

Prayers for the Baptism of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Matthew 3:13–17 (The Baptism of Jesus)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: When Jesus was baptized, something very special happened. The Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus, and God the Father said that he was very pleased with his Son, Jesus.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.

Leader: When we were baptized, we became children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Holy Spirit came to live in us. Let us respond in prayer with thanks to God our Father, to Jesus our Lord and Brother, and to the Holy Spirit:

God our Father, thank you for making us your children in Baptism, and making us brothers and sisters of Jesus. Help us to please you in all that we do.

All: Thank you, God our Father.

Leader: Jesus our Lord and Brother, thank you for coming to live among us as God and man. Help us to love one another as you have commanded.

All: Thank you, Jesus, our Lord and Brother.

Leader: Holy Spirit of God, thank you for coming to live in us through Baptism and again, in a stronger way, in Confirmation. Be with us to lead us and guide us in right paths.

All: Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Today we learned to pray with Jesus in the desert. Sometimes we can pray better when all is quiet and still. Let us be quiet and still for a moment, and pray to Jesus in our hearts.

Allow a few moments for the group to sit in stillness.

Leader: When Jesus was baptized, God our Father said that he was pleased. When God sees that we try to be the best we can be, to do good, and to care for others, he is pleased with us too. Let us stay quiet and listen as I go to each of you. Everyone should say “Amen” after I say the prayer each time.

Go to each student, put one hand on the student’s head, and say, “This is (name), with whom God our Father is pleased.” All respond each time: “Amen.”



Ritual Guide

Opening Prayer

Preparation

Choose a reader to read the passage from the Gospel of Matthew.

Optional: Choose an appropriate song to begin and end the prayer.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Distribute the prayer handouts. Briefly rehearse the prayer responses, noting that each one is different because each is directed to a different member of the Holy Trinity.

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated.

Introduce the reading with the words given, or in your own words.

An activity for the Baptism of Jesus can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.

Closing Prayer

This prayer continues in the spirit of the activity offered for the Baptism of Jesus. However, if you did not offer this activity, you can adapt the introduction to summarize the main points of the lesson.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner and ask them to sit down. Explain that this closing prayer is a time of quiet prayer and will end with a blessing prayer.

Pray

Follow the directions for the leader given on the prayer handouts.

Optional: End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

