

Set-Up: Prepare for this week by placing a empty bowl in the center of a table.

Fill a small pitcher or cup with some water to pour into the bowl.

Gather: As a family, sit around the table. Offer this prayer and then pour the water into the bowl:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of baptism which united us with Jesus Christ. Remind us with this water of your love in our lives and your promise of eternal life which can never be broken. Amen

Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Reflect: Imagine what it must have been like for Jesus to travel from Nazareth to Bethany, nearly 90 miles. How far did you travel to be baptized?

Imagine what it must have felt like for Jesus to step into the river, what temperature do you think the water was? What was it like when Jesus was lowered completely under the water?

What do you remember about the water at your baptism? What stories can you recall to your children about the water on the days they were baptized?

When is the last time you waded in water? Was it a river? A lake? A pool?

What did it feel like when the water completed washed over your head? Can you open your eyes under water? Have you ever breathed out while under water?

Imagine what it was like for Jesus to step out of the water. What might the breeze have felt like on his wet skin? Do you wonder if he had a towel waiting for him?

What is it like when you step out of the water? Is it cold? Do you have a favorite towel you prefer to use to dry off with?

John said his baptism was for the repentance of sins. Why do you suppose Jesus came forward to experience John's baptism?

Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism: [Baptism] brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare. (ELW page 1165)

What does it mean to you to think about those words from Martin Luther?

How do these words impact your faith today?

Activity: Dip your finger in the bowl of water and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead. Turn to one another and say these words: "Remember you are a baptized child of God."