



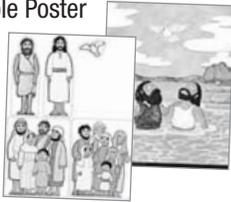
# John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Preschoolers understand the concept of right and wrong in terms of parental approval or disapproval. Children see “right” as whatever makes their parents happy and “wrong” as whatever makes their parents angry or sad. Nothing feels better to preschoolers than praise from their parents, so they’ll understand just how special it was that Jesus made God happy. Use this lesson to help them understand that Jesus always chose to do the right thing; he always made God happy.



**► Bible Point**  
Jesus made God happy.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>A Wave of Thanks</b> Team up to say the Key Verse with a “wave.”</p>	<p>Bible</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear a clue about God’s love.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, plush heart</p>	<p>Set the plush heart in a high place in the room.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Jesus Makes God Happy</b> Use puppets to learn how John baptized Jesus.</p>	<p>Bible, pie plate, water, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Jesus Makes God Happy” puppets, “Jesus Is Baptized” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Cut out the puppets. Put some water in the pie plate.</p>

**Key Verse**  
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will understand that Jesus made God happy.

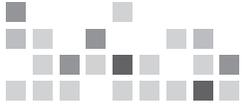
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: Jesus' Baptism</b> Make pictures showing Jesus with John the Baptist.</p>	My Bible Hugs, blue construction paper, tape, paper fasteners, scissors	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out 3x8½-inch strips of blue construction paper and the Jesus figure at the bottom of their student pages.
	<p><b>Center 2: Cereal Scenes</b> Use a cereal treat to talk about how Jesus made God happy.</p>	0-shaped cereal, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Making God Happy</b> Make sad face/happy face puppets, and play a game.</p>	2 paper plates per child, crayons, staplers	
	<p><b>Center 4: Pleasing Doves</b> Make doves, and talk about ways they can make God happy.</p>	wide craft sticks, crayons, googly eyes, glue, scissors, 1 copy per child of the "Dove" page (at the end of the lesson)	Cut out each dove.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Repeat a prayer about loving others.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***





## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: “Come Marching In” (track 12), “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 10)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate



**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle.

Lead children in singing “Come Marching In” to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In” (track 12 on the CD). The song is sung three times. The first time, have kids stand up and march in one direction. The second time, have kids turn and march in the other direction. The third time, have the children wave their hands in the air as they march in place.

 **Oh, when we all come marching in,  
Oh, when we all come marching in,  
How we love to praise our Lord Jesus,  
When we all come marching in!**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

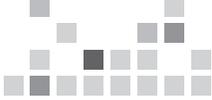
Say: **Today we’ll learn that ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY. Let’s sing another song to help us remember how wonderful Jesus is.**

Lead children in singing “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 10). Encourage children to sing the echoes in parentheses.

 **Jesus loves me;** *(echo)*  
**This I know** *(echo)*  
**For the Bible** *(echo)*  
**Tells me so.** *(echo)*  
**Little children** *(echo)*  
**To him belong.** *(echo)*  
**They are weak, but** *(echo)*  
**He’s so strong!** *(echo)*

**Jaaaayyy!** *(echo)*  
**Eeeeeeee!** *(echo)*  
**Ssssssss-aaaah!** *(echo)*





Uuuuuu! (echo)  
Ssssssss-aaaah! (echo)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)  
And who do you love? (Jesus!)  
And who loves you? (Jesus!)  
Who died for you? (Jesus!)  
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)  
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)  
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)  
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Jesus is so strong and such a good friend. He loves us so much that he died for us. God sent him to this world, and when Jesus did all that God asked, ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY.

