GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

John Baptizes Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17



YOUR BIBLE READING

At Jesus' baptism, God identified him as his beloved Son.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Jesus Comes to John

Matthew 3:13-17



Jesus traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River, where John was baptizing. He came to John in order to be baptized himself. Matthew's account names the journey and the purpose clearly. Jesus was not arriving by accident as someone passing through the area. The scene begins with his decision to come to the river and take part in what John was doing, a decision that surprised John deeply.

John tried to prevent it. He said that he needed to be baptized by Jesus, and wondered why Jesus was coming to him instead. His question recognized a greatness in Jesus that made the request seem reversed. John was the person carrying out the baptisms, but he did not imagine that his own role made him greater than the one before him. He was willing to express what he did not understand.

Jesus answered that John should allow it for the present, because this was the fitting way for them to fulfill what was right before God. The word righteousness points toward living in line with God's will. Jesus was not asking John to stop caring about what was right. He was inviting him to carry out this action as part of that purpose, even though John had first expected their positions to be different.

John agreed and baptized Jesus. The passage gives no elaborate description of the movement, the depth of the water, or the reactions of a gathered crowd. We can follow the action without adding those details. The important exchange has moved from John's hesitation to his participation. Jesus had come seeking baptism, explained why it should take place, and received it. Then, as he came up from the water, the scene opened toward an extraordinary revelation.

Remember: Jesus is the Son whom the Father loves and delights in.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Spirit and the Beloved Son

Matthew 3:13-17



When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened. He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. Matthew describes a sign that points toward God's action, not a trick arranged at the river. The comparison with a dove helps readers picture the descent. The text does not require us to add colors, a cage, or a description of a bird flying away afterward.

A voice from heaven spoke of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the one in whom he delighted. The baptism scene now held both a visible sign and spoken words. The Spirit descended, and the heavenly voice identified the Son with love and approval. John's earlier question had concerned who should baptize whom. The answer to Jesus' identity was now coming from heaven rather than from the importance of the person carrying out the baptism.

The Father's voice, Jesus the Son, and the Spirit all appear in this brief account. Christians return to this scene when speaking about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We can notice each part carefully without inventing a new conversation among them. The passage gives us enough to see the Father's delight in Jesus and the Spirit's presence. Its center is the beloved Son, not a long description of the river or its surroundings.

The account ends with the voice from heaven. It has moved from a journey, through a thoughtful exchange with John, to baptism and God's declaration of love. Jesus had chosen the fitting action within the Father's purpose. John had listened and joined in it. The words of approval help readers understand whose story they are following: Jesus is not simply another person in the scene, but the Son whom the Father names as deeply loved.

Pause and think: How can listening to a thoughtful explanation help you reconsider your first response?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Listening Before Acting



John admitted that he did not understand why Jesus had come to him. Then he listened to Jesus' answer and changed his response. We can learn from that willingness. A first reaction may be thoughtful and still need correction. Listening well means allowing an explanation to matter, rather than deciding that we must keep our first answer simply because we have already said it aloud.

The heavenly voice speaks love and delight over Jesus. This is a particular revelation of his identity, not a competition in which other people's value becomes smaller. When Christians read this scene, they are invited to know and trust the beloved Son. We can notice the language of love without turning it into a lesson that only impressive or successful people deserve care.

Baptism is practiced in different ways among Christian churches. A parent or church leader can explain your community's practice and its meaning. This account helps us begin with Jesus: he came to John, chose what was right before God, and was identified as the beloved Son. Learning about a practice can include respectful questions and careful listening, just as John listened before he acted.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

At his baptism, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son, with the Spirit's presence and the Father's delight.

How can listening to a thoughtful explanation help you reconsider your first response?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Who baptized Jesus?

2. What did the voice from heaven reveal?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ The Father identifies Jesus as his beloved Son.
- ☐ Jesus asks John to baptize him.
- ☐ John baptizes Jesus, and the Spirit descends.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the river and a dove shape to represent how the Spirit descended.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Jesus is the Son whom the Father loves and delights in.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Matthew 3:17

A thoughtful conversation

The Spirit descends like a dove; the text does not say the Spirit is a bird. Christian traditions explain baptism differently, so keep the focus on this event and Jesus' identity.

Activity answers

1. John, in the Jordan River.
2. Jesus is God's beloved Son who pleases him.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

Father, help us know Jesus and follow your good purposes. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Matthew 3:13-17. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 40_Mt_03_07_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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