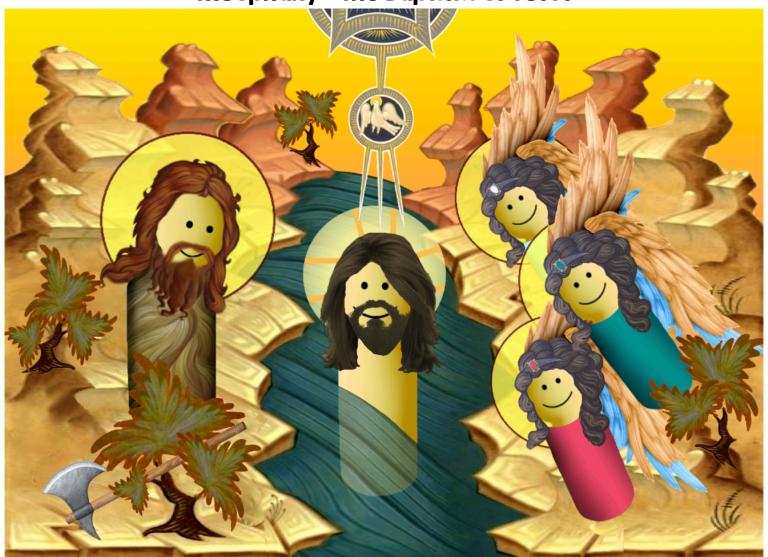


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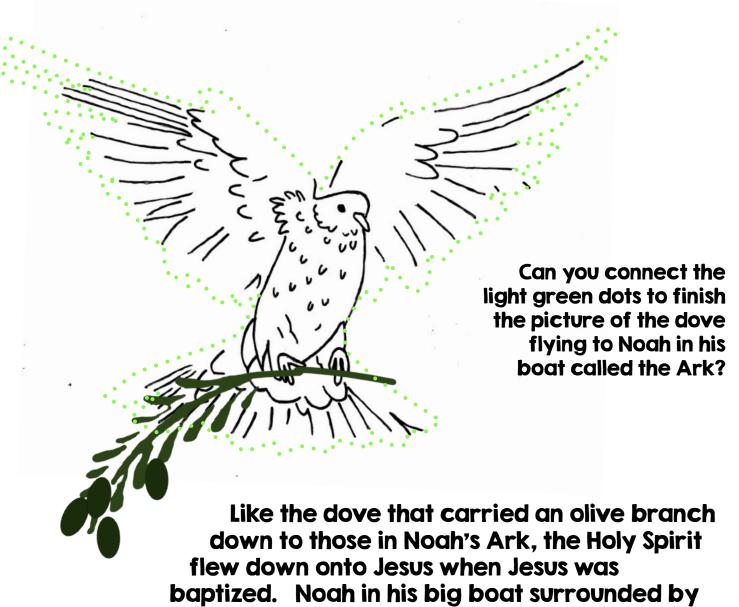
Theophany - The Baptism of Jesus



Jesus went to the Jordan River where his cousin and friend John was baptizing people by dunking them in the water. John was telling everyone, "Turn away from sin, because God's Kingdom is coming!".

When John saw Jesus coming to him to be baptized John became puzzled. "How can I wash away sins from Jesus, Who is God the Son, and Who has no sins?" Jesus told John: "Don't worry. Just put me into the water." When John did dunk Jesus, God the Father, in a loud voice from the sky, said: "This Guy you are baptizing is my Beloved Son." And God the Holy Spirit flew down upon Jesus like a dove. John was amazed, and so was the water.

You can read the Gospel describing this in Matthew 3:13-17



Like the dove that carried an olive branch down to those in Noah's Ark, the Holy Spirit flew down onto Jesus when Jesus was baptized. Noah in his big boat surrounded by water, like Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan, saved all living things from death by his faithful listening to the will of God the Father. God the Father sends each of them a sign of his approval and blessings through the gentle coming of a dove.

