

Children's Message
1.14.07
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Today we are beginning a new rotation: The Baptism of Jesus. Over the next five weeks you will be learning about Baptism in our church, about why we baptize people in our church and about the actual baptism of Jesus.

Let me ask you a couple of questions so I know how much you already know about baptism. Who gets baptized in our church? Who baptizes them? Does a person have to wear a special baptism gown in order to be baptized? Does there have to be water for a baptism? How about this- why? Why do we baptize people? Here's a hard one: Where was Jesus baptized? Who baptized Jesus?

Oh my goodness! Here comes John the Baptist now! We read in the Bible that John dressed a bit differently than many people from his time (differently than people in our time, too!)

John is a pretty neat guy- the first time that we hear about John in the Bible is when Mary was expecting Jesus and she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is expecting a baby, too. That baby was John the Baptist! Listen to what Elizabeth says to Mary- "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44) The baby John knew that Jesus was special- even before either of them was born!

About 30 years later, Jesus knew that it was time to begin teaching many people about God. At that time, Jesus went to John to be baptized. John thought that Jesus should baptize *him*; but Jesus knew this was the way it should be: that John should baptize Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened up and a dove appeared. Then a voice said "This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."(Matt. 3:16-17)

What an awesome sight that would have been! What do you think Jesus thought when he heard those words?

In what ways do you think that we please God?

That's right- we please God when we love our families, when we love others and when we love God.

We know that God loves us no matter what, and we don't have to earn that love, but we can certainly please God by being the best that we can possibly be.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?