

Community Group Discussion Questions

"You Belong Here" Luke 3:21-22, Matt 3:15-17, Mark 1:9-11 July 6, 2019

Getting Started

Today, we examine the pronouncement from heaven over Jesus and discover how these promises give us purpose on this earth.

Has anyone ever spoken or prayed a blessing over you? What was the occasion? What did they say? How did it make you feel?

Going Deeper:

The Savior Declared: *"But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." - Matthew 3:15*

Fitting: *"fitting for us"* - **Pointing to the Gospel**

Fulfilling: *"fulfill all righteousness"* - **Portraying the Gospel**

The entire purpose of John's life was to prepare the way for people to be ready to receive the promised Messiah/Savior the Old Testament pointed to. Jesus wanted to make sure everyone watching His baptism would know that He was that expected person. The physical action of being laid under the water, and raised back up again was a powerful symbol of what Jesus would later do: die for our sins, and be raised from the dead.

How do you still tell the story of the Gospel? Do you wear: a cross? A Christian t-shirt? How can you be like John the Baptist and keep telling the story of what Jesus has done for you and can do for others?

The Sky Divided: “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the **heavens** were opened” - Luke 3:21

Heaven’s Affirmation: “the heavens **opened**, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” - Acts 7:56

Heaven’s Access: “he saw the heavens being **torn** open” - Mark 1:10

(i.e. **Matthew 27:51:** “And behold, the curtain of the temple was **torn** in two, from top to bottom.”)

God the Father used everything at His disposal to make sure the people watching Jesus’ baptism would know it was a unique and heavenly event. We aren’t sure what this looked like, but three of the four Gospels tell us the heavens were opened, or torn open. We can imagine there was a loud sound, and a visual and unusual movement of the clouds. It was all designed to make people look up and ask, ‘What is going on?’

When you look at your life, what kinds of things is God doing that would make people ask, ‘What is going on?’ As you read your bible and let the Spirit convict you, and then empower you to live supernaturally, what is happening that would cause others to see God alive in you?

The Spirit Descended: “he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to **rest** on him” - Matthew 3:16

Symbolism of the Dove: “like a dove” -Matthew 3:16

“wise as serpents and **innocent** as doves” - Matthew 10:16

“Spirit of God **hovered** over the face of the waters.”- Genesis 1:2

“And the **dove** came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked **olive** leaf.” -Genesis 8:11

Like the dove:

Jesus would be innocent (pure/righteous); and

Jesus would bring peace (like the Spirit hovered over the waters at Creation, ready to begin bringing order and beauty to a dark world)

Jesus would bring peace (like the dove bringing back the olive leaf to show that the time of judgment from the great flood was over).

The Holy Spirit still works in these ways in your life. The moment you are saved, the Holy Spirit seals and indwells you (see Ephesians 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit makes you into a new creation in Christ, bringing light and beauty to the world you once lived in (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). Finally, the Holy Spirit also brings you peace with God, reminding you that you have been justified by faith and are no longer an enemy (see Romans 5:1).

Spirit Dwells: “*rest on him*” - Matthew 3:16

Anointing: “*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me...*” - Isaiah 61:1

Qualifying: “*I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*” - Isaiah 42:1

Empowering: “*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*” - Zechariah 4:6

Of all the people present, the Spirit rests only on Jesus, signifying His uniqueness. The Jewish people present and watching might have thought of some of the verses above as they saw this happen. Jesus’ ministry, which began with His baptism, would be a ministry that demonstrated His unique anointing, qualifying, and empowerment by God. **Read John 3:2, Mark 2:12, Matthew 9:33, and John 7:46.**

In John 10:10, Jesus said He came that we would have life (zoe) to the fullest. That means a life that is significant, supernatural, and spiritual. How are you seeing this in your life?

The Statement of Delight: *“and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” - Matthew 3:17*

1. **Prized by God:** *“You are my beloved Son” - Luke 3:22*
2. **Pleased by God:** *“with you I am well pleased.” - Luke 3:22*

When you think of your relationship with God, you, as a person who has believed in Jesus for salvation, and then been baptized to show the world you belong to Him, need to realize that God’s stance toward you is one of favor and blessing. His desire is for you to know His smile, His acceptance, and His delight over you. **When you know someone loves you this deeply, how does that affect your life? Is it easier to trust, surrender, and obey, even when things are hard?**

Take Away: Allow the reverberation of what has been spoken over Jesus not to just be a faint echo to you, but a foundational truth for you.

Prayer: