

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 2

### John baptizes Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17



## DAY 1

Jesus accepted His mission as the Messiah, Part 1 •  
Matthew 3:13-14

### READ

Matthew 3:13-17

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 3:13-14

Why did John the Baptist refuse to baptize Jesus at first? One reason is that John realized that Jesus was the King and he was only the messenger (3:2). But another reason is because of what baptism was for. The purpose of baptism was to repent of sin, but John realized that Jesus had no sin to repent of. John was Jesus' cousin, so he knew the prophecies and miracles surrounding Jesus' birth. Even though he wasn't yet sure that Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:31, 33), John's response shows that he knew of no sin that Jesus had to confess. Jesus was innocent and sinless (1 Pet 2:22). This is important, because only a sinless man can satisfy God's righteous law on behalf of mankind (Matt 5:17; Isa 53:9), and only a sinless man can die as an acceptable sacrifice for sin (Exod 12:5; Lev 1:3; 1 Pet 1:19). Because Jesus had no sin, He is the spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). So you can confidently trust Him to be your Savior and King.

### ASK

1. What was John's baptism for?  
*It was for repenting of sin.*
2. Did John think Jesus needed to be baptized?  
*No.*
3. Why did John think this?  
*Because Jesus was the King, someone much greater than John. Jesus had no sin from which to repent.*

### DISCUSS

1. When do you take a bath (or a shower)?  
When you are clean or dirty?
2. Have you seen someone get baptized?  
Did they explain why they were getting baptized?

## DAY 2

Jesus accepted His mission as the Messiah, Part 2 • Matthew 3:15

### READ

Matthew 3:13–17

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 3:15

So if Jesus was sinless, then why did He choose to be baptized? Jesus chose to be baptized in order “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt 3:15). This phrase shows that Jesus was choosing to submit wholly to God’s plan (6:33). God’s plan was for the Messiah to be counted with sinners (Isa 53:12). And that’s what Jesus did when He was baptized. Jesus was not admitting any sin of His own; instead, He was identifying Himself with the sinners He came to save. By being baptized, Jesus was accepting His mission as the Messiah, even the part about dying for sins He never committed (Isa 53:5–6). The rest of Jesus’ life shows that He was true to His mission. That’s good news for us! Like the leopard unable to change his spots, we are completely powerless to change our sinful condition (Jer 13:23). Our only hope is for Jesus, our Messiah, to take our sins upon Himself and give us His own righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). Since He never wavered, you can trust Him as your Messiah and follow His example of humble obedience (1 Pet 2:21)

### ASK

1. Why did Jesus say he wanted to be baptized?  
*To fulfill all righteousness: to publicly accept God’s plan for Him to be the Messiah.*
2. What was the purpose of Jesus’ baptism?  
*To show that Jesus identified with sinners.*
3. How was Jesus’ baptism different from others?  
*Jesus was not confessing His own sin (He was sinless).*

### DISCUSS

1. How is our sin like the spots on a leopard?
2. When you see Jesus’ perfect obedience to His Father, how should you respond (1 Pet 2:21)?

## DAY 3

Heaven confirmed Jesus’ mission as the Messiah, Part 1 • Matthew 3:16

### READ

Matthew 3:13–17

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 3:16

Why did a dove land on Jesus? Actually, it wasn’t a dove. It was the Holy Spirit who appeared in a form that was similar to a dove. Well then, why did the Holy Spirit come on Jesus? There are three reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was the promised Messiah because the Old Testament prophesied that the Holy Spirit would come upon the chosen descendant of Jesse (Isa

