

Jesus' Baptism - January 3

**Parents:** John the Baptist didn't pursue fame or fortune, however, he is well known for his mission in this world—to point people to Jesus. John knew Jesus was the Savior that the Old Testament spoke about. He wholeheartedly served Jesus, the King of kings, who washes our sins away. Let's take a closer look at what happened with Jesus and John at the Jordan River.



**Read:** Matthew 3:1-17 3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

#### The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

#### Discuss:

John the Baptist was called to prepare the way for who? *Jesus.*

What type of clothes did John wear? What did he eat? *His clothes were made out of camel hair and he ate locusts and wild honey.*

Why do you think he was called John the Baptist? *He was telling people to repent, which means to say sorry for their sins, and he was baptizing them with water.*

Jesus came to John to be baptized. What happened when John baptized Jesus? *Heaven was opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and landed on Jesus. A voice said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

Even now Baptism is very special and important. Why? *With God's Word and water, Baptism is a washing and rebirth. Our sins are forgiven through God's Son, Jesus. He washes us clean.*



**Key Point: Jesus Washes Us Clean**

Jesus Washes (Tap pointer finger in opposite palm, make a circular washing motion with one hand)

Us Clean (Point to self, place left palm up and move the flat palm of your right hand across your left hand)

**Family Activity:** Let's talk to our children about the blessings of Baptism and what it means. Write down or talk about your family member's Baptism stories on the coloring sheet included. Look at photos, bring up the date, remember who was there, etc. Haven't been baptized yet? Would you like more information, let us know. We'd love to pray with you and help you take next steps.

**Prayer:** Dear God, We praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to wash us clean from our sins and giving us eternal life. Help us show our gratitude to You today. We thank and love You. Amen.

**Next Steps:** Memorize Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

**Matthew 3:17**

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



**Baptism's Blessings**

God's Child    Forgiveness of Sin    Heaven

My family member's Baptism stories (Look at photos, bring up the date, remember who was there, etc):

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