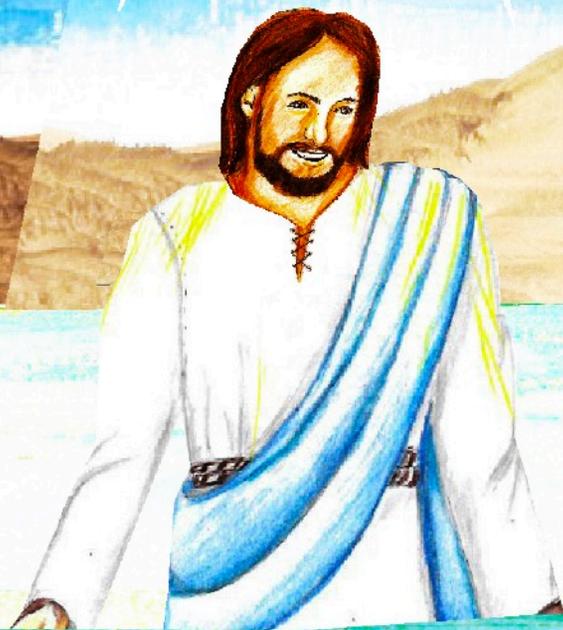


... my Beloved Son
in whom I am well pleased



Lesson 14: *John the Baptist* (Condensed Version)**Objectives:** To explain that:

- God used John the Baptist to tell people they should repent and prepare to follow Jesus, his Son.
- John baptized Jesus and told the people that Jesus was the promised king who would take away their sin.
- In the baptism of Jesus we see all three persons of the Trinity present.
- God joins the newly baptized to Himself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (Two men in the water, a dove etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who these two men are.

I wonder what they are doing in the water.

I wonder why the dove is there. I wonder whose voice is coming down from heaven.

Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary:

Our story today takes place at the Jordan River where we meet John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a prophet. He was God's messenger, sent to tell the people to repent, turn away from their sins and to follow God's ways. John was sent to tell the Israelites to get their hearts ready to know and follow the Forever King.

Many people came to listen to John preach. They wanted to follow God and be baptized.

One day, something very special happened at the Jordan River. Jesus came and told John to baptize *him*. Even though Jesus had NEVER done anything wrong and was without sin, he wanted to be baptized so that he could do everything perfectly, according to the Scriptures. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit, came down from heaven like a dove and a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased." In Jesus' baptism we see the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Today, when people are baptized, it is because they want to follow Jesus and have their sins taken away. At baptism, God does something very wonderful. God joins us to Himself. We are joined to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our sins are washed away and we receive new life in Jesus.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about God? (God is a Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus was obedient to the Father. God wants us to be close to him, so he joins us to him in baptism. Jesus is without sin. He is always perfect.)

- What was the name of the river that John was baptizing in? (the Jordan River)
- What was John the Baptist's most important role (job)? (God's messenger to tell people to repent, to prepare their hearts for God, to point to Jesus)
- Why did Jesus want to be baptized? What wonderful things happened when Jesus was baptized? Why do people want to be baptized today? What does God do when we are baptized? (He joins us to Himself (the Trinity) and the church)

Bible Memory Verse:

"Long ago Isaiah the prophet wrote, 'I will send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare your way.'" (Mark 1:2--NIRV)