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# A Wave of Thanks

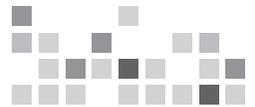
### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 3:16, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 3:16, says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This means that God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus (John 3:16).**

Say: **The Bible says God sent Jesus from heaven to save us. And Jesus did everything God asked. He made God very happy. And Jesus makes us happy, too, because he came to earth for us—to forgive us for the wrong things we do and make our lives better. Jesus is the most wonderful friend we could ever have! That's something to cheer about.**

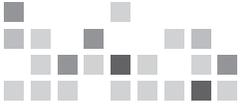
Say: **Let's cheer our Key Verse together to celebrate that ► JESUS MADE GOD**



A Wave of Thanks  
Supplies

Bible





**HAPPY, and Jesus makes us happy!** Help the children form three groups. Have the first group practice saying, “God loves us.” Have the second group practice saying, “so much.” Have the third group practice saying, “he sent his Son, Jesus.” Try having children stand and raise their hands up as they say each part to make a “wave.” Finish by having the whole group shout the entire Key Verse together.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes you so happy that you want to cheer?
- Tell why Jesus makes you happy.

Say: **Jesus is our best friend, and he makes us happy because he came to save us. And that’s why ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY, too.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Puppy Pointers

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo’s coming! He has something to show us. Let’s find out what it is.** Play “Here, Theo” (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It’s so good to see you at church with us today. How are you?

**Theo:** Good...but I want to ask you to pretty please do something for me.

**Teacher:** Of course, Theo. What is it?

**Theo:** Well, Becky Beagle and I were playing catch with a toy, and it landed way up high. Can you get it for me? *(Points at the plush heart.)*

**Teacher:** Of course I will get it for you, Theo! *(Retrieve the heart.)* Oh, it’s a heart! Look children! Theo, did you know that we’re learning in the Bible today about how much God loves Jesus? Friends, let’s say our Bible Point for Theo.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY.)*

**Teacher:** God loves Jesus very much, and God loves us, too. His heart is filled with love for us.

*(Give Theo the plush heart.)*

**Theo:** It’s so nice to know that God loves you so much. I’m going to run and put my heart back in my house. Thanks for getting it for me!

**Teacher:** You’re welcome! Friends, let’s say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

#### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player

Theo puppet

#### Teacher Pack

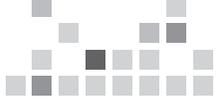
CD: “Here, Theo”

(track 4)

plush heart

#### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Set the plush heart in a high place in the room.



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about someone or something that the heart makes you think of.
- What do you like about being loved?
- What can you tell others about God’s love for you and Jesus?

Say: ► **JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY** because God loves us and he knew Jesus would take care of us. Jesus loves us so much, too! It’s wonderful to know we’re loved and taken care of. This week, let’s tell others about how loved they are, too.

# Bible Time: Jesus Makes God Happy

## What You’ll Do

Open your Bible to Mark 1:4-11, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book. Say: **Today we’ll learn how God showed everyone that Jesus makes him happy.**

Show the John the Baptist puppet, and let kids pass him around the group. Say: **It was John the Baptist’s job to get the people ready for Jesus. He helped them get ready by baptizing them in the Jordan River.** Hold the two groups of people over the water in the pie pan, and then pass them around for kids to look at.

Say: **The people were getting their hearts ready to listen to and obey God. John the Baptist told them to say sorry for the things they did wrong. After they did, he baptized them.** Show the John the Baptist puppet tipping one group of the people over the water.

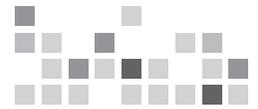
Say: **You can get your heart ready for Jesus, too. Whisper or say sorry to God in your head for something you know you did wrong.** Pause. Then let each child dip his or her finger in the water and touch a friend’s forehead with the wet finger.

Hold the Jesus and John the Baptist puppets over the water. Say: **One day Jesus came to the river. Jesus told John the Baptist that he wanted to be baptized, too. But John didn’t want to baptize Jesus because Jesus had never done anything wrong.** Have the children shake their heads “no.”

