

This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

Mark 1:11

And a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

Where did the voice come from? _____

Who was God pleased with? _____



The three Persons of the **TRINITY** were present at Jesus' baptism in Luke 3:21, 22. Can you find them?

- * H _____ S _____, who was like a Dove
- * G ___ the Father, whose Voice was heard
- * J _____, whom God called My S _____

Name _____

Jesus is Baptized

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-23; John 1:6-27



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During the years Jesus was growing up in Nazareth, life went on as usual in the land of Palestine. The Jews were still very unhappy and angry because their land did not belong to them. The Roman Empire still ruled over them. There were many Roman soldiers that lived in the land. The Jewish people continued to long for the Messiah to come and deliver them from Roman rule.

Thirty years had gone by since the angel's message to the shepherds about Jesus' birth.

One day word spread through the land of Judea, "A prophet has come. Let's go and hear him." Many, many people from the cities and villages, eager to hear a message from God, went out to him. Instead of finding a prophet in their great temple, they found him in the wilderness, away from their cities. He did not look or act like a prophet. He was roughly dressed in clothes made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt. He was strong and rugged, eating foods found in the wilderness—honey and grasshoppers. What a strange sight this must have been for the people! His name was John, and he preached boldly to the people. God had sent him to announce that the Messiah was coming.

Great crowds of people gathered to hear John. He called out to them in a loud voice, "Get ready for the Messiah. Turn from your sins and make your hearts right!"

The people listened and many believed his message. Some said, "Surely John must be our Messiah, the one God promised to send to us."

But John said, "No I am not. I have been sent to tell you that one mightier than I is coming, one who is so much greater than I that I am not worthy even to untie His shoes. Get ready for His coming and turn away from your sins."

As the people listened to John's words, they knew God was speaking to them. Many of them said, "We have sinned against God. We are not ready for the coming of our King. What shall we do?" Those who were sorry for their sins were baptized in the Jordan River.

Day after day the people flocked to hear John tell of the one who was to come. Some who came to be baptized had traveled long distances.

One day Jesus was in the crowd that gathered to hear John. As John was speaking, Jesus stepped out from the crowd and asked John to baptize Him. John must have been surprised. Here was the Messiah, the very one he had been telling everyone about. John said, "But I cannot baptize you, for You are much greater than I am. I need to be baptized by You."

Jesus said, "Yes, but it is right that you should baptize Me now." So, John baptized Him.

Why was Jesus baptized? The other people did this to show they were sorry for their sins and that they believed God's Word. But Jesus had no sin. Instead, He was baptized to show that He was taking His place with those who believed God's Word and to show the people that He was now ready to begin the work He was sent to do on earth.

As Jesus came up out of the water, heaven opened. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove came down and rested on Him. Then a voice from heaven spoke. It was God the Father speaking. He said, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

Here was the Trinity—God the Father speaking from heaven, God the Son being baptized, and God the Holy Spirit appearing in the form of a dove.

Before Jesus had left heaven to come to earth, God the Son and God the Father had made a covenant, which is an agreement. God the Son agreed to come to earth and live here as a man and die for sinners so that the way for them would be opened to heaven.

When Jesus came to be baptized, it was as if He were saying "I am here, ready for My work." When God the Father spoke from heaven, He was showing that He loved His Son and that He was in favor of the work Jesus had come to do—to save His people from their sins. Then the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus to give Him the power to do His work. From that time on John told everyone that Jesus was the Son of God.