



Week of January 12, 2020

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. When you were in school, were you a teacher's pet or a substitute teacher's nightmare?
- B. If the whole population is rated on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = worst, 10 = best), rate yourself in terms of: 1) being a good driver; 2) a good friend; 3) personal ethics. Explain.

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. How do you feel about John's reluctance to baptize Jesus? What do you think John believes is the purpose of baptism?
- 2. It says John "consented" to Jesus but John never speaks in this episode after his original argument. Do you think John understood or just obeyed?
- 3. In verse 16, it says "he saw the Spirit of God descending..." Who is "he"? Does it change your perception of the story if only Jesus saw the Spirit of God?
- 4. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized?
- 5. What are the dangers of comparing people in terms of sinfulness? What are the dangers of not doing so?
- 6. Do you ever feel inadequate to do what you believe God is calling you to do? Is this justified?
- 7. How much confidence do you believe God has in you?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about answering God's call