

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: October 25, 2015

SUBJECT: THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His Baptism

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22

AIM: To show the children that (1) Jesus came as a man and did everything to please God, including being baptized, and (2) we should follow Jesus' example to please God.

MEMORY VERSES: Matthew 3:13 (Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him.); Luke 3:21 (Now when all the people were baptized and as Jesus was baptized and was praying, heaven was opened.); Mark 1:9 (And in those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.); 1 Peter 2:21 (For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 146 (I Want The Lord to Have the First Place); 15 (Walking With Jesus); 4614 BSS Matthew Vol. 1 Song 3 (My God He Really Came as Man); 9022 BSS Go Jesus Song 3 (To Judea John Came); 9023 BSS Go Jesus Song 4 (Jesus Came Proclaiming); 9026 BSS Go Jesus Song 7 (Totally! Jesus Christ is Totally for God)

CONTENT:

I. John Baptizing People and Telling Them to Repent. John the Baptist was preaching to people, telling them about Jesus. John told people to repent from their sins and to turn back to the Lord their God. (Repent means to change your mind or direction.) He also told them to be baptized in the water. By being baptized, a person publicly let everyone around him know that he was really sorry for his sins and wanted to change his ways. Because of John's preaching, the hearts of many people were turned to God. His preaching and baptizing helped prepare people's hearts to believe on the coming Lord Jesus.

II. Jesus Comes to John to Be Baptized. Before Jesus began His public ministry and service to God (at about age thirty), he traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John hesitated to baptize Jesus. John knew that Jesus was holy and without sin. Why would Jesus need to be baptized? So John tried to prevent Jesus, saying, "*It is I who* have need of being baptized by You, and You come to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it for now, for it is fitting for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." So then John allowed the Lord Jesus to be baptized. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him because He wanted to show what all the people should do. Jesus was a good example for all those around Him. The Lord Jesus did not make Himself an exception. He followed God's way. This shows that Jesus was righteous by living, walking, and doing things in the way that God wanted.

III. God was Pleased with the Baptism of Jesus. After being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water. God showed how very pleased He was by giving the following signs:

- The heavens were opened to Jesus.
- The Spirit of God descended upon Him as a dove.
- The Father spoke from the heavens and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I found My delight."

Note to Serving Ones: If the children ask questions about the Triune God, try to keep the answer simple and age appropriate. We can remind them that there is only one God, but the Bible also tells us He is the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Jesus was not only God but also man. We can also say that God is mysterious and we cannot understand everything about Him.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- **We should try to live and act in a way that is pleasing to God in all things.** We should not think that we do not have to follow the rules and others do. Jesus had no sin, yet He also got baptized. We should follow the Lord's good example to do what is right and well-pleasing to God.
- **God wants us to have a soft heart.** John was sent to baptize people so that they could repent and have a soft heart. That would prepare their hearts to be the good ground for the Lord. This shows that the Lord is interested in our hearts. We need to ask the Lord for forgiveness whenever we have done something wrong. Confessing our sins and telling others we are sorry is a good way to keep our hearts soft.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 3, *The Person and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ*, Lesson 5, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 11/26/89; 10/6/91; 10/6/96; 10/6/02; 10/10/04; 10/26/10