



## BACKGROUND

In the Gospel of Mark (1:9-11), we read about the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This moment is important because it shows us how Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and publicly affirmed as the Son of God. It marked the beginning of His mission on earth to teach, heal, and bring God's love to the world. This connects beautifully to the Sacrament of Confirmation. In Confirmation, we too are sealed with the Holy Spirit in a special way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Confirmation "roots us more deeply in the divine filiation" that means we are grounded in the assurance that we are truly God's beloved children and it "gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith" (CCC 1303). Just as Jesus was empowered by the Spirit at His baptism, we are strengthened by the Spirit in Confirmation to live out our faith with courage, love, and joy. So when we hear the story of Jesus' baptism, we remember that God also says to each of us: "You are my beloved child. I am with you."

## INTRODUCTION

In the scripture, we read about how Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan. Standing in the midst of the water, Jesus would have felt the rocky river bed beneath his feet. He would have felt the water rush over his body and heard the voice of God saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This is the message that God speaks to us too! This activity provides children with an opportunity to reflect on this beautiful message in an ongoing way.

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS - MARK 1:9-11

*About that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove.*

*A voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you."*

*Read this aloud before a craft, then ask the participants to reflect on these questions:*

- *What would Jesus have felt?*
- *What would Jesus have seen?*
- *What would Jesus have heard?*

*When we are baptised, God has the very same message for us! We are his precious children!*





# THE BAPTISM OF JESUS - RIVER ROCKS

Invite the children to consider this message in their own words. then provide a variety of river rocks for them to write it down, to place it somewhere special and remember it each day.

## RIVER ROCKS

### YOU WILL NEED:

- A variety of river rocks
- Permanent Markers

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Children choose a river rock, or two, depending on the numbers in your group, and write on their rock 'I am loved', 'I am God's son/daughter', 'He is pleased with me'. Or, they may add their own message from this particular verse about Jesus baptism.
2. Rocks can also be used to write the Gifts of the Spirit on them for children to take home and add to their prayer space or another special place at home.

