



# Jesus's Baptism & Temptation

# 11

## Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

## Key Passages

- Matthew 3:1–17, 4:1–17; Luke 3:21–22; Deuteronomy 6:13, 6:16, 8:3, 10:20; Psalm 91:9–13

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe why Jesus's baptism was important.
- Explain how Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Write on the board, "What weapons do you have ready for battling temptation?"

Students will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Crossword and reciting the verse to a friend or to the class.

- Memory Verse Crossword for each student from the Resource DVD-ROM



### Studying God's Word

Jesus was fully God and fully man. In order to accomplish God's purpose for Him, He had to identify with man in every way except sin. Today we will see two ways Jesus—as God—identified with man: His baptism and His temptation. Both events occurred at the very beginning of His public ministry.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### Activity: Personal Battle Plan

Students will be asked to take time to evaluate their own readiness for battle and develop a plan to prepare themselves to fight temptations in the pattern of Jesus.

- Personal Battle Plan worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student
- Pencils



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Last week we discussed Jesus's perfect obedience while on earth. His obedience in every aspect of the Law fulfilled all righteousness (Matthew 3:15), which is what God demands from all of us—perfect righteousness. This is unattainable for sinful man. But God's plan always included Jesus living a perfect, sinless life. His righteous life and substitutionary death would provide a way for us to receive His righteousness, giving us redemption from our sins and hope of eternal life with God.

In order to apply His righteousness to man, Jesus—who was fully God and fully man—had to identify with man in every way except sin. The Bible states that Jesus came in the “likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3). This means that He came, not in pre-fall Adamic flesh, but in post-fall flesh. He came with all of the weaknesses of a post-fall body, just like the stuff that you and I are made of, yet without sin.

Our lesson today reveals two very different ways Jesus—as God—identified with man during His life on earth. These events both occurred at the very beginning of His public ministry.

The first event is Jesus's baptism by John. John was baptizing and preaching a message of repentance (Matthew 3:2). The people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were coming to John, confessing their sins, and being baptized (Matthew 3:5–6).

John was the fulfillment of the Scriptures that spoke of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3). And John's baptism was one of confession and repentance of sins in preparation for the Messiah. So why would Jesus want to be baptized by John? When Jesus, the sinless one, came to be baptized, it is no wonder that John attempted to prevent Him. John knew it was he who should be baptized by Jesus (Matthew 3:14).

However, Jesus had come to purchase righteousness for mankind. He would bring righteousness and redemption by living a perfect life and bearing our sins. In order to do this, He had to identify with man and his sin. And Scripture confirms this when it tells us that the perfect one, who knew no sin, became sin for us “that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The prophet Isaiah revealed this, too, when he said that the Messiah would die, be numbered with the transgressors, and bear the sin of many

as He made intercession for sinners (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus's baptism by John represented His willingness to be identified with the people He came to save, and not only with the people, but with their sin—the sin He would soon bear Himself on the Cross.

The second event occurred immediately after the baptism. Fresh from a “victory” with an endorsement by His Father—“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”—Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit where He was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). Again, we see Him identifying with those He came to save. Jesus was fully man, and as such He was tempted in the same way man is. And because of this, we are assured that this sinless God-man—our Redeemer—is one who can empathize with our weaknesses because He was tempted in all points, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

The first specific temptation recorded for us came after Jesus had fasted from food for 40 days. The tempter suggested Jesus command the stones to become bread. And Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). The ploy was to get Jesus to doubt His Father's provision and to meet a legitimate need Himself. In essence He replied, I am a man, and I cannot marginalize myself from my brethren. He had us in mind already at His first temptation.

Then the devil tested Jesus again. This time he quoted from Psalm 91:11–12 as he took Jesus to a high pinnacle on the Temple and suggested if Jesus were really God, He could jump off and God would send His angels to protect Him (Matthew 4:5–6). Again, Jesus responded with the Word of God, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’” (Matthew 4:7). In essence, Satan said, “Show the crowd how much faith you have in your Father,” and Jesus replied, “No, I do not test God. It is my Father in heaven who tests me.”

