

... 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 as a prophet, to tell people they should repent and follow his Son, Jesus.
- 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.
- Now, through baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God joins us to the church in a special way and makes us alive in Jesus.

"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 repent 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 because he was going to take **our** sin upon himself on the cross. He wanted to do everything perfectly, to fulfill all righteousness, in obedience to God the Father. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and God the Father's 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. In baptism, God joins us to himself and the church in a special way and makes us alive in Jesus. 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. Jesus is without sin. He was and is always perfect.)

- What was the name of the river that John was baptizing in? (the Jordan)
- What was John the Baptist's most important role (job)? (God's messenger to prepare people's hearts to turn back to God, to repent, he pointed to Jesus)
- Why did Jesus want to be baptized? (Because even though he had never sinned, Jesus was going to take **our** sin upon himself on the cross. He wanted to do everything perfectly, to fulfill all righteousness, in obedience to God the Father.)
- Who came down from heaven when Jesus was baptized? (the Holy Spirit like a dove)
- What did God the Father say when Jesus was baptized? (This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased)
- What does God do when we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? (God joins us to himself and to the church (the body of Christ), he washes us clean of our sins)

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)