

# JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS

Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23; John 1:29-34

## STRUCTURE

**Key-persons:** Jesus, John the Baptist, and the Holy Spirit

**Key-location:** Jordan River

### Key-repetitions:

- Baptize: Jesus came to be baptized (Mat 3:13); John the Baptist felt the need to be baptized by Jesus (Mat 3:14); John baptized Jesus (Mat 3:15); one sent John to baptize (Jn 1:33); Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit (Jn 1:33).
- Holy Spirit: Jesus saw God's Spirit descending and landing on him like a dove (Mat 3:16); John the Baptist testified that he saw the Spirit come down and remain on Jesus (Jn 1:33-34); John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Jn 1:33).

### Key-attitudes:

- John the Baptist's reluctance to baptize Jesus.
- John the Baptist's feeling of inferiority in the presence of Jesus.
- John the Baptist's confidence when he testified about Jesus.
- God the Father's pleasure in his Son.

### Initial-situation:

Jesus was about thirty years old when John the Baptist went into the country around the Jordan River, preaching and baptizing. John the Baptist preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven will soon be here." People went out to John the Baptist, confessed their sins and were baptized. John the Baptist declared that the main character in the drama would come after him and was greater than he.

### Initial-problem:

Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist.

### Final-situation:

Jesus came up out of the water, and God's Spirit descended and landed on Jesus like a dove. A voice from heaven declared, "This is my Son, whom I love; I am very pleased with him."

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus left Galilee and went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. But John the Baptist objected, "I need to be baptized by you, not you by me!"

Jesus replied, "Do it now; it's proper for us to do this to complete all things that are right."

John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Jesus came up out of the water. Jesus was praying and the sky opened. Jesus saw God's Spirit descending and landing on him like a dove. A voice from heaven declared, "This is my Son, whom I love; I am very pleased with him" (Mat 3:13-17; Lk 3:21-23).

After his baptism, Jesus went into the dry rocky desert for forty days and was tempted by Satan. Jesus then returned to where John the Baptist was preaching. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and shouted, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I told you about, 'A man will come after me, but he's greater than me because he was alive before me.'"

John the Baptist gave this testimony, "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and remain on the man. Before this, I didn't know who he was. But the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You'll see the Holy Spirit come down and remain on a man. Then you'll know that he's the one who'll baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen, and I testify that he's the Son of God" (Jn 1:29-34).

### GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

### SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus baptized?
2. What happened when Jesus was baptized?
3. How were the three persons of the Trinity (Jesus, Father, and the Holy Spirit) involved in Jesus' baptism?
4. What did God the Father say after Jesus' baptism?
5. What evidence did John the Baptist offer that Jesus is the Son of God?
6. What evidence would you offer that Jesus is the Son of God?
7. If you have been baptized, what did your baptism signify to you?

### LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Jesus identified with sinners when he was baptized.** He was not baptized because he repented from his sins; he had no sins. Jesus was baptized along with other people to manifest his identification with repentant sinners. Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his road to the cross. Because in his baptism, Jesus identified with sinful mankind for whom he finally died.
2. **God should be obeyed, even when his commands do not make sense to human logic.** Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. But John the Baptist objected. Logically, Jesus was superior and should baptize

John the Baptist. But Jesus told John the Baptist that it was the proper and right thing for John the Baptist to baptize him (Mat 3:13-17; Lk 3:21-23).

3. **The three persons of the Trinity participated in Jesus' baptism** (Mat 3:16-17):
  - Jesus, the Son of God was baptized.
  - God the Father spoke.
  - The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus.
4. **Jesus' baptism by immersion was to symbolize his death, his burial and his resurrection.**
5. **A person should testify about his personal experiences with God.** John the Baptist testified that the one who sent him to baptize told him how he would recognize the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist would see the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and remain on that person. John the Baptist testified that he saw the Spirit remain on Jesus (Jn 1:29-34).

## **LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

### **Role-playing Drama:**

The storyteller tells the story once. Then the storyteller designates two people to stand in front of listeners and dramatize the story while he retells it.

- One dramatizes John the Baptist.
- The other dramatizes Jesus.