The third test came on a high mountain where the devil promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus again stood firm on the Word of God, saying, “it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Matthew 4:8–10). Jesus's response came from Deuteronomy 6 where Moses showed Israel the Promised Land and warned them not to become satiated with the land of Canaan without God. The land itself would become a curse if God was forgotten. Likewise, Jesus said to Satan that all the kingdoms of the world would become a curse without His Father.

Jesus's response to these temptations gives us a

model of how to successfully overcome temptations by God's grace. Jesus responded to the devil by relying on God and His Word.

We must learn to respond in the same way. By saturating our hearts and minds with the truth, we will recognize temptations and lies that come at us in attempts to cause us to sin. We must have a firm grasp on the offensive weapon God has armed us with—the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). This will give us the strength and power we need to turn from temptations as we encounter them.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Temptation has been a problem throughout the history of mankind. In fact, giving into temptation is what brought sin into the world. Satan, in the form of the serpent, tempted Eve to disobey God and His clear command not to eat the fruit. Eve was deceived and succumbed to the temptation. Since the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned, all of humanity has faced temptation and given in to that temptation at some point. Cain was tempted to kill his brother—he failed (Genesis 4:8). Noah was tempted to drunkenness—he failed (Genesis 9:21). Abraham was tempted to lie about Sarah being his wife—he failed (Genesis 20:2). David was tempted to adultery and murder—he failed (2 Samuel 11:4, 15). Peter was tempted to deny Jesus—he failed (Mark 14:71). You have been tempted to sin and failed.

But there was one person who did not fail—Jesus Christ. Not only did He not fail, but also He triumphed over temptation by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many aspects of the life of Jesus demonstrate His humanity. He was born, He grew in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:40), He learned obedience (Hebrews 5:8), and He was even baptized in the same manner as sinful man (Matthew 3:13–17). He can empathize with our weakness because He was tempted just as we are (Hebrews 4:14–16). Jesus identified Himself with every person who has ever walked the earth.

That common experience of temptation is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Rather than calling Christians to accept that they are bound to sin, God's Word offers hope to overcome the temptations that we find in the world and in our own flesh (James 1:13–15). What power do you, as a believer, have to escape these temptations? The power of the Holy Spirit! This power comes in two forms. First, since the

coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, all believers have the Holy Spirit living in them. The Spirit enables believers to obey the commands of God and escape temptation, looking to the pleasures of Christ above the fleeting pleasures of sin. Second, it was the Holy Spirit who moved the holy men of God to deliver the Scriptures to us (2 Peter 1:19–21). It is from these Spirit-given words that we know the will of God and His commands to us. When temptations come, we can fight them with the words of God we have hidden in our hearts, that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).

Jesus was able to use the words of Scripture to fend off the temptations of Satan. He had the words of truth from Scripture ready. We should follow His example. But how can we use God's Word when temptation comes upon us if we do not have it stored in our minds? Memorizing Scripture, meditating on Scripture, sitting under sound teaching, and personal study are all important aspects of living a godly life and being prepared to face temptations. As we seek to live a life of holiness and face persecution for our beliefs, we can even identify with Christ in His suffering. In many cases our opportunities to practice apologetics will come in the face of persecution and temptations. Peter calls each Christian to be prepared to suffer for righteousness' sake, telling those who ask of the hope we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:14–17). Let us all strive to be prepared so that when we draw the sword of the Spirit the words of God will be used skillfully in our hands under the divine guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Perfect, sinless Savior, you can empathize with my weaknesses because you were tempted in all points. Thank you for showing me how to overcome temptation! I love your Word. It is living and active, never stale or out-of-date. It gives me direction and wisdom. It is my tutor and comforts me in times of hardship and loss. But your Word is also my weapon—the sword of the Spirit. Your Word gives me power to overcome temptation. Please move in the hearts of my students to see the wonder of your Word. Help them to love it and learn to rely on it to fight the daily temptations they face.

## Review

I hope you have had some time in the last week to think about what we discussed in our last lesson—the obedience of Christ that has been given to us. From the very beginning of His earthly life, Jesus obeyed His Father and sought to do the will of the Father. This included obedience to His earthly parents, as well. Jesus came to obey in our place because we have failed to obey God. He also came to bear the penalty for sin that we deserve. In Christ, God has given us the great exchange—our sin exchanged for the perfect righteousness of Jesus.

? Would anyone like to share how you used what you learned last week to either share the gospel with someone or encourage a fellow believer? *Discuss any ideas shared and encourage the students to be putting what they are learning into practice.*

We sinned in Adam and also personally. Christ lived a life of perfect obedience. He died as our substitute, taking our sins on Himself. We are clothed with His righteousness when we come to faith in Him.

Those are all truths that every believer should rejoice in and desire to share with

others so that they too can be reconciled to God in Christ.

Our lesson today takes us to the beginning of what is called the earthly ministry of Jesus. Let's look at the timeline to remind ourselves of where we are in the grand scheme of God's redemptive plan. *Refer to the New Testament History Poster.*

*You can also refer students back to the timeline they began in Lesson 5.*

We are in the year AD 20\_\_\_. As we discussed several weeks ago, Jesus was born here on the timeline about 5 BC, over 2,000 years ago. Last week we talked about Jesus visiting Jerusalem when He was 12 (at AD 8, because there was no year 0). The next recorded activity we have is not until Jesus was about 30 years old. As we discussed before, we know that John the Baptist began preaching in the fifteenth year of Tiberius (*along the bottom of the timeline*), so the beginning of the ministry of Jesus was around AD 30. So for the next several months, we will be talking about events that happened during this three-year period (*point out the Ministry of Christ section at the top of the timeline*). So let's jump into our text for today in the Gospel of Matthew.



► Write on the board, "What weapons do you have ready for battling temptation?"



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

We are going to look first at all of Matthew 3, but our real emphasis will be on verses 13–17. Remember that reading a verse or two can often give us a misleading impression. Reading a passage in context will help us to interpret the passage rightly, drawing out the intended meaning God has for us. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

Matthew 3:1–17

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

Let's talk about John first.

- ? **How can we summarize the ministry of John the Baptist as described in verses 1–6?** *John was sent as a messenger to announce the arrival of the Messiah as Isaiah had prophesied.*
- ? **What was John calling the people to do?** *He was calling them to repent.*
- ? **What physical act accompanied their repentance?** *Baptism accompanied the confession of their sins.*
- ? **Who responded to John's message?** *Verse 5 describes a broad response from many in Israel.*
- ? **How did John speak to the Pharisees and Sadducees (religious leaders)?** *He called them a brood of vipers and warned them of their false hope in their heritage through Abraham and of their works which did not reflect an attitude of repentance.*
- ? **How did John characterize the one to come (the Messiah)?** *John said that the Messiah was so much mightier than John that he was not even worthy to carry His sandals.*
- ? **What imagery of judgment did John use to describe the "wrath to come"?** *Verse 10 mentions an ax at the root of a tree to be cut down and thrown in a fire. Verse 12 talks of judgment in terms of burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire while the wheat is preserved.*

Now let's shift to the baptism of Jesus beginning in verse 13.

- ? **Where did Jesus come from?** *He came from Galilee to the Jordan River. This is likely near Jericho on the Jordan River.*
- ? **How did John respond to Jesus's attempt to be baptized?** *John tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized.*
- ? **What reasoning did John offer for not wanting to baptize Jesus?** *John said he should be baptized by Jesus.*
- ? **How can we interpret John's hesitation?** *He knew that he was sinful and that Jesus, the Messiah, was sinless and did not need to confess His sins and be baptized. Jesus was already "clean" and did not need to be "washed."*
- ? **What reason does Jesus give to John?** *He tells John it must be done "to fulfill all righteousness." This phrase needs to be interpreted.*
- ? **After His baptism, what heavenly signs were seen?** *The heavens opened as the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Jesus, and the Father spoke from heaven.*
- ? **What does Luke 3:22 add to the description of the Holy Spirit?** *Luke says the Spirit took the "bodily form of a dove." This is where the imagery of the dove to represent the Holy Spirit comes from.*
- ? **How does the Father describe the Son?** *He is the beloved Son, and the Father is very pleased in the Son.*
- ? **How is the Trinity represented in this passage?** *The Spirit descends on the Son who is praised by the Father.*

