

Sunday, January 11, 2015

The Baptism of the Lord

The Bible: Mark 1:4-11 (below)

Conversation Starter:

- **Adult/Couple:** Who is the wildest preacher you have ever heard? Why do you think John was so popular?
- **Teen Family:** In Mark's gospel, this story comes at the very beginning. There is no Christmas story, no wise men. As a literary technique, what does this accomplish?
- **Young Family:** Tell the story of the baptism of each family member.

Mark 1:4-11 The Message (MSG)

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.

7-8 As he preached he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out."

9-11 At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."