

JESUS BAPTIZED BY THE DESERT PREACHER

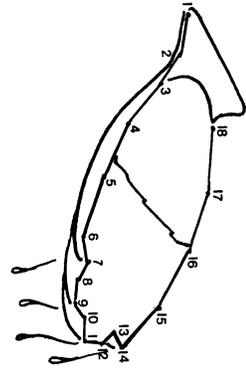
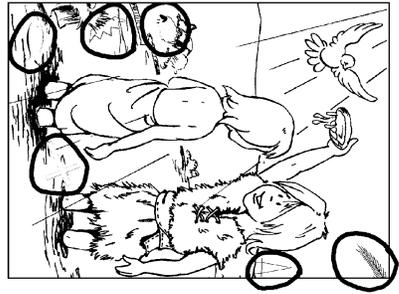
[The Jordan River] — Jesus, the young man who has been growing up in Nazareth for the past thirty years, appeared suddenly at the Jordan River, far south of his hometown. He had come to see the desert preacher, John the Baptizer. John was preaching to the curious crowds, telling them they should let God clean them up and wash their sins away.

When Jesus came down to the river where John was washing the people he had preached to, John looked at him in surprise. "You don't need to be baptized," he said. "You have nothing to be sorry for. If anybody needs to be baptized, I'm the one."

But Jesus said, "Baptize me, John. God wants me to be baptized." John decided not to argue with Jesus. After he had washed him with water from the River Jordan, John saw Jesus look up into heaven. Something like a dove came down and a voice said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him." It sounded like the voice came out of heaven.

Matthew 3:13-17

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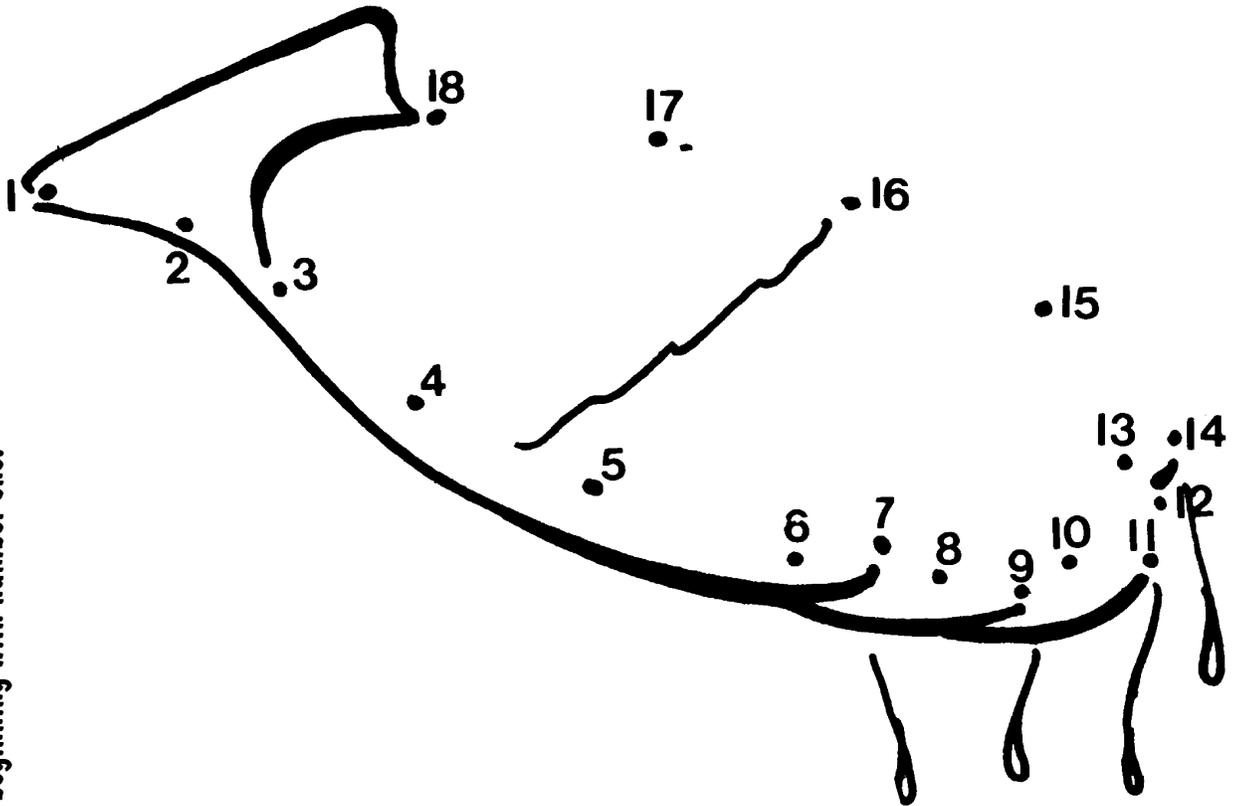
ANSWERS

Gospel Grams

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



Draw A Picture. Today's Gospel story tells about John baptizing (washing) people in a river. Here is an unfinished picture of something John could have used to pour water on the people he was washing. To complete the picture, connect all the numbers, beginning with number one.



Hidden Objects. There are 6 objects hidden in the picture below of John baptizing Jesus. Can you find them? Cross, Crown, Fish, Palm Branch, Church Steeple, and Sheep? Draw a circle around each one as you find it.