Luke 3:21–22

## Discover the Truth

➤ At this point in the discussion of the form and function of baptism, you may wish to introduce your denomination's view to the students.

Jesus began His ministry on earth by coming to John, the one who was preparing a pathway for Him, to be baptized. While it was certainly not a sign of His repentance, as it was with the others John was baptizing, there was a reason. To understand the reason, we need to interpret Jesus's words to John.

? In light of the context and what we know about the mission of Jesus, how should we interpret His statement that the baptism is done "to fulfill all righteousness"? *Discuss various answers, referring to the ideas in the following paragraphs.*

Jesus said He needed to be baptized by John "to fulfill all righteousness." While there are many interpretations of this verse, most commentators agree on two clear meanings. *At this point, you may choose to draw other connections you see appropriate from your denominational position on baptism and its function and/or symbolism.*

First, Jesus was affirming the work of John and making a very intimate connection between their ministries. Later in the Gospel accounts, Jesus referred back to John's ministry multiple times as He faced challenges from the religious leaders because John fulfilled prophecies in preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah. Being baptized by John was a stamp of approval on John's ministry.

Second, Jesus was identifying Himself with those John was baptizing. John baptized those who acknowledged their sinfulness before God and were looking forward to the Messiah and His kingdom. Jesus had taken on the identity of sinful man (Romans 8:3) in the baptism just as He would on the Cross. He had come to walk the earth as a man (though He was the God-man) and face the temptations that those who needed God's forgiveness and repentance would face. His baptism identified Him with sinful humanity and foreshadowed His death, burial, and Resurrection.

? If the affirmation of Jesus put a stamp of approval on John's ministry of proclaiming repentance and preparation, what was the stamp of approval of the ministry of Jesus? *It was the voice of the Father affirming the work of the Son as well as the presence of the Spirit that offered the affirmation.*

God the Father announced from heaven that what the Son was doing pleased Him. On top of that, the Holy Spirit was present. As we will discuss later, the Spirit's role is often one of empowerment as well as direction. And that is exactly what happened as we will read about in our next passage.



## READ THE WORD

The next passage comes immediately on the heels of the baptism. In fact, as Mark records it, he uses the word "immediately" to describe the

progression of events. But we are going to continue in Matthew's account, reading Mathew 4:1–17. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

Matthew 4:1–17

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? **What was the purpose of the Spirit leading Jesus into the wilderness?** *He was to be tempted by the devil.*
- ? **What happened for the first forty days?** *Jesus fasted.*
- ? **What did this fasting create in Jesus?** *He became hungry.*
- ? **How does this hunger relate to the nature of Jesus?** *He experienced hunger, a human trait. This demonstrates His humanity and provides another way in which Jesus identified with humanity.*
- ? **What different ways is Satan referred to in this passage?** *Devil (vv. 1, 5, 8, 11), tempter (v. 3), and Satan (v. 10).*
- ? **How many times did Satan tempt Jesus?** *Three.*
- ? **Looking at the first temptation in verses 3–4, what did Satan ask Jesus to do?** *He asked Him to turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger.*
- ? **Did Jesus have the power to change the stones to bread?** *As God, He had that power over nature just as He could calm storms and wither trees.*
- ? **What was Satan appealing to in this temptation?** *He was appealing to the human nature of Jesus, knowing that Jesus had the power to make the stones into bread. This was a very clever ploy that took into account both natures of Jesus.*
- ? **How did Jesus respond to Satan?** *He quoted from Scripture to refute Satan's temptation.*
- ? **What passage did He quote from?** *He quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3 where Moses was instructing the Israelites before they entered into the Promised Land.*
- ? **What did Jesus point to as sustenance rather than bread?** *He pointed to the words from God rather than bread.*
- ? **The second temptation is described in verses 5–7. What did the devil ask Jesus to do?** *He asked Jesus to jump from a high point on the Temple.*
- ? **How did Satan attempt to convince Jesus that this was a wise course of action?** *He used Jesus's appeal to Scripture against Him by quoting Scripture and using the same phrase, "It is written." The passage promises protection from angels.*
- ? **What passage was Satan quoting from?** *He quoted from Psalm 91:11–12.*
- ? **Did Satan quote the passage accurately?** *Looking at Psalm 91, he actually omitted part of verse 11 in his quote and took a passage about trusting God and twisted it into a justification to test God's protection. He abused the context of the passage.*
- ? **How does Jesus refute Satan's temptation?** *He uses a passage in context to refute Satan's twisting of the Word.*

