

# Week 1

## Based on Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John and wanted John to baptise him. But John tried to stop him. John said, "Why do you come to me to be baptised? I should be baptised by you!"

Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So

John agreed to baptise Jesus.

Jesus was baptised and came up out of the water. Heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice spoke from heaven saying, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

**I wonder what you'll choose to do to help you think about this week's reading?**



**Praying** - Do you remember a Christening? Think about how special Baptism is (you are baptised at a Christening) Have a dish of water to put your fingers in as you pray:

Thank you, Heavenly Father for the gift of baptism. Jesus was baptised to show us how important it is to be a member of God's family. Thank you for my own Christening (if you have been Christened/baptised already). Help me to know that you love me and that I am special to you. Amen



**Encouraging** - During a Christening nowadays, lots of people including parents and godparents promise to encourage the person being baptised to grow in their faith. There are loads of ways to encourage people's faith - why not write someone a letter to say you're thinking of them and praying for them.



**Sharing** - John recognised who Jesus was, but Jesus also recognised who John was; Jesus saw that John had an important part in God's plan. You have an important part in God's plan too! Whether you are good at telling people about Jesus or making friends or caring for people, God has a place for you in his plan. What is

it that you enjoy doing? What are you passionate about? How can you use that to serve God?



**Reflecting** - The spirit came to Jesus, when He was baptised, as a dove. Watch the birds, in the garden or on a walk, if you can. God knows everything about the smallest bird and what it needs. How much more does God know about us and what we need. He cares for us. If you want to, draw/paint a bird, it may be a dove, and write on it or near it... God loves me! Put it somewhere where you can see it and be reminded of God's love and reflect on how much he cares for you especially through Lent.



**Celebrating** - In this week's reading we hear about Jesus being baptised by his cousin, John the Baptist and we hear God's response to this saying; "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him." I wonder if you've ever been to a Christening and seen anyone being baptised. It is a wonderful celebration, as that person is welcomed into the family of God's people. Maybe this week, you could think about celebrating being part of your family; think about what makes you special and what you enjoy; it might be dancing, or singing or playing games together, whatever it is celebrate it this week and thank God for it.



**Resting** - I don't know if you've ever been to a Christening and seen someone be baptised; it's a really joyful time as a person is welcomed into the family of God. I wonder what you enjoy doing together in your family; as doing things we enjoy are an important part of rest - they refresh us. Maybe this week make some time to doing something you enjoy together; playing a game or going for a walk and thank God for the family you are part of.



**Creating** - When Jesus was baptised, he saw God's spirit that looked like a dove. Why not see if you can make a model or draw a picture of your favourite kind of bird?