



Unit 3, Lesson 9

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: JOHN AND THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

MATTHEW 3:1-17;
MARK 1:1-8;
ISAIAH
40:3

THE STORY HOME

John the Baptist probably looks like a wild wilderness man with his long hair and camel hair clothes belted at his waist with leather. He lives a simple life eating locusts and honey, rejecting possessions, comfort, and society's status. He's outspoken and bold—a radical for God—preaching to crowds to confess their sins and humble themselves before God. He attracts people to the message of God's forgiveness and baptizes all who confess and believe. Yet he knows that Jesus, the Messiah, who forgives sins, is here and tells people that Jesus is greater and more powerful than he. When Jesus comes to the Jordan River, John agrees to baptize Jesus but only after Jesus persuades him to do so. As soon as Jesus is baptized and comes out of the water, the skies open and a dovelike spirit comes down, landing on Him. It's the Spirit of God! Then a rumbling voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Another version of this story is in Mark 1:1-8.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Do you think John was surprised to see Jesus come to him for baptism?
- Jesus asked John to baptize him but John felt unworthy because he "got it" that Jesus was God's Son. Do you ever feel not-good-enough around certain important people?
- God the Father approves of His Son Jesus. How do you feel when your parents are happy with or proud of you?
- What do you think the people who saw all this thought?

TOGETHER HOME

This week, talk about our EPIC Bible story of John preparing the way for Jesus to begin His ministry. As a preparation example, involve your family in making a meal; older kids can chop vegetables or fruit while younger kids set the table. The family together-time will make memories and help kids to internalize how God used John to prepare people's minds to believe in Jesus as God's Son.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

This month's memory verse is "And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17). Encourage each family member to go around the table and repeat this verse.

Copyright © 2014 by WordAction Publishing Company®. Permission to copy for local church use only. All other uses contact the publisher. All rights reserved.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™