

LEARN IT! FIT IT! LIVE IT! DON'T FORGET IT!

Gospel Project: Jesus Comes into the World

Unit 20/ Lesson 1: The Baptism of Jesus

Romans 15:4, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures gives us strength to go on. They cheer us up and give us hope." (NIRV)

Learn it! The Word of God is how God has chosen to communicate to us His people. To know what God wants us to do in life, we must first read and study His Word.

Overview: We have been walking through the Old Testament, by starting at the very beginning, over the past 1 ½ years. We have been learning about God's greatness in His creation and His sovereignty over it. We also have learned that even in a perfect world, Adam and Eve in their free will sinned against God, setting the stage for all mankind to fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). **BUT GOD**, two of the best words in the Bible, made a way for our sins to be forgiven and our relationship with Him to be reconciled through the promise of His Son Jesus. From Abraham to Isaac to Jacob and now us, God continues to fulfill His promises, despite our sinful rebellion against Him. While the people of Israel tried to establish themselves as a nation here on earth, they frequently forgot that their true King was God Himself. We too are reminded of our desires to sit on the throne of lives. **BUT GOD** sent His Son as Ruler of our World, the Ruler of our hearts. He alone is to assume the throne. **AND NOW**, we move into the New Testament. For the next 1 ½ years, we will walk through the New Testament it, learning more about Jesus, our Redeemer, the start of the church, and His 2nd coming.

1. Review Small Groups Questions:

- a. Last week, we learned about Jesus at the temple. What did we learn about Jesus? Why did He go to the temple? Who was He to obey first? Who are we and our parents first to obey?
- b. This week, we are learning about Jesus's ministry beginning. He will meet his cousin John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Why was it surprising that Jesus was baptized? What is the purpose of baptism?

2. Read passage from Matthew 3:1-17.

- a. Read Matthew 3:1-4. Who was John the Baptist? What was he preaching to people? After 400 years of silence, what did John the Baptist tell them was happening?
- b. See verses 5-6. What were the people doing as a result of John's message?
- c. In verses 7-10, who were the Pharisees and Sadducees? What did he warn them?
- d. See verses 11-12, who did John say was coming? What did he tell them that the Messiah would do? What did he mean about the threshing floor? What did he say would happen to the wheat? What about the chaff? What does this refer to?
- e. Read verses 13-15. Notice the phrase, "John would have prevented Him." In what way do we see Jesus as God here? How did Jesus know what John was thinking? What did Jesus do?
- f. In verses 16-17, we see the response of the other members of the Trinity/ Godhead- the Father and the Spirit. How do we see the Son, the Spirit, and the Father all in Jesus's baptism? What did God the Father say about His Son?

Fit it! The Word of God is living and active in your life today. God's Word is for your life too.

Small Group Questions/ Bible Study Questions:

1. Key: True repentance (turning from sin and running to Jesus) is necessary for the Christian life. It is a change of our learning, our fitting, and our living to be a reflection of God and His will for our lives. See Psalm 119:57-60.
2. Key Questions from each lesson:
 - a. What does this lesson teach you about God?
 - b. What does this lesson teach you about yourself?
 - c. What does this lesson teach you about the gospel? Are you seeking to share this good news with others?
 - d. What is baptism? Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to the believer's faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. [LifeWay Students (2019). (p. Page 51). The Gospel Project for Students: Jesus the Messiah Volume 7 Leader Study Guide Spring 2020 ESV e-book. LifeWay Press. Retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>]
 - e. What does Jesus say was the reason for His baptism? Why is His baptism different than ours?
 - f. Why is it so significant for the 400 years of silence to be broken by Jesus's birth and then His beginning of His ministry? How does Jesus's baptism change your life?
 - g. What does God's statement about Jesus say about Him at the start of His ministry? How do our actions please God the Father? Is it by what we do? Or is it because of what Jesus did?

Live it! How will you live life differently through the Bible verses that we read today?

1. Spend time praying about what you learned from God's Word this week.
2. Pray for yours and your small group's prayer requests.
3. Repent of your sins, turning away from them and running to Jesus.
4. When you repent of your sins and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, how should this inform your worship?

Don't forget it!

Christ Connection: Jesus completely obeyed God and identified with sinners by being baptized like sinners are baptized. His baptism points to His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. For those of us in Christ, the words spoken over Jesus at His baptism are also true of us: we are the Father's beloved children with whom He is pleased. [LifeWay Students (2019). (p. Page 53). The Gospel Project for Students: Jesus the Messiah Volume 7 Leader Study Guide Spring 2020 ESV e-book. LifeWay Press. Retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>]

OCTOBER BIBLE VERSES/ I Corinthians 13:1-2: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

BIG IDEA QUESTIONS (new units in bold):

- Who is God? God is our Creator and King
- What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.
- What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.
- How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him.
- What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.
- Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.
- How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as King of Kings.
- What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
- Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
- How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.
- Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in Heaven and on earth.
- **Is Jesus God or human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.**
- **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.**
- **What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.**

SONG FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER: [Jesus Forever](#) by Austin Stone Worship Kids
