

To Fulfill All Righteousness

The Baptism of Christ

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 4

We have learned a lot about Jesus as a little boy. He always wanted to serve His Father, God. Around the time Jesus was born, another important person was born too! His name was John. The Old Testament tells us that John was going to prepare the way for Jesus.

The Birth of John the Baptist

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall be turn to the Lord their God.

—Luke 1:13-16

Elisabeth was the mother of John the Baptist. She was Mary's cousin. Her husband was a priest. His name was Zacharias. Elisabeth and Zacharias had no children. This made them very sad. The Bible has many different stories about women who could not have any children, and God did a miracle by giving them a baby. Remember the story of Abraham and Sarah? Sarah was 99 when she had her first baby! Samuel's mother, Hannah, didn't have any children. Then she prayed to God and asked Him for children. God gave her Samuel. Elisabeth was another woman who had no children.

One day, Zacharias was praying in the Temple. An angel came to tell him that his wife was going to have a baby! Zacharias was amazed! He and his wife were very old. The angel told Zacharias that their son would be a great man. The angel told Zacharias that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born.

Elisabeth finally had the baby. Zacharias could talk again! They called the baby John. We call him John the Baptist.

The Ministry of John the Baptist

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

—Luke 3:15-16

John's father was a priest. John could have lived his own life, but he chose to do God's will. God's plan for John's life was to point people towards Jesus. John's family was very important

because his father was a priest. He probably could have lived in a nice house with many nice things. Instead, John went in the wilderness to tell other people about Jesus. Instead of wearing nice clothes, he wore animal skins and ate locusts and wild honey!

John went around telling other people that they needed to ask God to forgive their sins. He was a preacher! Many of the Jewish rulers did not like John because he was preaching against the people in the Temple who were not doing right.

Many people came to hear John the Baptist. But he always told people about Jesus. He never took any glory for himself. John baptized people who decided to live their lives for God.

The Baptism of Jesus

Later, while all of the people were listening to John and watching him baptize, Jesus came! John had told the people that Jesus was coming! Jesus came to John and was baptized.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

—Matthew 3:16-17

John knew he was unworthy to baptize Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was 30 years old when He came to John to be baptized. Through Jesus' baptism, God showed everyone that Jesus was His Son.

Jesus was the Son of God. But He still did what God wanted Him to do. We should want to live our lives to be as much like Jesus as possible. It is very important for us to obey God.

The first thing Jesus did to start His ministry on earth was get baptized. Baptism shows your obedience to God. Baptism does not take you to Heaven, but it lets everyone else know that you believe in Jesus. It lets other people know that you have asked Jesus to take you to Heaven when you die. Baptism shows on the outside what you have believed in your heart. Baptism is important because it is the first thing that we are commanded to do after we ask Jesus to save us. Obedience is very important to God.

Teacher's Notes