Say: **Jesus said he wanted to be baptized to be a good example for the rest of the people.** Have the children nod their heads “yes.”

Show the John puppet tipping the Jesus puppet over the water, and say: **So John baptized Jesus, and Jesus showed the people how important it was for them to obey God and have the wrong things they did washed away.**

Say: **All of a sudden, down from the sky came a beautiful white dove.** Pass the dove around the group and let the children pretend to fly it. Allow each child a couple of



## Bible Time: Jesus Makes God Happy Supplies

Bible  
pie plate  
water  
scissors

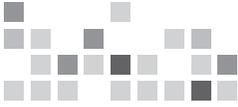
### Teacher Pack

“Jesus Makes God Happy” puppets  
“Jesus Is Baptized” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

## Bible Time: Jesus Makes God Happy Easy Prep

Cut out the puppets. Put some water in the pie plate.





seconds. When it comes back to you, say: **It landed right on Jesus!** Show the dove on Jesus' shoulder.

Say: **This was no ordinary dove. It was the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven by God. Suddenly, a voice came from heaven. It was God's voice. And he said, "This is my Son. He has made me very happy."**

**That's what our Bible Point says. Let's say it together: ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY.** Lead the children in repeating the Bible Point a couple of times.

Say: **God was very pleased with Jesus because Jesus did what God asked him to do. God wants us to obey him just as Jesus obeyed him.** Set out the "Jesus Is Baptized" poster.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Look at the picture. What is neatest to you about what happened here?
- Why do you like when someone tells you that you did a good job?
- What are some ways you can make God happy?

Say: ► **JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY** because he did just what God asked him to do. **When we do what God asks us to do, we make God happy, too.**

#### Center 1: Jesus' Baptism Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
blue construction paper  
tape  
paper fasteners  
scissors

#### Center 1: Jesus' Baptism Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them. Cut out 3x8½-inch strips of blue construction paper and the Jesus figure at the bottom of their student pages.

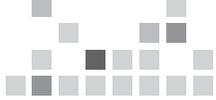
## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1: Jesus' Baptism

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 6 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we learned how amazing it was when Jesus was baptized! The Holy Spirit came down from heaven as a dove. And God told all the people there that Jesus makes him happy. Let's show what happened on our My Bible Fun pages.**



Put the children in pairs, and encourage them to use the My Bible Fun pages to show their favorite parts of what happened in the Bible. As they do, use a paper fastener to attach a Jesus figure to each child's page.

Give each child a strip of blue construction paper, and have the preschoolers tear one long edge of the strip so it looks jagged, like waves splashing. The children can then tape the sides of the construction paper strips onto the pages so when they dip Jesus in the water, they can show him under the "water."

Say: **When John baptized Jesus, ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY.**



### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

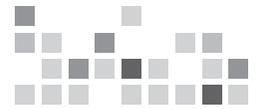
- What made you happy about this activity?
- Tell why you like to be happy.
- Why do you think it's important that God is happy?

Say: **There are a lot of things that can make us happy, and those things can all be good. For example, it was pretty fun dipping Jesus under the water. When John dipped Jesus in the real river, ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY. That was because Jesus obeyed God. We can obey God and make God happy, too.**

## ■ CENTER 2: Cereal Scenes

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Let's use our cereal snack to show which parts of the Bible stood out to us most today.**

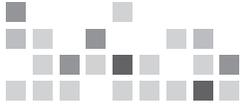


### Center 2: Cereal Scenes Supplies

- 0-shaped cereal
- paper plates
- antibacterial gel  
(optional)

! **ALLERGY  
ALERT**





### Center 3: Making God Happy Supplies

2 paper plates per child  
crayons  
staplers

Give each child a paper plate and about half a cup of O-shaped cereal. Say: **What part of what you heard today stood out to you?** Let the children take turns telling parts that stood out to them. Each time a child shares, have the children show the scene by rearranging their cereal pieces. For example, kids can create a wave of water, a stick-figure Jesus, or a dove. End the activity by having each child make a happy face and reminding kids of the Bible Point: ► **JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY.**

