

Getting into Our LivesGroup time - 20 minutes

1. From what we've discussed in this section, what truths about Jesus (what He's done and who He is) most lead you to respond in worship?
2. Compare the church with the world. Who is more likely to applaud Jesus as "the friend of sinners"? Who is more likely to cheer on Jesus as "the divine Son of God"? Explain your answers. What needs to change?
3. Have you responded to Christ's call to baptism, not only in obedience, but to follow the example of your King? If not, what are you waiting for?

Getting Out the GospelGroup time - 5 minutes

Think about the people you want to reach (last week's names). What are their feelings toward Christians or "religious people?" Why?

What characteristics exhibited in Christ will help us to break through those barriers? What is a practical next step you can take to "get on their level"?

Getting into PrayerGroup time - 10 minutes

Reach: "Lord, strip me of my pride that prevents me from humbly identifying with the lost. Help me to go to them and meet them in their need."

Growth: "Help me to become more like my Savior who gave up privilege and position in order to seek and save me and others sinners, no matter the cost."

Empower: "Move in our church so that we would be a rescue mission for sinners. Strike us with the urgency of the mission and build our confidence in God's power to accomplish it by His Spirit."

The Inauguration *Matthew 3:13-17*

How is Jesus the Messiah?

I. The Representative of the People *Matt 3:13-15*
Hebrews 4:15

II. The Son of God *Matt 3:16-17*

III. The Suffering Servant *Matt 3:16-17*
Isaiah 42:1; 53:11

I never knew:

I need to change:

I should share:

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of September 17, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 15 minutes

1. Take a few minutes to share with each other what God has been doing in your life through His Word, church, prayer, last week's lesson or other people.
2. What is something you know how to do now because someone took the time to "get on your level" until you "got it"?
3. Tell the group about a person who helped you know and feel God's love. In what ways did this person "get on your level" to do so?

Getting into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read Matthew 3:13-15

1. What do you find surprising about this passage?
2. Considering the types of people who previously came to John for baptism (3:1-12), why do you think he objected to baptizing Jesus?

3. How does Jesus answer John's question? How would you put His answer into your own words?

4. Why would Jesus use baptism to identify Himself with sinners? What if someone got the wrong impression about Jesus?

Read Matthew 3:16-17

5. How are the three persons of God, the Trinity (i.e. the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit), involved in this scene?

6. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit coming down and resting on Jesus? What do this and the Father's words tell us about Jesus' mission?
See also: Isaiah 42:1

7. How would you explain to an unbeliever the stark contrast present in Jesus' baptism? How does this event set a pattern for what we should expect from the rest of Jesus' ministry? **See also: Philippians 2:8**