

The Baptism of Jesus

Know about the baptism of Jesus.
Reflect on what Jesus' baptism means for us.



Zechariah's Prophecy

When John the Baptist was born, his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit. He prophesied that Jesus, the Saviour would come and that John would prepare the way for him. Here are some of the things he said:

The Saviour will give light to those in darkness and guide us into the way of peace.

The Saviour is coming to save us from our sins.

The Saviour will make known the loving-kindness of the heart of our God.

At that time, many people had forgotten all the wonderful things God had done for them. They were not aware of their need for God and did nothing to help the poor people. So, before sending His Son, God chose John, who became known as John the Baptist, to prepare the way for Jesus.



Pause to discuss

- What do you think Zechariah means by people living in darkness?
- How do you think people can find God's peace?



Pause to reflect

- What does it feel like when you have done something wrong and you know you are completely forgiven?
- Remember Jesus loves us very much and will always love us.

John the Baptist

When John grew up he was a wild character! He lived in the wilderness and wore clothes made of *camel hair with a leather belt around his waist* and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Crowds flocked into the wilderness to hear John. He announced that the Messiah, the Saviour that they had been waiting for, was coming very soon. He warned the people that they needed to change their ways.

"Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand."

Then he quoted from the prophet Isaiah,



**"A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matt. 3:3).**

He warned them that God looks into peoples' hearts to see if they have faith and trust in Him. Also, He wants to see if they look after people in need of help.

RE Task 1

If you had been there, what questions would you have asked John the Baptist?

Think of between 3 and 5 questions.

The Baptism of Jesus

The people of Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole Jordan district made their way to John to be baptised. Jesus appeared. He wanted to be baptised by John. But John said to him,

“It is I who need baptism from you and yet you come to me”.

Jesus replied, “Leave it like this for the time being.” By this Jesus meant that he wanted to live with the people and do what they did.

“As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up immediately from the water, and suddenly the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him’” (Matt. 3:13-17).



Even John was taken by surprise. The ‘heavens opened’ as though an invisible curtain was suddenly pulled back to reveal Jesus, the Son of God. The people could not believe their eyes.

The voice from heaven was God revealing to the people that Jesus is truly His Son, His only Son. The Father had sent His Son to be our Saviour.

The dove is a symbol of God’s Spirit. It is also a symbol of peace. This is the peace that Jesus gives to all people who follow him and want to live a good life. So, when we open our hearts to God in prayer, He will give us His peace and show us how to live a good life.



Pause to discuss

When Jesus was baptised, the three persons of the Trinity were present. How do we know this?

The Public Life of Jesus

Following his baptism, “when Jesus was filled with the power of the Spirit he returned to Galilee. His reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in synagogues and everyone praised him” (Lk. 4:14-15).

RE Task 2

Draw an image of the Baptism of Jesus, showing that the trinity was present—God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit.

See if you can take a photo of your work and either:

1. send me this with your questions from task 1 as an email through purple mash.
2. Save photo to your computer and then add to a purple mash document and hand in. Watch my video to see how!