



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

This activity involves creating a ‘echo mime’ which is a creative storytelling method that uses drama and movement to help children reflect on the story of Jesus’ Baptism. Begin this activity by reading the scripture with the children.

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.”





THE BAPTISM OF JESUS - MARK 1:9-11 ECHO MIME SCRIPT

*An echo mime is a simple device for assisting people to understand and recall a bible story.
The leader voices the statement and performs the accompanying actions.
Both statement and action are repeated or echoed by the rest of the group*

Leader:

Action:

A story from the Bible

Hands open as in reading a book

When Jesus was grown up

Move hands up to head height

He left home in Nazareth

Wave goodbye

And went to the River Jordan

Walk on the spot

He Saw John the Baptist

Place right hand over eyes

And waded into the river

Wading action

When he came up

Bend knees, looking up, use hands to show, coming up

Out of the water

Jump up, arms raised together

He saw...

Look upwards, right hand over eyes

The heavens torn apart

Raise arms above head, moving them apart

And the Holy Spirit

Intertwine hands at wrists

Descending on Him

Move hands from head, moving them apart

A voice from heaven spoke

Look around, hands to ears, listening

'You are my beloved Son

Cross hands in front of chest, bow head

With you I am well pleased.'

Smile and not pointing to self

The end of the story

Bring hands together as though closing a book



*For an example of
this Echo Mime scan
the QR code*