



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

## *Bible Study:*



This lesson tells the story of Jesus' baptism, which is a continuation from last week's story about John the Baptizer. John came for the express purpose of preparing the way for God. (Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3). The account is found in each of the four gospels: Matthew 3:13-16-; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1: 19-34, and it affirms Jesus as the Son of God; with all three members of the Trinity present!

## *The gospel in the story:*



The message John preached was clear and simple: repent and confess sins. It is the first step towards obedience; it affirms that we have a debt that we owe to God caused by our sin. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be crushed for our iniquities (sins), that the punishment demanded for our sin would be put on him, and that by his (fatal) wounds we would be healed (Isa. 53:5).

John knew that Jesus was that Righteous Servant (Isa. 53:11) and therefore without sin. For that reason John was at first reluctant to baptize Jesus. He knew it should be the other way around! But, in obedience to His Father, and in preparation for taking the sins of the world upon himself (John 1: 29), Jesus told John this had to be done to "fulfill all righteousness." It was Jesus' perfect obedience from baptism to the grave and back, that provided humanity a way to be washed clean and given a new heart!

## *Application*

### *Head:* **Q&A key points:**

Q: Why was John baptizing people? A: To help prepare their sinful hearts for the coming Savior.

Q: Why didn't John think he should baptize Jesus? A: Because he knew Jesus was without sin.

Q: What happened when John did baptize Jesus?

A: Heaven was opened up, the Spirit of God descended like a Dove, and God's voice from Heaven proclaimed the Father's Love and Pleasure in Jesus

### *Heart:* **Memory Verse:**

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Mat v3:17.

### *Hands:* **How does this affect the way we live?**

Discuss how the very idea of John baptizing Jesus is a lot like Pig Pen telling Charlie Brown he needs a bath!

### *Home:* **How does this affect our household?**

Discuss how confession and repentance need to be a regular rhythm in your household.

### *Heaven:* **How does this help us our faith?**

Share with each other how being open about confessing weakness is a powerful witness to unbelievers than strengthens sharing a message of repentance.