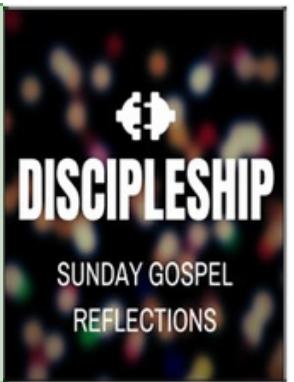


"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Verses 16-17 Matthew 3:13-17



Adults

1. As the baptized, we have been initiated into Christ's life, death, and resurrection. What does it mean to you that "we" get to share and be part of Jesus' prophetic ministry?
2. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This can also be said about each one of us as baptized believers. Living as God's beloved is way easier said than done. We tend to listen to all sorts of other voices throughout our lives that take us further away from this beautiful truth. Why? Why is it so hard for us to believe that God loves us the same way he loves Jesus?
3. Your Baptism was a significant event in your life that should always be remembered and celebrated. Take some time to research your date of baptism and find out about that day. Parents, take some time to share with your children about their day of Baptism.

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Forgetting to honor the gift of Baptism.

Teens

1. Why do you think Jesus, who was without sin, chose to be baptized by John?
2. What does baptism mean to you personally? Do you ever think about your baptism or baptisms that you have witnessed at church? What comes to mind when you think about this special sacrament?
3. When have you felt God's love or approval in your life, like Jesus did in this Gospel? How can we live each day as God's beloved sons and daughters?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel:

Struggling to recognize your true identity as God's beloved child and not believing that you are deeply loved and valued by Him.

Children

1. When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon him in a form like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." When you were baptized, you also became a beloved Son/Daughter of God. How does this make you feel? Knowing that Jesus calls you his beloved son/daughter, does it make you want to behave in a different way? Give some examples of living like a beloved child of God.
2. When you bless yourself with Holy Water as you enter the church, what do you think the significance is? Do you think about your own baptism?
3. Who are your Godparents? Give them a call and ask them what they remember of your baptismal day.

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not realizing the significance of our baptisms. Not connecting that we are part of a larger family, the family of God.