

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 219: The baptism of Jesus



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** Mark 1:4, 5, 7-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Mark 12:28-34; 1 John 4:7-21

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

John the Baptist called the people to turn away from wrongdoing and come back to God. Many came and were baptised with water by John in the River Jordan. The people must have wondered who John was. John deflected the attention from himself and pointed to Jesus.

John said, 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

John's words came true. Jesus left His everyday life as a carpenter in Nazareth and began His public ministry. As Jesus is baptised by John, His life changed forever. Jesus saw heaven torn open and the Holy Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. A voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

God confirmed that Jesus is His precious Son. This is the moment when God showed the love He has for Jesus and God's love is revealed to us. As we think about the mystery of the love which lies at the heart of Jesus' ministry, amazingly this love is extended to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told us to love God and love our neighbour (Mark 12:29-31). We love because He has first loved us (1 John 4:19).

### Reflection

- Take a moment to reread the Bible passage. Imagine you were there. What did you see? What did you hear?
- Spend some time thanking God for His love. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.
- Who has helped you in your faith? Who can you help this week?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

