“What are they doing to them?” Alex asked as he watched a long line of big, noisy cows being guided toward a deep tank of water in the ground. “Are they thirsty? Are they going to get a drink?”

The farmer shook his head. “No, Alex,” he said, “they’re not thirsty. My cows are about to take a very special bath—one that will keep them from getting sick.”

Alex loved to visit the big farm near his home. There was so much to see and learn, so many interesting animals and machines everywhere he looked. But even though he’d visited his friendly neighbor many times before, he’d never seen cows taking a bath!

One by one, the animals were led to the big tank, and one by one...
The cows were made to walk down into the water. Splash, splash, moo... Splash, splash, moo... Alex laughed because it was so strange to see a cow taking a bath.

Draw a picture of what you think it might look like when a cow takes a bath.

After a big cow splashed its way out of the tank of water, Alex pointed. “Now he’s all clean,” he said to the farmer. “Right?”

The farmer nodded. “Yes, Alex. But he’s more than clean. You see, I’ve put some powerful chemicals in that water. Sometimes insects will attach themselves to my cows and bite them. Those bites can make the cows very, very sick. But when I give my cows a bath in that tank of water, the chemicals kill all the insects. So now my cows are both clean and protected from sickness.”

Splash, splash, moo... Another cow swam through the tank of water and then stumbled out the other side. Clean and protected, Alex thought to himself.

“Hey,” he said with a grin. “We do this at my church!”

“You do?” the farmer gasped. “You dip cows in a tank of water?”

“No,” Alex responded with a laugh. “We dip people in a tank of water. The preacher calls it ‘baptism,’ and he says that when someone is baptized, he comes out of the water clean of all of his sins. Not only that, because that person is now in God’s family, he has extra protection against Satan. Clean and protected, just like your cows.”

“Well, well,” the farmer said. “I think you’re right. I’m not only dipping my cows, I’m baptizing them!”

Alex grinned. “And I’m sure those cows would be very happy to know that they are part of God’s family.”

Alex and the farmer chuckled as they watched the next cow stumble into the tank and splash around in the water. “Someday,” Alex said, “when I am baptized, I’m going to think about your farm and how you take such good care of your cows. I’m going to remember how important it is to be clean and protected. And I’m going to thank Jesus for letting me be a part of His family.”