

# Sunday School To Go

6-Week Curriculum for Lent - all ages

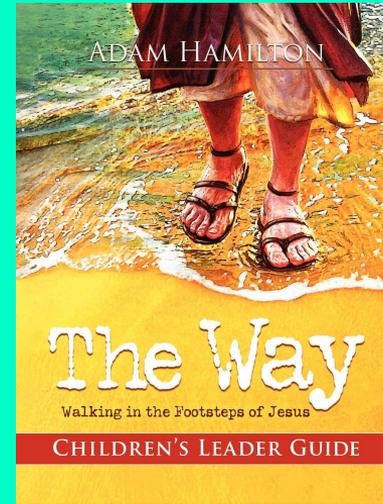
“The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus”  
Week 1  
Jesus is Baptized



February 21, 2021

For the season of Lent, we will be using a curriculum written by Adam Hamilton called *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. The lessons will come directly from his book. They will be slightly adjusted to make sense for Sunday School at home versus a group setting.

These lessons are built to help us learn and grow from Jesus and how he lived his life and how he wants us to live ours.



**The Way  
Walking in the Footsteps of  
Jesus**

**By: Adam Hamilton**  
Children's Leader Guide  
**By: Sally Hoelscher**

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# WHAT IS LENT?

Now, a quick note about **Lent**. What is **Lent**? **Lent** is the time leading up to Easter that many Christians use to pray, reflect and focus on Jesus as we prepare for when Jesus died and was resurrected. **Lent** lasts 40 days to symbolize the time Jesus spent wandering the wilderness. Often people may “give up” something that they like (such as sweets) or bad habits. They want to remove things that are keeping them from being closer to Jesus. Another way is to actually “take on” something that helps others, just as Jesus did during his lifetime. This is the approach we will be celebrating!



# Weekly Lesson



## **Bible Story:**

Jesus' Baptism Mark 1:9-11

## **Bible Verse:**

"You are my Son, whom I dearly love, in you I find happiness."

(Mark 1:11 CEB)

# Service Project Kick-Off!



**Let's spread some  
kindness!**

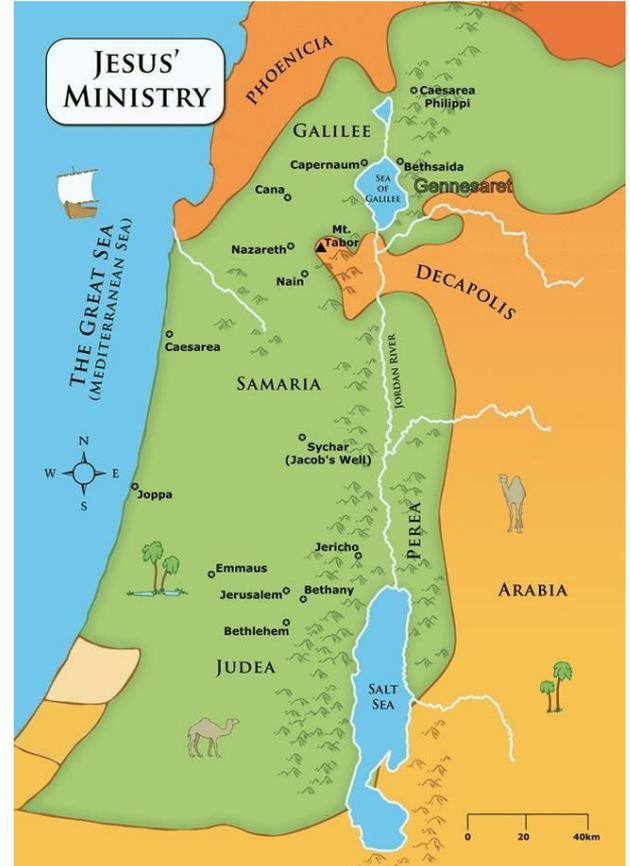
Hamilton says, "An important part of following Jesus is being the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world." Let's learn how we can do that together!

