



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 5

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His road to the cross.



MONDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 3:13-15

Jesus was baptized. Jesus had no need of baptism because He had no sin. He humbled Himself for our sake and was baptized by John. Jesus identified with us. He walked with man, ate with man, and was baptized by a man. At first, John refused to baptize Jesus. He knew that he was the sinner, not Jesus. Jesus, however, insisted that He must be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Paul tells us that though Jesus had no sin, God made him to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus' baptism was not for His sake but for ours.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why didn't Jesus need John's baptism? (John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, or turning away, from sins. Jesus was sinless and did not need to repent.) So why was Jesus baptized if He had no sin? (Jesus came as a man and would take upon Himself the wrath of God for our sin. Jesus began His ministry by receiving John's baptism.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for His willingness to take our sinful humanity upon Himself and die for our sins.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 3:16,17

God revealed Himself in the trinity. Each person in the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) made His presence known at the baptism of Jesus. The doctrine of the Trinity teaches what is evident in Scripture: God is three persons with one essence. This is a concept we cannot fully understand. We know that God is one (Malachi 2:10), and yet we know that the Godhead has three persons. All three persons of the Trinity made themselves known at Jesus' baptism.

TALK ABOUT IT

Where do we see the three persons of the Trinity in this passage of Scripture? (Jesus the Son of God was present, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus as a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven.)

Can we fully understand how three can be one? (No, some things about God are just too big for our little minds to understand. In our pride we would want to completely comprehend God, but we will never be able to fully know all there is to know about Him. We have the distinct joy and honor of learning more and more about Him forever.)

PRAY

Thank God for His infinite and wonderful greatness. Thank Him that He is greater than we are and cannot be figured out.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: JOHN 1:29-34

John called Jesus the Lamb of God. Given that Mary, Jesus' mother, was related to Elizabeth (John's mother) it is likely John had met Jesus or at least knew about Jesus growing up. John gives us a clue when he says, "I myself did not know Him." At some point when John saw Jesus, he realized that Jesus was the promised Messiah. John proclaims that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the one who will take away the sin of the world. Long before John's ministry, Abraham told his son Isaac that God Himself would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. That day, God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son but provided a ram. Here John tells us God has provided a sacrifice for sins - Jesus, the Lamb of God. Abraham's ram was a foreshadowing of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

By His baptism, Jesus instituted a new sacrament for believers. Our baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial in the tomb (when we go under the water) and a symbol of the resurrection (when we come up out of the water).

Paul teaches us in Romans 6:4: We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Jesus identified with sinful man when He was baptized. We identify with Jesus, His death and His resurrection when we are baptized.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God use the lamb in the Old Testament to point forward to Jesus? (Lambs were sacrificed to atone for man's sin. They point to Jesus the Lamb of God sacrificed for our sin).

Should we remember Jesus and his sacrifice when confessing sin? (Help your children see that each time we confess or repent we should remember Jesus - not just think about those people we sinned against.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for sending the Lamb of God to die for us to take away our sin.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: MARK 6:14-29

John the Baptist gave his life for truth. God called John to a ministry of truth. John's words set the stage for men to realize they needed a Savior. His ministry paved the way for Jesus. John spoke against Herod's marriage to Herodias because Herod stole his brother's wife. Though Herod was attracted to the message of John, to please Herodias he threw John in prison. Then, manipulated again by his wife, he had John beheaded.

The prophet who announced the ministry of our Savior paid the ultimate price for proclaiming the truth. John went straight to heaven rejoicing because his ministry was complete. John had introduced a greater prophet, Jesus, who would also be killed for what He proclaimed. But this prophet, the Son of God, would conquer death!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Herod kill John? (Herod wanted to please his wife more than God. Herod was very aware of what people thought of him. He did not want to be known as a man who was afraid to exercise his power. Herod struggled with the fear of man – he wanted to please people instead of God.)

Draw out your children to see if they can think of a time when they have struggled with the fear of man.

PRAY:

Confess your own fear of man and ask God to give you courage like John to follow God no matter what people think of you.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ISAIAH 11:1-5

In an amazing display of prophetic accuracy, Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon a descendant of David, a righteous king who will care for the poor and needy and judge the earth. No one can fit that description but Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where do you see similarities to Jesus' baptism in this passage? (Isaiah 11:2 says the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, and at Jesus' baptism the Spirit of the Lord came upon Him like a dove. Matthew 3:15 says Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Isaiah 11:4 says that with righteousness He will judge the needy and Isaiah 11:5 says righteousness will be His belt.)

What does Isaiah mean when he says that He will "strike the earth with the rod of His mouth"? (The rod is the implement of judgment. Just like parents give their children the rod of correction, so Jesus will one day bring judgment upon the earth.)

PRAY:

Knowing that Jesus will one day come to judge the earth and that we will all be judged by Him, pray that God would pour out His Spirit on you that you might be saved.