

Sunday 15th February 2026

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus is Baptised

Welcome

- If you had to give up one thing for Lent – what would be the most difficult thing?
- Have you ever given up anything for Lent? What was it? And how easy did you find it? Was it helpful or meaningful?
- Are there other ways we can use the period of Lent to prepare for Easter? – share ideas...

Word

Read Matthew 3:13-17

1. Where in these verses do you see God at work as Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Can this passage help us to understand what we mean when we say God is 3 persons but also 1?
3. Do these verses from 1 Peter 1: 1-2 add to your understanding of the Trinity, 3 in 1? How?

*“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God’s elect, exiles, scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus,
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen
according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the
sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and
sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”*

4. How do you think John felt when Jesus arrived asking to be baptised?

SERVE

5. Jesus humbly asked John to baptise him. An example of Jesus as the 'servant king'. What other examples of Jesus' humble servanthood can you think of?
6. How meaningful to you are the following verses (Philippians 2: 6-7):
Jesus "who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

OBEY

7. By asking John to baptise him, Jesus was obeying and setting God's plan for him in motion. What other examples of Jesus' obedience can you think of?
8. Is it easy to obey God? Do you think Jesus always found it easy?

Read John 6:38:

"Jesus said: 'For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.'"

COMMIT

9. This day was the start of Jesus being fully committed to God's plan and had inevitable consequences – ultimately leading to his death. Jesus would have understood this – in his humanity how do you think he felt?
10. Is commitment sometimes difficult for us, because we know what the consequences might be?
11. We don't have full insight into the future like Jesus – is this a good thing or not?

IDENTIFY

12. By being baptised like everyone else, Jesus was identifying with us and displaying his humanity.
13. In what circumstances can it be helpful for us to remember that Jesus was completely human? Are there any things you find difficult or unhelpful about believing that?
14. How can we identify with others? Why should we identify with others? Who do we need to identify with?
15. What do the following verses teach us:
“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.” (Romans 12: 15-16)

A poem about Jesus' humanity for you to ponder:

*Itching, sneezing, yawning, freezing,
Putting up with people teasing,
Sweating, drawing, playing, snoring,
Finding work was sometimes boring,
Dreaming, blinking, singing, drinking,
Spending hours and hours thinking,
Hoping, crying, craving, sighing,
Loving life and fearing dying,
Laughing, doubting, hurting, shouting,
Silent when they lied about him,
Growing, bleeding, helping, seeing,
Baptised as a human being,
Jesus stood where we are standing,
Sympathising, understanding.
(by Peter Graystone)*

FROM START TO FINISH

16. Even though Jesus was without sin he was baptised – which represented repentance and being washed clean of your sins. He didn't need to be baptised. How does this foreshadow the whole reason for Jesus coming to earth?
17. Baptism was obviously a very significant experience for Jesus, it was a bit like him being publicly commissioned for his ministry and mission. It was both very personal and yet public. If you have been enrolled as a soldier or an adherent - how significant was your enrolment? What would you say to encourage others to take that next step in their commitment (there may be people in your group who are thinking about it!)

The baptism of Jesus is included on all 4 gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – an indication it was extremely important. Read John 1: 29-34.

18. What differences and similarities do you notice with the Matthew account? (If you have time see also Mark 1: 9-11 and Luke 3: 21-22)

Worship & Witness

- How can you be more like Jesus by serving, obeying, being committed and identifying with others?

Optional Extra

Read Isaiah 42: 1,6,7

Long before Jesus came to earth God told his people to expect him – here is an example. The words 'my servant' are referring to Jesus.

From these verses pick out things that God's servant will do – then think of examples of when Jesus did these things (eg healing a blind man). Then praise and thank Jesus for each of these points.