



Jesus is baptized

Colour me!



Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus left Galilee and went to the River Jordan to be baptized by John. But John kept objecting and said, "I ought to be baptized by you. Why have you come to me?" Jesus answered, "For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do." Then John agreed.

So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him."

Commentary

This is the moment when Jesus begins his work for God as a man, aged about 30. His second cousin John has told everyone he is coming, and it is John who introduces him to the world. John knew that Jesus didn't need to come back to God and be baptized like the others. Jesus was already one with God, but he was baptized on behalf of all people, just as one day he would die on behalf of everyone. At this moment Jesus hears God's voice affirming who he is, and sees God's Spirit coming down upon him. All of God's children also find out at some point in their spiritual walk that they are truly loved by God and can be filled with his power to live differently.

Bible text taken from Good News Bible. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1992. Reproduced with permission from The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF). Taken from The Barnabas Family Bible © Martyn Payne and Jane Butcher 2014.

Questions

- ▶ Why was John so reluctant to baptize Jesus?
- ▶ Why was it important for Jesus to hear God's voice and see God's Spirit?



Visual aid

Fill a bowl with clean water. Dip some dusty plastic toys in the water and see the dust coming off. Water is always used for washing and cleaning.



Activity idea

Talk about your understanding of baptism. Perhaps you can talk about a baptism or baptisms in your own family. On large pieces of card cut into the shape of a drop of water, make a poster for each other, personalizing God's words for each one of you: "God says, (Name), you are my own dear child and I am pleased with you." Display the posters as a reminder of God's love for you.



Prayer idea

Think of water as a symbol of spiritual cleansing. Baptism is an outward demonstration of an internal decision to follow Jesus. Ask God to help you live your life in a way that shows you are a follower and believer of Jesus.

Key verse

Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him" (Matthew 3:17).

Old Testament story link

Deuteronomy 6:1-9: Jesus knew his Scriptures very well, and this advice from Moses was something that would have been a guide for his life.



Colour me!