➤ Remind the students that they can identify quotes from the Old Testament by different font or structure in their Bibles.

Deuteronomy 8:3

Psalm 91:9–13

- ? **What passage does Jesus quote from?** *He quotes from Deuteronomy 6:16 where the Israelites' testing of God's provision of water is being referenced (Exodus 17:1–7).*
- ? **The third temptation is found in verses 8–10. What did Satan offer Jesus as a temptation?** *He offered Him authority over all of the kingdoms of the earth.*
- ? **What would Jesus have to do to claim this reward from Satan?** *Jesus would have to fall down and worship Satan.*
- ? **How did Jesus respond to this temptation?** *He sharply rebuked Satan, telling him to leave.*
- ? **What passage did Jesus respond with?** *He used a paraphrase of the ideas of Deuteronomy 6:13 and 10:20 and the clear command to worship God alone (Exodus 20:3).*
- ? **How did Satan respond to Jesus's command to leave?** *He left, demonstrating Jesus's authority over Him.*
- ? **Who came to minister to Jesus at the end of the temptations?** *Angels came to minister to Him.*
- ? **What important phrase is repeated in each of Jesus's responses to the devil?** *He included "it is written" in each response.*
- ? **Where did all three of Jesus's Scriptural refutations come from?** *All three came from Deuteronomy at the end of the time Israel was wandering in the wilderness.*
- ? **How long had the Israelites been in the wilderness before Moses delivered the message of Deuteronomy and the orders to enter the Promised Land?** *40 years.*
- ? **What similarities are there between Israel's time in the wilderness and Jesus's time in the wilderness?** *Both were for a period of 40 (years and days); both were periods of testing; both are after a period in Egypt (Matthew 2:15); other parallels can be drawn.*

### Discover the Truth

In the first temptation, Jesus pointed to the spiritual sustenance that is more important than the physical sustenance of bread. In the second, Satan twisted God's Word, but Jesus corrected the invalid use of the Word by applying another passage rightly. In the third temptation, Jesus pointed to the fact that God alone should be worshipped and served. In all of these temptations, Jesus used the Word of God as the foundation for refuting Satan's false promises and temptations—it is written! The Word made flesh (John 1:14) submitted to the truth contained in the written Word in perfect obedience to the Father and as a model of obedience for us. This is a very important lesson for us to learn and to imitate. Jesus identifies with us and offers us an example of how to overcome temptation.

Also notice that Satan knew God's Word and could quote it. Similar to people who twist Scripture for their own purposes and ends, Satan was

familiar with the words of God. Oftentimes, deception works best when it contains elements of truth. This is why it is so important for us to know God's Word—walking in it, memorizing it, and meditating on it. Our Savior has given us an example, and as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can identify ourselves with Him who identified Himself with us.



