

Son of God – The Life of Jesus in You

Week 1 Outline

Matthew 3:13-17 NIV

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened and then he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

1. You need to be baptized because Jesus _____ it.

By His own baptism, Jesus was saying, “If you truly want to follow me, then you need to follow me into this water. If I need to do this, then so do you.”

2. You need to be baptized because Jesus _____ it.

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mat. 28:19 NIV)

Baptism is not an option. It is a command for every follower of Jesus Christ.

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.” (1 Jn. 2:3, NIV)

3. Baptism is your _____ that you belong to Jesus Christ.

Your baptism tells the world that you are not ashamed to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:35-38 NIV

“Philip began with the Scriptures and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the man said, “Look!” Here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The man answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”..Then they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”

4. Baptism is a symbol of _____

“Your baptism says you’re not just a believer but a believer.”

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27 NIV

“For we are baptized by one Spirit into one body...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

Discovery Questions

Jesus wasn’t baptized for sins since he never did. His baptism was his way of identifying with us. In Matthew 5:17 Jesus said he didn’t come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. In the same way Jesus didn’t come to abolish baptism but to fulfill it and give it a complete meaning which is death to sin and the old way of life, and resurrection to a new way of life.

“We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:2-4 NIV)

1. Give people a chance to testify how getting water baptized made a difference for them.
2. One way to consider the significance of baptism is that it is a way that Jesus changes labels on our life. What are some old labels Jesus took off of you and some new labels He has put on you since you’ve identified with Him?
3. How is being dead to sin even greater than just being forgiven for sin? What does it mean for a Christian to think of themselves as dead to sin?
4. Three things happened as Jesus was baptized: the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit came, and the words of Father’s affirmation and love were spoken. What are examples of how you need the Heavens to open for you today, where you need condemnation to be replaced with affirmation, and you need the Holy Spirit to empower you?

Prayer and ministry time

1. Suggest that if anyone hasn’t been baptized since becoming a believer that they plan to be baptized this Easter at church.
2. After having people share their answers to question 4 above take some time to ask for the Holy Spirit to come on the group and for everyone to hear the word of blessing the Father might want to speak. Ask if anyone would like the group to pray for them for an area where they’ve been struggling with old labels or feeling like a failure. As you pray allow people to speak what they might think the Father would want to speak over their friends.