11:1–2a). That’s how John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:33). Second, it shows that Jesus was the promised Messiah by anointing Him as king. Long ago, God selected David as king by anointing him with oil (1 Sam 16:13). But here God identifies Jesus as King by anointing Him with the Holy Spirit (Isa 61:1). Third, it shows Jesus was given power to be the Messiah. The Spirit filled Jesus with “wisdom and understanding,” “counsel and might,” “knowledge and the fear of the LORD” (Isa 11:2b). By the Spirit Jesus would overcome temptation (Matt 4:1), perform miracles (12:28), give His life (Heb 9:14), and rise from the dead (Rom 8:11).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Who came down from heaven onto Jesus?  
*The Holy Spirit, like a dove.*
2. When John saw this, what did he realize?  
*He realized Jesus was the chosen one, the Messiah.*
3. How did the Holy Spirit show that Jesus is the Messiah?  
*He fulfilled the prophecy about the Messiah having the Spirit, He anointed Him as King, and He equipped Him with power.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. List some tools that different kinds of jobs need (doctors, firefighters, police officers, etc.). Would you trust any of them to help you if they had none of the tools their job requires?
2. Why can you trust Jesus to do His job as the Messiah? Do you trust Him?

**DAY 4****Heaven confirmed Jesus' mission as the Messiah, Part 2 • Matthew 3:1****READ** 

Matthew 3:13-17

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Matthew 3:17**

Parents love it when their children obey, and God the Father does too. When Jesus chose to be baptized, Jesus showed that He shared the same purpose and the same love as the Father. No human father and son have ever been so close as God the Father and God the Son (John 10:30). So the Father showed His pleasure. He called Jesus His “beloved Son” and said He was “well-pleased.” These words also identified who Jesus was. As the “beloved Son” (Matt 3:17a), Jesus was the promised Son who would reign as King over the earth (Ps 2:7-8). As the one the Father was “well-pleased” with (Matt 3:17b), Jesus was the righteous Servant (Isa 42:1) who would suffer and die for sinners (53:5-9). So while some Jews thought there would be two Messiahs, one who would suffer and one who would rule, the Father spoke from heaven to show that Jesus would do both. He came once as the suffering Messiah to save the world (John 3:17). He will come again as the conquering Messiah to judge the world and reign as King forever (Matt 16:27).

**ASK** 

1. What did the Father call Jesus?  
*My beloved Son.*
2. How did the Father show that Jesus is the Messiah?  
*He identified Jesus as the Royal Son and as the Suffering Servant.*
3. What was the purpose of Jesus' first coming?  
*To save the world as the suffering Messiah.*
4. What will be the purpose of Jesus' second coming?  
*To judge the world and reign as King forever as the conquering Messiah.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How do you and your parents show your love for each other?
2. The Father and Son love each other very much. What difference does that make for you (John 15:9; Rom 8:15-17)?

## DAY 5

All three members of the Trinity present at Jesus' baptism •  
Matthew 3:16–17

### READ

Matthew 3:13–17

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 3:16–17

It's almost as if heaven was holding its breath, watching eagerly for Jesus to appear on the world stage as the Messiah. Then, when the Son appeared in His baptism, heaven burst forth with approval, delighted in the Messiah and His mission. The approval of the Spirit and the Father was added to the Son's own testimony, so that the entire Trinity confirmed that Jesus is indeed the promised Savior and King. The **Trinity** is often described as one God in three persons. The triune God is based on three biblical truths. First, there is only one God (Deut 6:4; 1 Tim 2:5). Second, the Father (Eph 4:6), the Son (John 1:1; Rom 9:5; Heb 1:8), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3–4) are each God. Third, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct from each other. Since all the members of the Trinity interacted together at Jesus' baptism, they cannot just be different roles that God takes on at different times. So Jesus' baptism shows us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons who are at the same time the one God.

### ASK

1. What does "Trinity" mean?  
*It means that God is three persons in one.*
2. How do you see it at Jesus' baptism?  
*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit acted together at Jesus' baptism.*
3. The triune God is based on three biblical truths. What are they?  
*There is only one God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct from each other.*
3. How does Jesus' baptism show that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons?  
*All the members of the trinity interacted together at Jesus' baptism.*

### DISCUSS

1. Why can we be absolutely certain that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Savior and King?
2. How does the Trinity allow for God to be inherently loving and relational?

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus overcomes  
temptation  
Luke 4:1–13

