

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**Jesus' Baptism**  
from Matthew 3:13-17.

### **Baptism signals that we are God's children.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Baptize
- Jordan
- Jesus
- John
- Dove
- Beloved

When Jesus was baptized by John, a voice from heaven said it was "well pleased" with Jesus.

### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 242-245

*Spark NRSV Bible* page 1060

### **Family Prayer**

Dear God, we thank you for all the ways you show your love for us. Thank you for the gift of water at our baptisms. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1 How do we baptize members of our church?
- 2 What are some symbols of your membership in different groups (family, choir, soccer)?
- 3 Share your memories of the baptisms of family members.
- 4 Re-enact your baptisms by placing a bit of water on each other's heads and saying, "(Name), child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." As you feel the drops of water, remember you are God's child.



### **Eye Spark**

This week, watch for the signs people use to show that they belong to different groups. Let those signs remind you that you belong to God.



### **Ear Spark**

When baptizing, the pastor says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Other groups use ritual words also. What other ritual words can you hear this week? When you hear them, remember the words used at your baptism.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Baptism is a joyful but serious ritual. Make up a funny family ritual to signal belonging and act it out together.

### **For younger kids**

When you are taking your bath, gather some water in your hands or in a cup and pour it over your head. Remember the Holy Spirit.

### **For older kids**

Ask your church teachers, parents and/or pastors about different choices that church communities have made about when and how to baptize. What are the reasons for the different choices?

