

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20;

Acts 2:38, 41; Romans 6:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

PRINT PASSAGES: Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Outer Expressions of Inner Truths



THE BOYS EAGERLY STARTED PLANNING THE PROJECT. DaQuan and QuaVon's parents did not purchase the materials for them. They told the boys to go to The Home Depot, Lowes, and other stores that sold the materials. The boys should explain the project and persuade the store manager to either donate the materials or sell them at a discount. RaKeem got busy designing the life-sized robot. He knew this was a big job and had to be done just right. At the same time, they all worked together to ensure that the parts matched the design and the electrical needs.

They worked on it every weekend. The project was coming together just fine. But they were up against a tight deadline. The twins were able to get two stores to donate the materials. They were really impressed with the boys' design and dedication. The store manager said, "Guys, I am impressed with what you are doing. I can't wait to see the finished product. Keep up the good work!"

The construction of the robot was underway. Everyone was excited. They were close, but when Charles told them that he could not work the upcoming weekend, they were devastated.

"Charles, you gotta work on the project this weekend. We're so close, and they don't give extensions," RaKeem explained.

"Yeah, man, and you still have to get the different languages working while he walks," DaQuan said, chiming in.

"What's so important, anyway? Why can't you be here?" QuaVon asked.

"Well, I'm getting baptized on Saturday, and my family is celebrating Friday through Sunday evening with a huge dinner," Charles informed them.

RaKeem spoke up, saying, "Man, that's cool. Don't worry about it. We got you."

Three other people were being baptized. Charles was the last to go into the water. When the pastor dunked him under and lifted him up, he saw the faces of DaQuan, QuaVon, and RaKeem. Afterward, they told Charles how good they felt inside just watching him. DaQuan said, "It felt great being there. Proud of you, Dude."



WORD UP

**Matthew 3:13-17;
28:19-20;
1 Corinthians 11:23-29**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. **16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

.....

19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

.....

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **27** So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

KEY VERSES:

[Jesus said,] "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

WORK OUT

JESUS WAS JUST AN ORDINARY MAN TO MANY PEOPLE. He was raised in the town of Nazareth with His mother, father, and siblings. He was a carpenter like His earthly father. Only Mary and Joseph knew that He was the Messiah. Jesus waited patiently for God to reveal who He was. Initially, John the Baptist, Jesus' fore-runner, did not know who Jesus was. John was born to spread the news about Jesus before He was revealed. God chose John to do this.

John was baptizing people when Jesus appeared at the Jordan River to be baptized. God immediately revealed to John who Jesus was. He felt that he was not worthy to baptize Jesus. "But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'" (Matthew 3:14). When Jesus came up out of the water, something happened. The heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended on Jesus, and God spoke: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

God introduced Jesus to the people as His Son. God's outward expressions demonstrated inner truths. A similar event happened at Jesus' transfiguration; God spoke again, proclaiming His love and approval of His Son: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). In this instance, God's outer expression about His Son was shared with Peter, James, and John.

Outward expressions are shown in spoken words, gestures, and actions. We outwardly express our love by saying, "I love you" or treating a person with such respect and adoration that the inner love is obvious. God outwardly expressed His love when Jesus was baptized and at Jesus' transfiguration. Jesus expressed this at "the Last Supper" when He and the disciples broke bread and drank wine in remembrance of Jesus. Outward expressions are important. Actions and words are powerful. Use them to help build the kingdom of God.

INSIDE OUT



Respond to the questions below that are related to today's lesson.

1. Who baptized Jesus?

2. What happened to Jesus following His baptism?

3. How do we today reflect our remembrance of Jesus, Son of the living God?

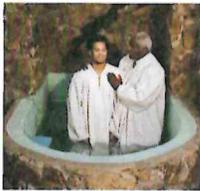


"Use your words" is a common phrase we hear parents and teachers telling young children. Words are outward expressions about how we feel and what we think. God used His words when He said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Let's use our words to express our love for God. How did it feel when you were baptized (if applicable)? What do you feel when you take Communion? Both of these sacred events are a testament that you believe in God and that you believe that Jesus is the Son of God.



STEPPING OUT!

This is your challenge for the week: (1) Describe in your own words the significance of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Explore the deeper meaning of these rituals and the symbolism of each one. (2) Identify the location(s), time(s), and way(s) your congregation celebrates baptism and the Lord's Supper. Are there any other scriptural ordinances and/or rituals that your church observes?



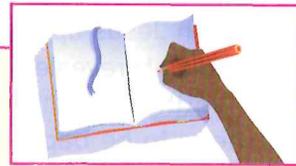
Media Mission



Visit the following online site to check out a picture of Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper: https://png.pngtree.com/background/20230614/original/pngtree-the-last-supper-mural-picture-image_3484162.jpg. Your mission is to search online for a song, poem, phrase, picture, additional Scripture, video, or anything else that speaks to the lesson Scripture passages. You may look for other pictures or videos of Jesus' baptism or the Last Supper with His disciples.



You may engage in this activity individually or as a class: Name some outward expressions that show inner truth and love for God and others.



A large rectangular area with a pink border containing ten horizontal lines for writing.