

## Game: Yes / No Game

Ask someone in your house some simple questions which they need to answer, without saying 'yes' or 'no.' You can't shake or nod your head either. In today's story Jesus was saying a big 'Yes' to what God had asked Him to do.

**Video:** Jesus' Baptism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAMwA>

## Story: Jesus' Baptism

Today's story begins with when Jesus was grown up and about 30 years old He went for a walk through the countryside to the River Jordan. When Jesus arrived at the river there were lots of people there. In the middle of the river there was a man who was telling all the people standing or sitting on the river bank that they needed to say sorry for all the ways they had lived that they knew were not the best. They needed to say sorry to God and put things right. Some of them had told lies, some of them had taken things that didn't belong to them and some of them had hurt other people. One by one the people came into the river and stood next to John. They said sorry for all the wrong things they had done. Then John helped them go under the water so that they got wet all over - this was a way of showing that all the bad things were being washed away. When the people came out of the river they knew that God had forgiven them and they could make a new start.

Jesus watched John baptising people for a while and then He walked out into the river to stand next to John. John was really surprised. He knew that Jesus had never done anything wrong. John told Jesus that he couldn't possibly baptise Him. "You haven't done anything wrong" He said. "It's me that needs to be sorry. You should be baptising me." But Jesus just smiled and said "Father God wants you to baptise me".

So John helped Jesus go under the water and when Jesus stood up again to their amazement they saw a dove above Jesus' head and heard God's voice saying "You are my Son who I love very much, and I am really pleased with you" (Luke 3:22) God was saying well done to Jesus because Jesus had done exactly what He wanted Him to do. When people say well done to us we feel happy. When Jesus heard God saying well done He must have felt very happy.

Jesus came to make it possible for us to be reunited with God. But we have to decide whether or not we will choose to say yes to God and to follow Him.

**Craft: Dove** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLrpWfBU2qA>

Often doves are used as a symbol for peace or love and appear several times in the Bible. A dove appeared quite significantly in today's story above.

## Activity: We're going on a dove hunt

In today's story the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. We challenge you this week ahead to go on a 'Dove Hunt.' See if you notice any real doves this week, perhaps, or do they spot any places where a dove symbol is used, perhaps to represent peace? Perhaps on a sign, or a decoration somewhere? Every time you notice a dove, you can use it as a reminder of today's story and some of the things they have discovered about what Jesus has done for us, and how the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.

## Prayer:

Today we have explored the story of Jesus' baptism and how, him saying yes to God made it possible for us to be reunited with God, made clean from our sin. Put out a bowl of water and say this "Thank you God that you love Jesus so very much. Thank you that you love me. Amen" as you wash your hands in the water, symbolising the being made clean and thanking Jesus for what He has done for you.