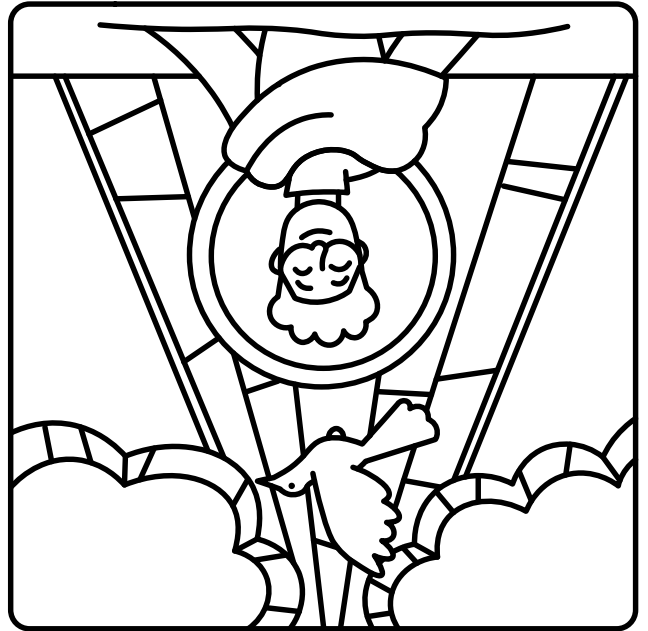
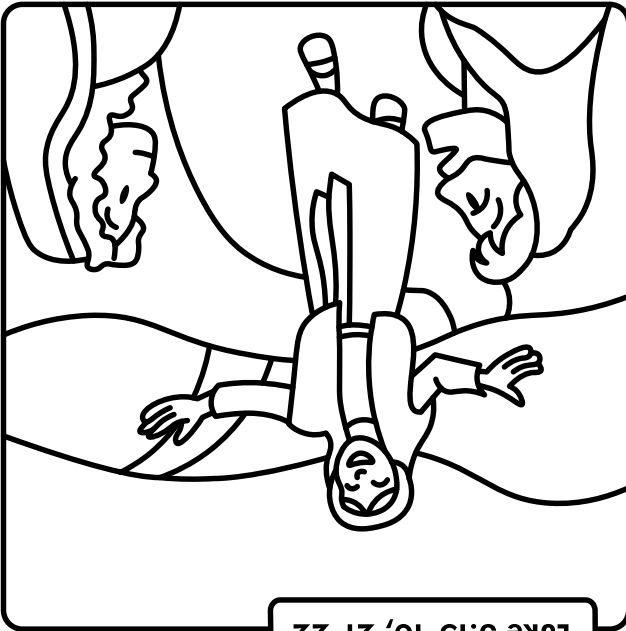


4. The clouds above cracked open, spilling light everywhere! God's Spirit flew down on Jesus, appearing like a dove, and rested on him as God's gentle voice echoed: "Jesus, you are my Son! I love you, and I love who you are."



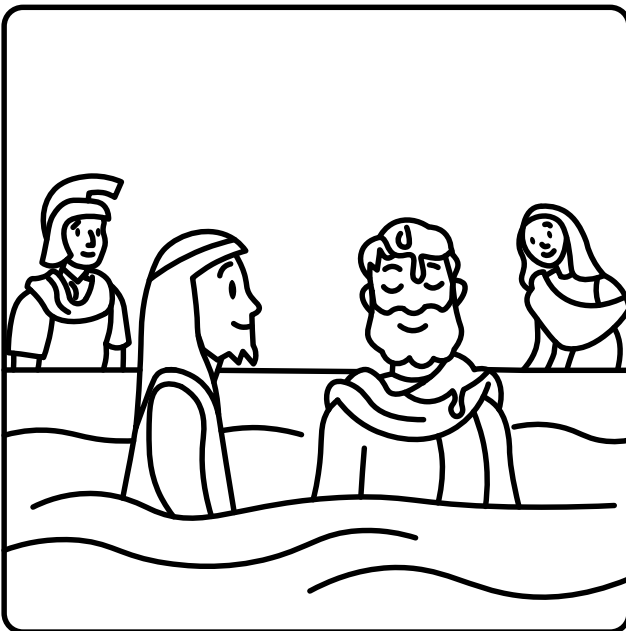
1. A long time ago, God gave a promise to the prophets of Israel: a Messiah would soon come and bring about God's realm. No one knew when or how this Savior would arrive—they just knew they had to wait.



Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



3. "No way!" John insisted, "I'm not the Messiah, but you'll meet him soon." John was right. One day, Jesus showed up at the river, and what seemed like an ordinary baptism soon became something extraordinary. As Jesus prayed in the water...



2. Hundreds of years passed before Jesus' cousin, John, began baptizing people in the Jordan River, inviting them into a fresh start. People could feel the closeness of God's kingdom, which made them wonder: was John the one they'd been waiting for?