Pray with the kids to say thank you to God for the snack. Then have kids enjoy their cereal treats.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **There were many important things about what happened in what we heard from the Bible today. But the most important thing we learned is that ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY. We can make God happy, too, by following Jesus' example of loving others and doing what God asks us to do.**

### ■ CENTER 3:

## Making God Happy

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child two paper plates, and set out crayons. Ask kids to each make a happy face on one plate and a sad face on the other plate. Then help children staple the plates together back to back.

Say: ► **JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY when he was baptized. We make God very happy when we listen to and obey him. When we disobey God, we make him sad. Let's use our paper-plate puppets to play a game.** Have the children hold up their paper plates and show each side.

Say: **I'll ask about something you might do. If you think doing that would make God happy, put the happy-face side on the table so we can all see it. If you think doing that would make God sad, put the sad-face side on the table for us to see.** Check for understanding.

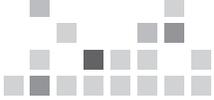
Begin each question with "How do you think God feels when you..." Finish the question with a phrase such as "give your mom a hug," "steal a cookie," "tell a lie or say something that's not true," "take out the trash," "clean your room without being asked to," "write on the walls," "help a friend feel better," and "tell God you love him."

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

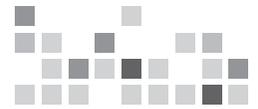
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things you can do that make God happy?**
- **What are some things you can do that will make others happy?**
- **Why do you want to make God happy?**



Say: We can make choices that make our paper-plate puppets show either a happy face or a sad face. When we make choices where we know the happy face would show, we know it's a good choice. God loves us, and God wants us to help each other and do what's best for our lives. Jesus obeyed God and did what was best for us, too. And ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY when he did. Let's make God happy, too.



**CENTER 4:**

## Pleasing Doves

### What You'll Do

Say: When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down as a dove to tell the people that ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY. Let's make some beautiful doves to remind us of how Jesus obeyed God and made God happy.

Give each child a craft stick and a dove. Help children write their names on their doves, and then help each child glue the dove to the craft stick to make a puppet. Encourage children to glue the googly eyes to the doves. Set the doves aside to dry.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you do that make your mom or dad happy?
- What good things did Jesus do that made God happy?
- What can you do to be like Jesus?

Say: We make our moms and dads happy when we smile, give them hugs, and do what they ask us. ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY by obeying God, by loving people, and by helping people. We can also make God happy. We make God happy when we obey our parents and teachers, when we love other people, and when we help others.

### Center 4: Pleasing Doves Supplies

- wide craft sticks
- crayons
- googly eyes
- glue
- scissors
- 1 copy per child of the "Dove" page (at the end of the lesson)

### Center 4: Pleasing Doves Easy Prep

Cut out each dove.

## 5

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS MADE GOD HAPPY. I would like each of you this week to choose a way to ask for Jesus' help in making God happy.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Being friendly to others makes God happy. In the morning, ask Jesus to help you smile at everyone you see that day.**
- ■ **Hang your paper-plate puppet, with the happy face showing, in your room. Each morning look at the happy face, and then pray to Jesus and ask him to help you make God happy.**

Say: **If you want to smile, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to hang your paper-plate puppet, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well, and tell the kids. Your commitment will inspire your kids and give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

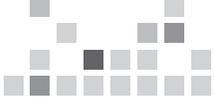
Say: **How do you want to make God happy this week?** Allow time. **Let's tell God these things now.** Lead the children in praying to God to tell him what they shared. Then have the children repeat this prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear Jesus,  
Please help us obey God  
And make God happy, too.  
We want to love others  
Just as you do.  
In your name, amen.**