## Personal Battle Plan

### MATERIALS

- Personal Battle Plan worksheet for each student
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*You may wish to do this activity at the end of the class period after you have discussed the lesson and the application questions, leaving the students with time to begin on their reflection and encouraging them to pursue its application throughout the week.*

We know that we are called to be doing what God's Word teaches us, not just hearing what it says (James 1:22–25).

Pass out the Personal Battle Plan worksheet to each student. On this worksheet you will find the Personal Battle Plan activity. The

goal of this activity is to get you thinking, on a personal level, about how you can imitate Jesus in battling the temptations you face. Take some time to work through this activity on your own, evaluating your readiness to battle those temptations that come your way.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

I want to encourage you to spend some time in the next week putting one aspect of your battle plan into effect. Since we are part of the body of Christ, I would also encourage you to share your plan with a brother or sister so they could encourage you as you grow in this area.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Son of God came to earth to bring us salvation and righteousness. To do that, He had to become like us and take on flesh. Though He had no sin to repent of, He went to John who was baptizing and calling people to repent. Jesus was baptized in the same manner as the wicked men for whom he had come to die.

The same is true of His time in the wilderness. Jesus did not exercise His power as God to satisfy His fleshly hunger, but He sought to be obedient

to His Father in fulfilling His mission. As we mentioned last week, He only did that which pleased the Father. As He was tempted, He did not invent clever philosophical arguments to discredit Satan's lies; He looked to Scripture. He wielded the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). He looked to the Father by the power of the Spirit.

We have that same power available to us in the Word and in the Spirit. We have the Word of God recorded for us in our Bibles. You can use those truths to battle the temptations you face knowing that "no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in each believer. This is the same Holy Spirit who inspired the written words of God we have in our Bibles. By the Spirit, we understand the truths that the Spirit recorded. As we face temptations, we can be emboldened to flee from sin and the desires of our flesh because the Spirit of the living God lives in us!

Let us look to Christ and His example as we seek to live a life of holiness to honor His sacrifice for us. And let us also remember that when we do fail, giving into sin, God will forgive us in Christ. Jesus has already died for those sins, and we can run to Him for mercy, confessing our sin and trusting in His forgiveness.

## **GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD**

- ? What was the most intriguing thing you learned from our study today?  
*Discuss various answers.*
- ? What can we learn from this passage about the schemes of the devil? How does that relate to his temptation of Eve in the garden? *Discuss various answers. Satan twisted God's Word when tempting Jesus, and he did the same thing when he tempted Eve in Genesis 3. We need to be prepared for the attacks on God's Word by having a good grasp of the truths of Scripture.*

? **How can memorizing Scripture help you to fight the temptations you face in this world? Do you have any verses you use to combat specific temptations?** *Discuss various answers, helping the students understand how certain passages can offer a counterattack to various temptations. Lust: Job 31:1; Gluttony: Psalm 119:103; Gossip: Ephesians 4:29; Pride: Proverbs 16:18; Dirty jokes: Ephesians 5:4; Unforgiveness: Ephesians 4:32.*

? **What is the danger of quoting only part of a verse or pulling one verse out of context to prove some point?** *The danger is in using a verse in a way that violates its meaning. One commonly abused verse is Philippians 4:13. The context of the verse is of enduring suffering for the sake of Christ, not winning a soccer game or some personal accomplishment.*

? **What have you learned about your Savior today that stirs you up to love Him more?** *Discuss various answers, especially focusing on how Jesus humbled Himself and identified with us as mere creatures.*

? **If you ever encounter someone who claims to be a Christian (or even to believe in God) yet denies that God is triune, how can you use the account of Jesus's baptism to demonstrate the truthfulness of the doctrine of the Trinity?** *The baptism scene demonstrates that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all present at the same instant, so they must be three distinct Persons in the Godhead. We can open the Bible and proclaim its truth to everyone, trusting that the Word of God is powerful to accomplish change in the hearts and minds of people.*



### MEMORY VERSE

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for sending His only begotten Son to sympathize with us.
- Praise God for the truth of His Word.
- Ask God for wisdom to apply His Word to battling temptations.

