

THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

According to the Book of Mark

Prepare: Place the candle and the cross on top of the green felt... Remember that green represents the “green and growing season” we are in.

Light the candle (representing Jesus, the light of the world)

Open in prayer:

*Jesus, we love to hear Your Word
So we can continue to grow
and learn how to be more like You in all we do and say.
Be with us today as we wonder about this story of Your life here on earth...
Amen.*

Mark 1: 4-11

The Baptism of Jesus

Cast: An adult as the Narrator (green)
Jesus (acting part only, no reading)
An adult who asks the wondering questions (blue)

Narrator: What do we remember about Christmas?

Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a baby to the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. There were the shepherds who heard the angels singing while they watched their sheep by night. There were the wise men who followed the star to the stable where Jesus was born. There was the cow whose feeding tub (the manger) now had a baby resting inside. There was the donkey who carried the pregnant Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. And, perhaps, there was a little boy or girl about your age, standing there in wonder and awe...

Jesus, his mother Mary, and his earthly-father Joseph, left Bethlehem and returned to their home in Nazareth.

Jesus grew from a baby...

Jesus curls up as a ball on the floor...

to a boy

Jesus sits on his/her knees

To a teenager

Stands on his/her knees

To a man...

Stands up to full height

As Jesus grew, he increased in “wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

When Jesus became a man, he left his home in Nazareth and traveled to where his cousin, John the Baptist, was baptizing people in a River named the Jordan.

Jesus walks across the room, kneels down and bows his/her head as if waiting as if being baptized...

Narrator: As soon as Jesus was baptized, IMMEDIATELY the heavens parted and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove

Jesus suddenly (immediately) jumps up with arms stretched out wide as if receiving a blessing from above...

A voice boomed from heaven saying:

“You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”

Everyone in the room returns to their seat. Take a moment of quiet before offering the wondering questions.

Wondering Questions:

1. I wonder what it means to increase in wisdom and stature?

Stature... to grow... from a baby to a child... from a child to a teenager... from a teenager to a man...

2. I wonder what it means to increase in favor before God and men?

Favor... to delight in...

3. I wonder how you, too, increase in wisdom... in stature... in favor before God and men...? I wonder what some examples might be... Do you help with chores? Do you do your homework on your own? Does your understanding keep increasing? Do you keep growing?

4. I wonder how Jesus felt at his baptism?

5. I wonder how this is like your baptism too?