

Unit 8-Lesson 1: John's Testimony of Jesus' Baptism

(John 1:29-34)

brite* Idea: Jesus is the Son of God.

John the Baptist had been telling everyone that Jesus (God's Son) was coming, and that only Jesus would be able to forgive sins. As a way to remind people of what Jesus was going to do, John had been baptizing people, dipping them in the water, as if to wash their sins away, a symbol that they could get a fresh start with God. John shares his testimony of Jesus' baptism and how Jesus had come to fulfill God's promise and begin making a way for us to be right with God again. John recognizes that Jesus is God's Son because God's Spirit, like a dove, came down and rested on Him.

He We Me Questions

This story helps us address 3 kinds of questions that kids may have. They are our He (God question), our We (people question), and our Me (purpose question) for this week.

- Our **He** Question about God: Who is Jesus?
 - We learned that God used the baptism of Jesus to reveal to us that Jesus was God's Son, the Promised Messiah.
- Our **We** Question about people: What does it mean for us that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - We learned that because Jesus is the Son of God, He alone is the only One who can save us from our sins. He is the Messiah, the Chosen One.
- Our **Me** Question about our purpose: How does Jesus make a difference in my life?
 - We learned that Jesus takes away our sins and promises us the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 1:7— *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Discipleship Conversation Starters For Parents

1. Who described your teacher to you before your first day of school? What facts did they tell you? Were the facts true?
2. Think of your relatives. Sharing only facts, no names, can your family guess who you are describing?
3. God told John the Baptist a fact about Jesus so he would know Jesus was sent by God from heaven. Do you believe Jesus was sent from God? Where did you get your facts?

Encouragement for Parents

Parents juggle perceptual and abstract beliefs. "Don't touch, it's hot" are a parent's words that a child actually sees and can believe—a perceptual belief. As children mature, parents warn about abstract beliefs not yet experienced, but true for their well-being. "Addictions will make life harder" is an abstract belief about life to a 13-year-old! Your children move from perceptual facts about God to an abstract belief of Jesus by your showing them that Jesus is the answer to life. **Your juggling focus truly matters!**

