

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 3:13-17

ART ACTIVITY



The Baptism of Jesus
James Tissot, 1886-94
Opaque watercolor over graphite
on gray paper

Materials Needed:

Bogus Paper or Light Gray/Brown Construction paper
White Oil pastels
Watercolor palettes
Paintbrushes

Art History Note

When James Tissot painted *The Life of Christ*, he was interested in the many ways that the Old Testament and the New Testament were linked. To visually show these connections, Tissot placed twelve large stones in his images of the Jordan River. These large stones were meant to remind the viewer of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River into the promised land.

Observation

Present the picture to the children. Tell them who created the artwork and what year it was made. Take as much time as needed to really look at the picture and take in every detail.

Narration

Put the picture away. From memory, have the children retell the story in the picture and describe the details of the artwork. These details may include: setting of the painting, mood, time of day, colors, action, people, animals, etc.

Re-creation

After remembering the details of the original artwork, allow the children to look again at the picture. Then put it away again. On the bogus paper have the children draw the scene in white pastel. They can try to copy the original or create their own rendition. The white oil pastels will create a resist for the water color paint. When the children have finished their drawings, have them watercolor the rest of the image.

I WONDER:

- I wonder what the temperature of the Jordan River was like?
- I wonder if John was nervous baptizing Jesus?
- I wonder why a voice came from heaven at Jesus' baptism?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus? What changed his mind?
- We talked about the symbolism of our sins being washed away. What other symbolism does baptism have? (Leader's Note: For older children, consider having them turn to different passages about baptism. New birth – John 3:3-5; Death and resurrection – Rom. 6:3-4; Entering the family of God – Gal. 3:26-27).
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that it was necessary for him to be baptized to "fulfill all righteousness"?
- What are some ways that you can remind yourself of your baptism?