

## Dunk Splash Ripple

Dunk.

Splash.

Ripple.

Dunk. Splash. Ripple.

There I was, down by the river, just chucking stones into the water and listening to the *dunk* SPLASH ripple. I like seeing the *dunk* as the stone goes into the water, then listening to the SPLASH, then watching the ripples spreading out across the water.

Then suddenly, from round the bend in the river, there was a *huge* dunk SPLASH ripple! And another! And another!

I ran around the bend to see what was happening, and there was the hugest, hairiest, wettest man you've ever seen, standing in the river. And people would wade into the water towards him and he would say a few words and they would say a few words and he would *dunk* SPLASH them under and they would come up. And the ripples would spread across the water. And then someone else would wade into the water to him and he would *dunk* SPLASH ripple.

But then the *dunk* SPLASH rippling stopped. And I saw another man come to the river bank and wade into the water. But this time, there was no *dunk* SPLASH ripple. The man in the river folded his arms and shook his head and said, 'Jesus, you should be baptising me, not the other way around.'

But Jesus said, 'John, just do it! God's rescue plan is coming together right now in this baptism.'

And the two men grinned at each other as if they'd just heard the best news in the universe.

And John took a deep breath and *dunk* SPLASH, Jesus went under the water.

And as he came up, I can't quite tell you what happened... there was something like a huge gentle bird that came down and wrapped its wings around Jesus... and it might have been thunder or it could have been a deep deep voice echoing round us, saying, 'This is my son... I'm well pleased with him...' And the ripples rolled out across the water.

I wonder just how far those ripples will go?