The service project that we will participate in is Random Acts of Kindness! A list of ideas is attached to this lesson. In addition, you can find small things like rocks, stones, wooden tokens in the shape of a heart, etc. You can decorate these any way you choose, coloring, painting, glueing sparkly things, etc. Now give them to people who could use a little pick-me-up! Just a little token to bring a smile to someone's face. The tokens can also be left somewhere to be found by just the right person at just the right time. Someone who may have really needed to find a beautiful heart to help lift up their spirits!

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# Traveling to the Jordan River

This is a map of the area where Jesus lived and taught. Today we are going to hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Jesus grew up in Nazareth (find Nazareth on the map). Jesus traveled to the Jordan River to be baptized (find the Jordan River on the map). During the time when Jesus lived, there were no cars or even bicycles. When people needed to go from one place to another, they walked. Walking is a lot slower than traveling by car. It probably took Jesus about 7 days to travel from Nazareth to the place he was baptized.





# Jesus is Baptized

All of the stories leading up to Easter will be about Jesus. Do you know if the stories about Jesus are in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (The New Testament!) Stories of Jesus' life and ministry are found in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We call these four books the Gospels. Today's story comes from the Gospel of Mark.

Before Jesus began his ministry, a man called John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing people. John told people they should be baptized to show they were changing their lives and living like God wanted them to. Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize him.

**READ THE STORY:** "About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.' (Mark 1:9-11 CEB)

Just as God claimed Jesus as God's son when Jesus was baptized, God also claims each one of us as God's child. This means God loves us no matter what.



# Following Jesus

We have said that each one of us is loved by God just like Jesus was. It's a good feeling to know there's nothing we can do or say to make God stop loving us.

If God loves us no matter what we do, does that mean it's okay to do whatever we want? Why not? We thank God for loving us by living as God wants us to live.)

Because God loves us, God wants the best for us. Because we are God's children, we try to live like God wants us to live and share God's love with other people.

Baptism is a reminder that, like Jesus, we are claimed as God's children and God loves us. Some of us may have been baptized as babies, some people get baptized when they get older and some of us may not have been baptized yet. Whether or not you have been baptized, remember that we are ALL God's children. We have already been claimed by God as God's child. Baptism is a symbol that we recognize God's claim on us.

As a way to remember that we were baptized or may be baptized some day, if you'd like to, get a small bowl of water and dip one finger in it. Then draw a cross either on your forehead or the back of your other hand and say, "I belong to God."

*Pray: Loving God, we thank you for choosing us to be your children. Thank you for the reassurance that there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Helps us remember to show your love to other people, that they may also have a relationship with you. Amen.*



# Kindness list



**From the Lesson:** Hamilton says, “An important part of following Jesus is being the hands and feet of Jesus in today’s world.” Let’s learn how we can do that together!

The service project that we will participate in is Random Acts of Kindness! A list of ideas is attached to this lesson. In addition you will find some wooden hearts. You can decorate them any way you choose, coloring, painting, glueing sparkly things, etc. Now give them to people who could use a little pick-me-up! Just a little token to bring a smile to someone's face. The hearts can also be left somewhere to be found by just the right person at just the right time. Someone who may have really needed to find a beautiful heart to help lift up their spirits!

- ★ Donate food to the local food pantry
- ★ Make bird feeders and hang the outside. Be “stewards of the earth” as God wants us to be!
- ★ Donate items you no longer need or use
- ★ Make and send cards to family that live farther away
- ★ Thank people
- ★ Compliment someone
- ★ Hold the door for someone
- ★ Make a thank you card for your mail carrier
- ★ Say “bless you” when someone sneezes

# Paper Dove Craft

For this craft, check out  
Simple Mom Project  
for the free template!

<https://simplemomproject.com/dove-craft/>

For this fun craft, you will create a dove. The scripture says “Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him.” The dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit (a part of God). The dove can remind us of God and His love for us.

## **You Will Need:**

- Scissors
- Glue
- Googly eye (optional)
- Feathers

Start by cutting out your dove pieces. Once they are cut, you will glue them together to create your dove! Color and add the beak, there is a paper eye or use a googly eye and add some feathers!

# Credits

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The Way

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

By: Adam Hamilton

Children's Leader Guide

By: Sally Hoelscher

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