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John Baptises Jesus

Last week you heard how John the Baptist helps to make new starts and made God very happy by washing the people clean so that, they could have a brand-new start. He was baptising people so they could have a fresh start.

Last week did you pretend to go into the river? How deep did you go, did you go to your ankles? Did you go to your knees? Did you go all the way up to your tummies?

We sometimes do things that we are sorry for and we would like a new start, let’s sing our Sorry song together.

**For the things we have thought, we wish we’d not thought, [hands on head]**

**we’re sorry, we’re sorry, we need a new start!**

**For the things we have said, we wish we’d not said, [fingers to lips]**

**we’re sorry, we’re sorry, we need a new start!**

**For the things we have done, we wish we’d not done, [arms cross chest]**

**we’re sorry, we’re sorry, we need a new start!**

Someone very special is coming to see John today, can you guess who it is, that’s right its Jesus!

So let’s start our story.

One day John was at the river baptising people and JESUS came to the River.

Let’s all stand up tall and be grown-up Jesus

(Lead the children in standing up tall.)

Jesus said, Baptise ME!

After 3 shall we say baptise me (point to self like Jesus)

Ready 1,2,3, Baptise me

John was shocked,

Can you show me your shocked face?

Lead the children in looking shocked.

John shook his head.

Can you shake your head ?

I can’t baptise YOU said John (point in front of you)

You don’t need a new start.

You’re clean already!

You should baptise ME! (Point to self.)

But Jesus laughed and said Yes!

Baptise me. (Point to self!)

Jesus went into the river.

Let’s all be Jesus and go into the river together.

(Lead the children in pretending to walk into the river.)

The water is getting higher and higher until it’s up to our tummies.

So, John, baptises Jesus.

Jesus went down into the river and then back up.

And then something amazing happened.

God was so happy with Jesus that he flew down like a bird called a dove.

And a voice said.

(You can repeat this after me and do the actions.)

This is my child, (Rock your arms.)

I love him, (hands crossed over chest.)

I am very happy with him, Trace smile on face.

**Shall we sing… to the tune of ‘Siyahamba’**

**A new start, in the name of God! x3**

**A new start [clap], a new start, ohhh!**

**A new start, in the name of God! x2**

**Activity on next page …………..**

Make your own dove

Make a very simple dove with a piece of card from a cereal packet or similar.

Colour or stick as you would like, to remind you how much God loves to be able to give us a new start.

You could either make a flat dove shape, or experiment, by folding paper over and over concertina style to thread through a dove body shape to make wings!