



## JESUS WAS BAPTIZED

**Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:21-22**

Dear Parents,

Zechariah's son, John, grew up in the wilderness. John's ministry began when God's word came to him, and he began preaching near the Jordan River. John worked to get the people ready for the coming of Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, "A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness" (Isa. 40:3).

John called the people to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John also instructed the people on right living. (See Luke 3:10-14.) Some of the people suspected that John might be the Messiah, but John insisted, "One is coming who is more powerful than I" (Luke 3:16).

Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan River. Wait a second. John was calling people to a baptism of repentance. We know Jesus never sinned (see Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21), so why did Jesus come to be baptized? John was right when he said, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?" (Matt. 3:14).

Commentators' ideas vary about why Jesus was baptized. Perhaps He was affirming John's work. Maybe He was identifying with sinners or showing them how they would be saved—through His death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus answered John, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).

**Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.**

Help your kids understand that baptism is not what saves us; baptism is a way we show that we have been saved. Baptism reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we die to sin and come into a new way of life—a life lived for Jesus. (See Rom. 6:3-4.)

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

### **FAMILY STARTING POINTS**

- Babies and Toddlers
  - Jesus is God's Son.
  - Jesus always obeyed God perfectly.
  - John baptized Jesus to do God's plan.
  - Everything Jesus does makes God happy.
- Preschool
  - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.
  - John baptized Jesus.
- Kids
  - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.
  - Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

### **UNIT KEY PASSAGE**

- 1 Timothy 1:15

### **NEXT WEEK**

- "Jesus' Triumphal Entry" (Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19)



### **Our Vision for Children**

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord's command to "bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses' instruction to God's people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

Jon Dickenson  
Associate Pastor of Children &  
Administration

[jsdickenson@gmail.com](mailto:jsdickenson@gmail.com)  
[jondickenson.wordpress.com](http://jondickenson.wordpress.com)  
606-573-4904