

Jesus, part 6

Baptism

Review

Say: Today, we're going to continue our look at Jesus' life...

Ask: Who can remember the things we've talked about so far?

Mention (or help them remember) any of these things students don't:

1. Old Testament prophecies
2. His birth foretold to Mary and Joseph
3. His genealogy
4. His birth
5. Visiting the Temple when He was twelve

Ask about Fun Water Activities

Ask: Before we get into what we're talking about today about Jesus... What are some fun water related activities you like to do?
(*swimming, surfing, water skiing, tubing, water balloons, etc.*)

Say:

- While it may not be something we would think of as being "fun," baptism is a water related thing that is important.
- Today we're going to look at something the Bible says about when Jesus was baptized - this would be about 18 years after the time in the Temple, when He was about 30 years old....

John the Baptist Preparing the Way

Have someone read Matthew 3:1-10 for the class (while everyone follows along)

Ask:

- What was John the Baptist doing?
(*Preparing the way of Jesus, baptizing people, preaching*)
- What was John the Baptist's message?
(*V 2 - people should repent because the kingdom of heaven was near*)
- What does it mean to repent?
(*When someone repents, they turn from sin*)

Say:

- It is important to turn from sin... and turn to God to save us from our sin!
- We aren't saved by being sinless....
- But it's important, with God's help, to turn from sin and turn to Jesus to save us.
- Let's see what the passage says next...

Jesus would Baptize with Fire

Have someone read Matthew 3:11-12 for the class (while everyone follows along)

Ask: What does John say about Jesus in verses 11-12?

Say:

- Here's one understanding of what John means by Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire, from Asbury Bible Commentary: "All persons will experience [Jesus'] baptism. For some it will be 'baptism of the Spirit,' a pouring out of the Spirit that will enable the recipients to participate fully in the community of God that Jesus, as the Messiah, establishes. For others it will be 'baptism of fire,' the eternal punishment that Jesus, as Judge, will dispense to those who reject God and the Christ whom he has sent."
(*See if teens understand what that means/help them understand.*)
- Another understanding, like from a commentary by Matthew Henry, is that Jesus baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit, like fire, since the Holy Spirit enlightens and purifies...

Jesus' Baptism

Have someone read Matthew 3:13-17 for the class.

Ask:

- What did John say when Jesus went to be baptized by him?
- Why did Jesus say He should be baptized?

Say:

- Jesus was without sin, so didn't need to repent like others who were being baptized.
- But He said He did it to fulfill all righteousness.

Ask: What happened when Jesus came out of the water and what did God the Father say?
(*The Spirit descended on Him; Father said He was His Son He loved and was pleased with*)

Say:

- From what the Bible says, Christians understand that God is a "Trinity" - one God in three "persons" - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are not three separate Gods, but one God of one substance, in three distinct persons...
- Some people might argue that God is one God, but not in three persons. They might say He just sometimes acts in the different roles of Father, Son, and Spirit. But this passage mentions the three together at the same time.

A Little More about Baptism

Say:

- Before we finish today, let's look a little more about baptism...
- Later on, before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples these instructions...

Have someone read Matthew 28:18-20 for the class (while everyone follows along)

Ask: What does this say about baptism?

(The disciples were told to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.)

Say:

- Later in the New Testament we see that as people believed in Jesus, they were baptized.
- From what the Bible says, it would seem that baptism is not essential to be saved - because it says we are saved by faith (and it doesn't seem the thief on the cross who Jesus said would be with Him in paradise was baptized, for instance).
- But, based on Jesus' instructions to the disciples, the example of early Christians in the Bible, and other things the Bible says, we can see that when people trust Jesus as their savior, they should be baptized.

Closing Application

Ask:

- Any other questions about baptism?
- What's something important you learned today?

Say:

- If you're a Christian and haven't been baptized, you can talk to your parents or one of the pastors or other leaders about it.
- It's a great way to make a public profession of your faith in Jesus.

Closing Prayer

References:

David R Bauer?, Comment on Matthew 3:1-4:16, Asbury Bible Commentary: Matthew, accessed 11/3/2016 via <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/asbury-bible-commentary/Preparation-Jesus-Ministry>

Matthew Henry, Comment on Matthew 3:11-17, accessed 11/3/2016 via https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat_003.cfm?a=932001

Michael J Wilkins, Comment on Matthew 3:11-17, Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Gen Ed Clinton E Arnold (Zondervan, 2002).

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