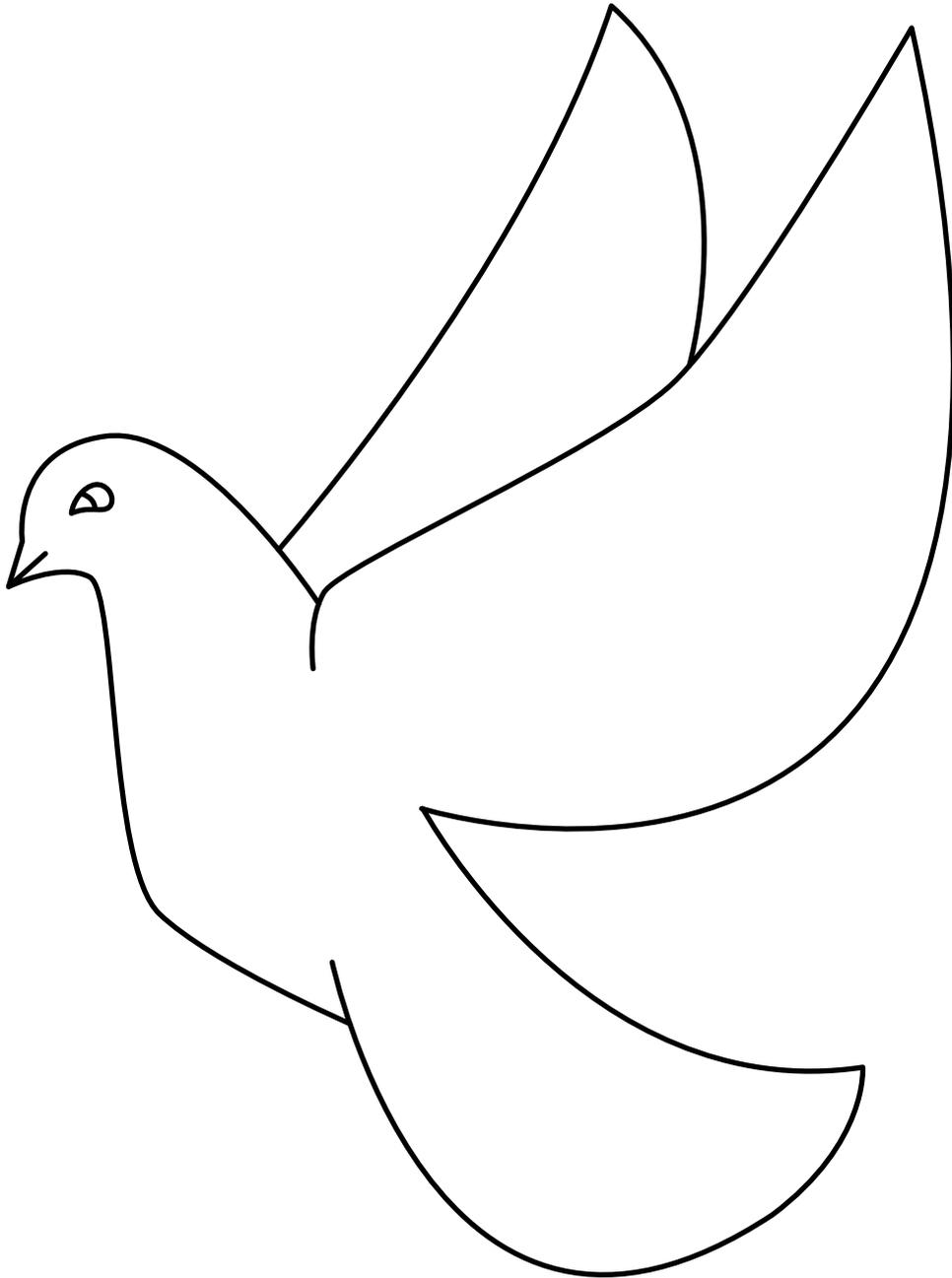
## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# Dove



**OK**  
**TO COPY**

