



BIBLE BACKGROUND

Scripture:

Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse:

“And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”
Matthew 3:17

Baptism of Jesus

Upper Elementary Lesson

What Kids Will Learn

Jesus was perfect, so He didn't need to repent or be baptized. But Jesus was baptized in order to accomplish God's mission and to begin His ministry on earth.

Scripture Summary

Not only was the prophesied Messiah really here, but He was also asking to be baptized by the very messenger announcing His arrival.

There are other reasons that Jesus was baptized besides beginning His earthly ministry. Jesus was not confessing His own sins but the sins of the country, like Nehemiah did. He was also identifying with the common people who recognized their sin and need for God. Jesus reinforced John's ministry, the fulfillment of prophecies, and the message of repentance.

John the Baptist was puzzled by Jesus' request to be baptized. John recognized his role in the ministry, to proclaim the coming Messiah and need for repentance. John felt terribly inadequate to baptize Jesus. John felt he was the one who needed to be baptized by Jesus. But John did as he was asked and baptized Jesus, the Messiah, with water.

And it was a beautiful scene, for sure. As soon as Jesus was baptized, the Trinity was all active at the same time. God spoke. Jesus was baptized. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus as a dove. The Trinity is one of the greatest mysteries requiring faith to believe. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are all God and all separate at the same time.

Why Is This Important?

Though John had a great following, he continued to be an arrow pointing to Jesus. When John baptized Jesus, the incredible earthly ministry of the Messiah officially began.