

Church of God Sunday School

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Matthew 3:1-8, 11-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-18, 21-22; John 1:19-34



Around the year A.D. 30 a man began preaching in the wilderness of Judea and in the country around the Jordan River. This man was sent from God. He preached that people should repent of their sins, confess them, and be baptized. He was the one Isaiah prophesied of in Isaiah 40:3: "The voice of him crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." This man was John the Baptist. He wore clothing made of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

A multitude of people came to hear John and be baptized. Pharisees and Sadducees (the religious professors and the religious hypocrites of that time) came to be baptized also. John said to them, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet [worthy] for repentance . . ."

John preached many things about living right to the multitudes of people that gathered. They wondered if John were really the Christ, but John told them, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

After John had baptized many, many people, a young man, about thirty years old, came to be baptized. John could tell there was something different

about Him. John said, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" This man was Jesus. Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." So John baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened up, and John said, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it [the Spirit] abode upon him." John also said, "He that sent me to baptize with water . . . said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." A voice from Heaven was heard, and it said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Holy Bible teaches two basic baptisms. One is water baptism. This is an outward baptism. The other baptism is an inward baptism, a baptism by the Holy Spirit.

John preached that men should repent (turn from) their sins and bring forth fruits, showing that they had repented. Then they should be baptized in water, completely submerged and brought up again. This is the outward baptism. It shows others what has already taken place in the heart at salvation. A person should already be pardoned from sin and living a new life in Christ before being baptized in water.

Jesus was baptized in water. Although He had no sins to repent of, He was baptized in water to be our Example.

The baptism by "the Holy Ghost and with fire" is the inward baptism. It is performed on your soul, when you truly repent. This baptism enables you to live a holy, or sin-free, life. The Holy Spirit gives you power over the desire to sin. You will not want to sin anymore! Instead, you will want to *consecrate* yourself (set yourself apart) to Jesus and *dedicate* your life (give yourself entirely) to doing God's will. You will want to tell others about Jesus too!

MEMORY VERSE:

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

—Matthew 3:17



Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to see John. Why?

Answer each statement by marking true or false. Write the remaining letters on the lines below.

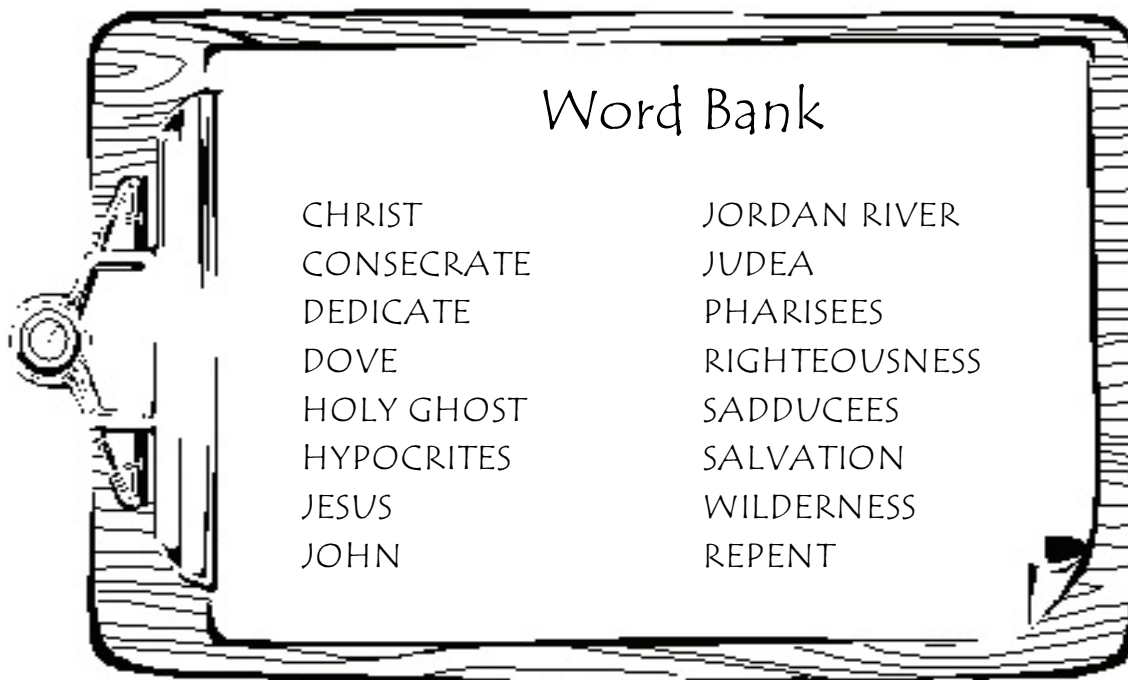
- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|-------|
| | | True | False |
| 1. | John and Jesus were cousins | A | T |
| 2. | John lived in the wilderness | B | O |
| 3. | John was fishing at the Jordan River | B | C |
| 4. | John's mother was Elizabeth | D | E |
| 5. | John's father was Zechariah | F | B |
| 6. | Jesus traveled to the Jordan by train | A | G |
| 7. | Jesus' mother was Mary | H | P |
| 8. | John liked to have fancy clothes | T | I |
| 9. | Jesus grew up in Texas | I | J |
| 10. | John preached to the people before Jesus | K | Z |
| 11. | John was a shepherd | E | L |
| 12. | John ate locusts and wild honey | M | D |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Christ's Baptism

Y O Q N Y U L U C X Q B B N D U F F V W A V W D C
 G G H O I Z D T O N L A P T S R P B Y R W T E R H
 J O A O W D C U N S R I G H T E O U S N E S S Y R
 J O A E L D R X S E S S E N R E D L I W E B P Q I
 T B R W D E H S E E R Q H E J T P I X E L O Z Y S
 U S R D P U V C C S A L V A T I O N C U C S R A T
 T T O E A F J U R I L W K Q Z J D U U R V H B I V
 V A N H A N O S A R S U S E J N D E I F Y W J Z V
 P T E V G A R J T A D I O U A D O T D K W I J D N
 T X E M X Y T I E H A B F X A U E Q E I C C C V Q
 G L J E J E L E V P W C F S B S S H M P C H J W V
 Q J A J I P R O M E W O H O K Y O V O X S A I N E
 V O B Q Z E M T H O R N F L G P Y V P N S D T W V
 F I K E E Y F V I I W V L R X U Q I P X Z L X E O
 J U V P X Q H Q Q Y Z X D W D Y U D B E G L H I D





The Baptism of Christ