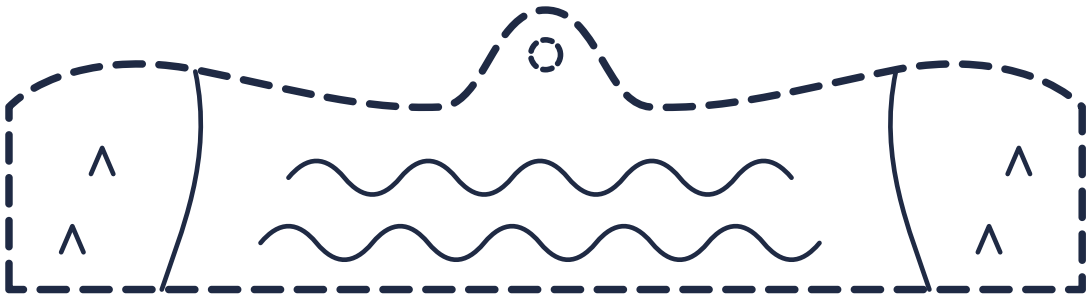
Fan wing: color the feather tips above the line light gray

Poke the hole first. Fold back and forth on every dotted line. Pinch the bottom end.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

River and back card (harder level)



Jordan River: water blue, riverbanks green

Cut out the river. A grown-up pokes the small hole at the top.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water

Matthew 3:16 (KJV)

Back card: glue it on the back of the river.

How to add the river

1. Make the dove from page 2 first: color it, cut it out, add the fan wing and glue the verse card on the back. A grown-up pokes the small hole in the dove's belly.
2. Color the water blue and the two riverbanks green. Cut out the river and the back card on the dashed lines. A grown-up pokes the small hole at the top of the river.
3. Glue the back card on the back of the river.
4. Tie one end of a 6-inch piece of yarn through the hole in the dove's belly and the other end through the hole at the top of the river, so the river hangs below the dove.
5. Hang it up by the yarn in the wing. Read the back of the river: Jesus came up out of the water, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove (Matthew 3:16). Then say Matthew 3:17 from memory.

VBSHQ

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/baptism-of-jesus-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest for the dove), orange and light gray crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, clear tape, a sharp pencil for poking holes, and 12 inches of yarn per child. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, blue and green crayons, and 6 more inches of yarn per child.
Before class: cut the yarn. Poke the holes for the younger kids: the small hole near the top of each wing paper (and, for the harder level, the hole in the dove's belly and at the top of the river). For preschoolers, also cut out every piece and fold each wing paper into a fan.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's dove, wing paper and verse card, poke the hole and fold the wing into a fan. Kids color the beak and the feather tips. You help them glue and tape the fan wing on the glue spot, glue the verse card on the back and tie the yarn. Read the verse together, or just "This is my beloved Son."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, fold the fan wing, glue it on the dove and glue the verse card on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the dove like the medium level, then add the Jordan River from page 3, hanging on a short piece of yarn below the dove, with the Matthew 3:16 card on its back. Kids say Matthew 3:17 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** leave the dove white. Color its beak orange and its tail tips light gray. On the wing paper, color the feather tips above the line light gray.
2. **Cut:** cut out the dove, the wing paper and the verse card on the dashed lines. A grown-up pokes the small hole near the top of the wing paper with a sharp pencil.
3. **Fold:** fold the wing paper back and forth on every dotted line, like a fan. Pinch the bottom end together and wrap a small piece of tape around it.
4. **Wings:** glue the pinched end on the gray glue spot on the dove's back and tape it down. Open the top out into a wide fan above the dove's back.
5. **Verse:** turn the dove over and glue the verse card on the back. Read it together: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).
6. **Hang it up:** tie the yarn through the hole at the top of the wing and hang up your dove. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit of God came down "like a dove" (Matthew 3:16).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did John baptize Jesus? *(In the Jordan River, Matthew 3:13)* What did John say when Jesus came? *(I have need to be baptized of thee, 3:14)*
- Jesus never sinned (1 Peter 2:22). Why was He baptized? *(He said it was right "to fulfil all righteousness," 3:15)*
- Point to the dove. What came down like a dove when Jesus came up out of the water? *(The Spirit of God, 3:16)* What did the voice from heaven say? *(This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, 3:17)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** baptized = put under the water; lo = look; straightway = right away; beloved = loved very much; well pleased = very happy with; fulfil all righteousness = do everything that is right in God's eyes.
- **What the Bible says:** Matthew 3:16 says the Spirit of God came down "like a dove," and Luke 3:22 says "in a bodily shape like a dove," so the craft is a dove. The Bible doesn't give its color, so the dove stays the white of the paper. The craft shows no people, and it does not show the heavens or the voice.
- **If a child asks about the dove:** God had told John to watch for the Spirit coming down and staying on someone, and that would be the One (John 1:33). The dove was that sign, so John could tell everyone, "this is the Son of God" (John 1:34). There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything before class and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished dove so they can see the goal.
- **The fan wing:** fold it like a paper fan: fold the first dotted line toward you, turn the paper over, fold the next one toward you, and so on. Poke the hole before folding. Clear tape around the pinched end holds the fan together and on the dove better than glue alone.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Baptism of Jesus Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/baptism-of-jesus.

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