



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for January 3, 2009
Released on Wednesday, December 30, 2009**

"Jesus' Baptism"

Lesson Text: Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

Background Scripture: Matthew 3

Memory Verse: "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,
6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.
.....
11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:
12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.
13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.
14 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?
15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.
16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

TEACHER'S NOTES

One God yet three Persons is a concept the human mind can never fully grasp. All human attempts to illustrate the Trinity ultimately break down. Nevertheless, it is a fact, as God Himself showed in Jesus' baptism.

John had been preaching God's coming kingdom and being ready for it. Jesus identified Himself with John's message by coming for baptism though He had no sins to forsake.

At the baptism, God's voice from heaven identified Jesus as His "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). It is unclear who heard Him. Jesus and John only? The entire crowd

waiting on the river bank? There is no doubt, however, as to what the Father meant. Jesus too was Deity, "God with us" (1:23).

Then the dove descended, picturing the presence of the invisible Spirit. Thus the entire Trinity was present, and Jesus was declared to be one of the Godhead.

Who Jesus is, shown by His resurrection, was the major theme of first-century preaching.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus is God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God used the time of Jesus' baptism to declare that He is His beloved Son.
2. Because of who Jesus is, it is right to obey Him.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, find pictures of John preaching, of John baptizing, and of Jesus walking with a crowd.

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of John about to baptize Jesus. With a felt pen, make three flash cards: "God's Son," "God the Father," and "God the Holy Spirit."

For Helping to Remember, each student will need safety scissors (blunt tip), paste, crayons, glitter, a sheet of blue construction paper, and three 3 ¼-inch circles drawn on yellow paper.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Do you have anyone named "John" in your room at school? Many boys are named John today, and there were different Johns in Bible times too. God sent one of those Johns to stand down by the river and preach. (Show John preaching.) "God's kingdom is coming," he kept saying. "Get ready. God's special Person is coming. Get ready. Stop doing wrong things. Start doing what is good and right."

Crowds of people came to hear John, and many said they did want to be ready for God's kingdom. Those people would walk down into the river with John, and he would baptize them. (Show John baptizing.) It was a way of saying that they wanted to do what was right and good.

Then one day Jesus came to be baptized. (Show Jesus and crowd.)

TELLING THE LESSON

Now, John knew Jesus. He knew Jesus was already doing what was right and good. Jesus did not need to start *pleasing* God. He already did. John knew Jesus was better than he was. "You should be baptizing me," John said.

Jesus told him to go ahead. He said it was the right thing to do. So John baptized Jesus in the water, and when he finished, something wonderful and different happened. (Show baptism of Jesus.) First, a kind of bird, a dove, flew down and sat on Jesus' head or on His shoulder. That was God's way of showing John that His Holy Spirit was living in Jesus. Then a voice spoke from heaven. It was God's voice, saying, "This is My dear Son, and I am very pleased with Him."

God was saying that the special Person John had been talking about was now here. And who was this special Person? He was God's own dear Son. (Show "God's Son.")

God is showing us something very wonderful too. God the Father was speaking from heaven. (Stand up "God the Father.") God's Son, who is God too, was standing with John at the edge of the river. (Stand up "God the Son.") God the Holy Spirit was there too, in the shape of a dove. (Stand up "God the Holy Spirit.")

Now, we know there is only one God, but the Bible says three different Persons work together as that one God. The Father is God. The Son, Jesus, is God. And the Holy Spirit is God. (Point to each.) Each one is just as strong and wise and good as the others are because each one of them is God.

No, we cannot really understand that, but God says that is the way it is, and we can believe Him. We can understand, though, why God the Father would say He was pleased with Jesus. Jesus always did what was right, because Jesus Himself is God, and anything God does is good.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

On another day, God the Father said, "Jesus is My dear Son. Listen to Him" (cf. Matt. 17:5).

Since Jesus is God, it is right to do what He says, and it is right to do the things that please Him. So pay attention when someone reads from the Bible. Learn what Jesus likes to see His people doing. When you wonder whether doing something is right or wrong, ask yourself, What would Jesus want me to do? Then do that.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children cut out and paste the yellow rounds in the form of a triangle at the center of the blue paper. They should slightly overlap. Then on the three rounds have them print "The Father," "The Son Jesus," and "The Spirit." Have them print "GOD" at the top of the page. Help them outline their triangles with just enough paste to hold a sprinkle of glitter.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"Lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Many people had been baptized before Jesus was, but when it was His turn, something happened that had never happened before. God spoke out of heaven and told who Jesus really was. He said Jesus was someone special. Jesus was His own Son. He said He loved Jesus and was very pleased with Him.

CONCLUSION:

This lesson provides the opportunity to talk to children about the importance of being baptized. If Jesus did it, so can they when they are able to fully comprehend.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for confirming for all time who Jesus is. It also confirmed for Jesus that You loved Him. From time to time we all need to be told we are loved. Even Jesus needed it. Let this lesson help to reassure us that You care for us as well, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Resisting What is Wrong**" and tells about how Jesus fasted for forty days and nights, and how Satan tempted Him in the wilderness. Study Matthew 4:1-11.

LESSONS SUMMARIZED BY:

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WORD SEARCH:

"Jesus' Baptism" Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

B G A R Z U P G L S W T Z S N
P U H R N R O T S O I Z H C E
L H Z H E D J E N R C O A V V
E R O P Y P N M I E E U Y H A
A J A N K R Y P O S P S S Y E
S R J V E E S U U J C E I T H
E E W D M Y C F U T A Z R N S
D S L B A P T I S T M O K H S
J I S U S E J R O Z E E B B I
W A A R B M I E G V L A N H E
G R F P N N T Y R R R N J T N
D E V O L E B C O R P A T H S
I T D D B B N O S J H H K J O
H A I R X R P X Z G O D F A N
V W A X T Z S Y W G Y B A P V

BAPTIST
FIRE
HEAVEN
JOHN
PLEASED
SHOES
SPIRIT
WILDERNESS

BELOVED
GOD
HONEY
LOCUSTS
PREPARE
SINS
VOICE

CAMEL
HAIR
JESUS
PATHS
REPENT
SON
WATER

22 words are in this puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH:

"Jesus' Baptism" Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

+ + + + + P G L S + T + S N
P + + + N R O T S O I + H + E
L H + H E D + E N R C O + + V
E + O P + + N + I E E U + + A
A J A N + R + P + S P S S + E
S R + + E E S + + + C E I T H
E + + D + Y C F + + A + R N S
D + L B A P T I S T M + + + S
+ I S U S E J R O + E + + + +
W + + + + + E + V L + + + +
+ R + + + + + + + + + + +
D E V O L E B + + + P A T H S
+ T + + + + N O S + + + + + +
H A I R + + + + + + + + + + +
+ W + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

BAPTIST (4, 8, E)
BELOVED (7, 12, W)
CAMEL (11, 6, S)
FIRE (8, 7, S)
GOD (8, 1, SW)
HAIR (1, 14, E)
HEAVEN (15, 6, N)
HONEY (2, 3, SE)
JESUS (7, 9, W)
JOHN (2, 5, NE)
LOCUSTS (9, 1, SE)
PATHS (11, 12, E)
PLEASED (1, 2, S)
PREPARE (7, 1, SW)
REPENT (13, 7, NW)
SHOES (14, 1, SW)
SINS (12, 5, SE)
SON (9, 13, W)
SPIRIT (7, 6, NE)
VOICE (10, 10, NW)
WATER (2, 15, N)
WILDERNESS (1, 10, NE)

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books